



VOLUME 30
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FEBRUARY 2007

THROUGH THE BIKNOXULARS

KNOXVILLE CHAPTER OF THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

"Influences of Drawdown on Waterbird Use of Mudflats in Two Tennessee River Reservoirs" AT THE FEBRUARY 7TH MEETING

JOHN LAUX IS A M.S. CANDIDATE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, WILDLIFE, AND FISHERIES. HE WILL PRESENT HIS STUDY FEBRUARY 7 ON COMPARING THE TEMPORAL WATERBIRD USE AND FOOD AVAILABILITY BETWEEN DOUGLAS AND CHICKAMAUGA RESERVOIRS, WHICH ARE TYPICALLY DRAWN DOWN AT DIFFERENT TIMES (I.E., DOUGLAS = AUG 1, CHICKAMAUGA = OCT 1).

THE BULK OF MY PRESENTATION WILL BE ON PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM FALL/WINTER 2005-06. HOWEVER, I WILL ALSO HAVE A FEW RESULTS TO SHARE FROM 2006-07 AS WELL AS TIME ALLOWS. THIS YEAR, WE ALSO CONDUCTED A FOOD HABITS STUDY ON LEAST SANDPIPERS IN EAST TN AND I WILL EXPLAIN HOW THIS WAS CARRIED OUT.

Up Coming Field Trip

Sunday, February 25

Field trip: *Kyker Bottoms in Blount County*

Leader: David Trently;

dtrently@utk.edu; 531-1473

Meet at 7:45 a.m. at the Stokely Building on Cedar Bluff Road or at about 8:30 at Kyker at the gravel parking area past the barn.

Should be a good time to look for waterfowl and sparrows. Tree Swallows should be there, hinting that spring is not far away.

Winter TOS Meeting

Please attend our 2007 Winter Meeting and spend a weekend of with members of TOS from across the state, birding, socializing and sharing ideas. This years meeting of the Tennessee Ornithological Society will be held Feb 16, 17 and 18 in our sister state at Decatur AL. Activities will be centered at the Holiday Inn, 1101 6th Ave, Decatur, AL 35601, Phone 1800/55303150 where a block of rooms has been reserved at a rate of \$72.00/night for TOS members. This block will be held until Feb 1 so make your reservations soon.

Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge - Demonstration and Educational Opportunities Abound

By Wayne H. Schacher
whschacher@natreserv.com

Author's note: This newsletter article continues a series on Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge in Knox County. The Knoxville Chapter of Tennessee Ornithological Society has actively supported the concept and development of SIWR, and its membership is providing invaluable information on avian fauna usage of the Refuge, and other technical assistance. The partnership with KTOS at SIWR is most gratefully appreciated. The story of Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge begins with the vision that guided its establishment, the effort to identify the ecological potential of the refuge, carried forward to improvements in grassland habitat quality and overall habitat diversity. Subsequent newsletter articles showed a broad range of partnerships contributing to these efforts. Unique to the planning process, habitat improvements would not just benefit the natural communities on SIWR, but with educational and demonstration objectives would extend benefits far beyond the confines of the Refuge.

If natural resource management-based, public parklands become the ambition of other county and municipal officials and land managers, then SIWR should serve as a template for these efforts. To see field applications of specific improvements provides invaluable opportunity to evaluate objectives, visualize ideas, set priorities and answer questions.

Toward this purpose, Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge is already providing demonstration services to citizens, landowners, farmers and professionals, with greater opportunities to come. In the past year, field, training days with groups of NRCS personnel from Tennessee and Mississippi took place. Field sessions with equine and cattle livestock owners are spreading the word about the nutritional quality and forage management of native warm season grasses.

Proposed landscaping applications of NWSG species used SIWR as a visual reference and case history.

Noteworthy examples of the educational value of SIWR are abundant. Hundreds of hours have been spent in 'outdoor classrooms' to the benefit of scores of undergraduate students, course curricula and instructors from several departments at the University of Tennessee. The opportunity for local, elementary students to help release lake sturgeon into the French Broad River is priceless. Opportunities to assist in grassland bird surveys, controlled-burns, northern bobwhite quail censuses or nest-box placement and maintenance, convert textbook discussion into a real-world experience. Ijams Nature Center-lead 'owl prowls' are always successful and well attended. Boy Scout Troop 246 constructed and donated eastern bluebird and tree swallow nesting structures; learning design features, developing carpentry skills and taking an active role in directly improving habitat quality for the avian community.

The synergy has begun. The range of benefits offered and gleaned from SIWR will continue to expand. With emphasis at SIWR on restoring, enhancing and diversifying native plant and animal communities and habitats, things seen or learned there and implemented elsewhere will benefit natural resource conservation far beyond the boundaries of Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge.

The 15th Annually Cherokee Indian Heritage/ Sandhill Crane Viewing Days

Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge on February 3rd and 4th-come join the fun!



Presidential Perch -Mark Campen

I knew they were home, but the phone kept ringing. I tried to call our neighbors, the Johnson's, but still no answer. As my wife, Emily, and I watched a red-shouldered hawk hunt, catch and feed on a crayfish taken from the creek in our front yard, I wanted to share the experience with someone else, anyone, who would care to enjoy this hawk-eat-crawdada world we live in. So as to not disturb the buteo, I went to our bathroom window to look over at their front porch and there they were, out-of-town family and all, watching with binoculars just as the bird severed one of the pincers off as if annoyed by the crustacean's dying attempt to fight back and pinch a talon.

We all like birds. So do over 50 million other Americans who have helped make bird watching one of the fastest-growing outdoor activities, according to a survey by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

I feel honored to be involved with our "bird club" and thank you all for a warm welcome as president. Dan Mooney left this post too soon, but I am sure he and Laurie are having a great time traveling around in their motor home. Retirement must be nice...

I want to encourage all of you to get involved in some way. We have a few vacant positions that need to be filled, including Vice-President/ programs planner, newsletter editor and field trip coordinator. These positions, although not too demanding, are important. You can submit an article to the newsletter or help plan a monthly meeting program or lead a field trip. Volunteer to join the Sharps Ridge spring litter clean up and invasive plant removal and old trail reclamation. We enjoy the migrating warblers each spring at this premiere birding spot so why not help maintain it for just a few hours annually?

The TOS winter meeting in Alabama will be held February 16-18 and, just around the corner, the spring meeting will be in Bristol, TN in May. That same weekend, the GO EXPO! Will be held at Victor Ashe Park in northwest Knox County. We need another person to occupy our exhibit and talk with folks about our chapter.

If nothing else, buy some shade-grown coffee and please remit the chapter dues in the next few weeks. This organization depends on membership and donations to grow and continue our mission, which in part is, to promote "...the study and conservation of birds and encourage the study of bird life, to record such findings and to spread our interest among others." Bird On!

KTOS Financial Report – Calendar Year 2006

Compiled by
Marie Oakes, Treasurer

	December	November	YTD
Income:			
. Dues	\$760.00	\$730.00	\$1,700.00
. TOS Fall Meeting Registrations	\$22.58	\$115.00	\$222.58
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$108.00	\$267.00	\$1,241.26
. Interest	\$0.00	\$23.18	\$71.10
. Owen Memorial	\$0.00	\$12.00	\$81.90
. Other Memorials	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$575.00</u>
Total Income	\$890.58	\$1,147.18	\$3,891.84
Expenses:			
. Newsletter	\$0.00	\$43.40	\$679.00
. Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$31.92
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$0.00	\$81.19	\$785.91
. Member Dues to TOS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,570.00
. Fall Meeting Expense	\$42.75	\$114.50	\$157.25
. Miscellaneous	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$106.50</u>
Total Expenses	\$42.75	\$239.09	\$4,330.58
Other:			
. J.B. Owen Award	\$0.00	\$665.00	\$665.00
. Scout Project	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
. Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>
Total Other	\$0.00	\$665.00	\$1,165.00
Account Balances			
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$5,309.28	\$4,483.40	
. J.B.Owen Memorial	\$6,934.57	\$6,912.62	

Newly Elected State Level Directors

The State Level Directors positions have been filled. David Johnson and Alexander were elected at the January 2007 meeting. David Johnson was elected to serve the remainder of Charlie Muise's term. Jean Alexander was elected to serve the remainder of Laurie Mooney's term

KTOS MEMBERSHIP

Join or renew your membership
In KTOS by mailing your annual dues
to: Marie Oakes

18 Rockingham Lane
Oak Ride, TN 37830.

Membership dues are \$26 for an
individual, \$30 for a family, and \$13 for
a student.

Sustaining memberships are \$38 and
Life membership with TOS is \$450 with
an annual fee of \$8 to the local chapter.

**DEADLINE for March Issue is
February 23rd. Due to cost and
space restrictions, please limit your
articles to 700 words.**

For a color version of this past issues
go to "local chapters/Knoxville"
starting at the TOS Home Page

<http://www.tnbirds.org>



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2007 KTOS Dues are overdue!!

**Please see KTOS MEMBERSHIP for further details if you have
not paid your 2007 KTOS membership dues.**

IN MEMORY, CHESTER MASSEY:

Longtime KTOS members will mourn the death of Chester Massey. Chester was active in KTOS during the 1970s and 1980s and continued to be a member after that. He was a wonderful photographer and showed his bird and related travel photos at KTOS chapter meetings and elsewhere. He, Fred Alsop, and Jim Campbell made several birding trips across North America; these trips greatly contributed to Chester's entry into the 600 N.A. life list Club. Chester also helped fund several chapter projects, such as the nice Birds of Knox County checklist assembled by Fred Alsop and printed by the chapter in the 1970s. He was an avid naturalist, birder, fisherman, hunter and nature photographer. He was a consummate sportsman and hobbyist. Many of his bird photography ventures became the subject of local newspaper coverage, and for many years he was a frequent birding and nature photography speaker at area civic clubs and organizations.

-Submitted by Charles P. Nicholson

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