

biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

FEBRUARY'S PROGRAM TO FEATURE LYN BALES

On Wednesday, February 4, we will welcome Lyn Bales who will be speaking about a book he is writing which features Dr. James Tanner and his work on Ivory-billed Woodpeckers in the southern United States in the 1930's. Lyn's talk will be focused more on Dr. Tanner himself and the difficulties encountered working in a remote wilderness with a little known bird.

Lynn is a naturalist and manager at Ijams Nature Center and has been there for 10 years.

His first book, *Natural Histories*, is a delightful book about people and animals in Tennessee.

We will meet at 7 p.m. in Room 117 of the UT Veterinary Building.

****IMPORTANT NOTICE****

Due to the current UT policy regarding free parking, we are having to get dated parking permits to put in our cars.

Therefore, when you arrive for Wednesday's meeting, drive by the regular entrance to our meeting place before you park. Someone from the club will be standing at these entrance doors and will have a parking pass for you display on the dash of your car.

Upcoming field trips

Sunday, February 22, 8:30 a.m.

Kyker Bottoms WMA, Blount Co.

Leader: David Trently (Home 865-531-1473, Work 865-974-8664, NatureTours@avianpursuits.com)

Meet at the paved parking area at Kyker at 8:30. We'll start out birding from the blind, then wander the nearby fields looking mostly for sparrows.

Eventually we'll make our way to the area near the barn where we'll look for more sparrows, plus waterfowl. All areas of Kyker Bottoms will be newly open, which will give us a chance to look for rails and other swamp species.

We should finish around noon.

Rubber boots suggested.

Saturday, February 28, 8:30 a.m.

Cove Lake State Park (Campbell Co.)

Leader: Robin Barrow (braveladyrobin@gmail.com, 865-297-2572)

Meet at the parking lot by the meeting facility, just past the restaurant on your left. Please bring your scope if you have one.

Last year at this time there were Common Goldeneyes, Canvasbacks, Ruddy Ducks, and Common Mergansers.

There may be swampy or icy ground, so bring your boots.

We should finish by noon.

"If I were reincarnated, I'd want to come back a buzzard. Nothing hates him or envies him or wants him or needs him. He is never bothered or in danger, and he can eat anything."

William Faulkner

NEW PROJECTOR FOR KTOS

KTOS has purchased an Epson PowerLife 77c 2200 Lumen Multimedia Projector for \$520.87. The new projector, demonstrated by Harold Howell at the December meeting, will provide much-needed flexibility for presentations at meetings of KTOS, other community organizations, schools, and various out-reach opportunities.

The KTOS vice-president will be the custodian of the new projector.

KTOS FINANCIAL REPORT CALENDAR YEAR 2009

	January	December	YTD
Income:			
Dues	\$ 405.00	\$.	\$ 405.00
Shade Grown Coffee	200.50		200.50
Interest	22.65		22.65
Silent Auction	0.00		0.00
Owen Memorial	0.00		0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00		0.00
Total Income	\$ 628.15	\$ 0.00	\$ 628.15
Expenses:			
Newsletter	\$ 0.00	\$.	\$ 0.00
Supplies	0.00		0.00
Shade Grown Coffee	88.98		88.98
Member Dues to TOS	1,401.00		1,401.00
Misc.(NSF Returned)	-10.00		-10.00
Total Expenses	\$ 1,479.98	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,479.98
Other:			
J. B. Owen Award	\$ 0.00		\$ 0.00
Total other	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Account Balances:			
KTOS Checking & Savings	\$ 2,985.45	\$ 3,858.74	
J. B. Owen Memorial	\$ 7,253.16	\$ 7,231.70	
Memberships	131	129	
Paid 2009 Memberships	77	60	
New Members			
Joe & Nan Cologgi			



Presidential Perch

By Mark Campen

Snowy Owls and fly ash spills, what do they have in common?

Well, not much, except they are rare occurrences in Tennessee. Without going into detail and digression, I would like to say a few words about these recent happenings. Congratulations to those who have made time to visit Spring Hill where the Snowy Owl has been stationed for a few weeks. What an opportunity to see this bird this far south.

As far as the ash spill goes, our sympathy goes out to those who have been impacted by this unfortunate event. We can only hope that it results in better monitoring of coal energy by product containment and a greater importance to look towards a future that involves less fossil fuel and more sustainable energy sources. This organization has a more acute interest though in the effects of the ash spill at Kingston Steam Plant in Harriman, TN. Many TOS members have recorded bird counts from the ponds at the Kingston Plant. At the last Knoxville chapter meeting it was proposed that those records be compared to future sightings at the plant and any long-term trends. One place to send those records is to EBIRD. Ebird is a project developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, which provides a simple way to keep track of the birds you see anywhere in North America and beyond. To submit your data, access the Internet and visit www.ebird.org. You will have to register only once and then will be able to submit data from anywhere you go bird watching.

I also want to spotlight the upcoming Great Backyard Bird Count, which is another Audubon Society and Cornell Lab project. Visit www.birdsource.org/gbbc/ to learn more about this event happening February 13-16, 2009.

I want to thank in advance those people who will be helping with the spring/ summer picnic and auction. We need more members volunteering to help make this important fundraiser of our chapter a success. Details will be coming soon.

If you would like to be included in the newly reestablished Rare Bird Alert phone list, please contact Dean Edwards or me. Participants will need to contact a couple other people via phone when a rare bird is sighted.

A March or April workday is being planned for Sharps Ridge, our annual litter clean up and non-native, invasive plant removal effort along this Knoxville birding hotspot.

Interested birders (and other flora and fauna aficionados) need to see Wayne Schacher and/or David Trently if they want to participate in the Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge Bioblitz on April 17-18. Another Bioblitz is being planned for Turkey Creek Wetland this coming fall and next spring. Get involved!

Lastly, membership dues are due! If you haven't paid yet, send it in to KTOS treasurer Marie Oakes.

Mystery bird quiz will be back next month. Previous quiz answer is *Certhia Americana*, or brown creeper to us laymen.

Bird On!

KTOS SUPPORT OPERATION MIGRATION

KTOS has contributed \$208 in support of the MileMarker 2008 campaign of Operation Migration. Operation Migration has played a leading role in the reintroduction of endangered Whooping Cranes into eastern North America since 2001. By sponsoring Mile 574 in Tennessee, KTOS has become part of what has been described as "The most successful species reintroduction in wildlife conservation history." Seven states, approximately 1285 miles, and an unknown number of migration days lie between the 2008 Whooping Crane chicks' fledging ground at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin, and their wintering grounds in Florida. Operation Migration relies on the support of conservation-minded organizations and individuals to help defray the costs of the annual ultralight-guided migration with the newest cohort of young Whooping Cranes.

For additional information, see <http://operationmigration.org> or call 1-800-675-2618.

LAST REMINDER ON MEMBERSHIP DUES!

Many of our members are in danger of being dropped from membership because annual dues have not been received. So we're giving everyone a final chance to continue uninterrupted in this great group of bird lovers before names are purged from our roll! If you haven't paid 2009 dues, please fill out this easy renewal form, write your check (to "KTOS") right now while it's fresh on your mind, mail it, and help us continue to support local habitat protection, bird appreciation, and public participation in bird watching!

WE THANK YOU! THE BIRDS WILL THANK YOU!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

Email address: _____

DUES: Individual \$26____, Family \$30____,

Student \$13____, Sustaining membership \$38 ____,

Life membership TOS \$450 ____ plus \$8 KTOS annually.

Mail to: Marie Oakes, 18 Rockingham Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830

SHADE GROWN COFFEE

Don't forget to order your shade grown coffee to be delivered in January. Remember every purchase you make helps preserve habitat for birds.

See David Johnson to place your order.

BE SURE TO SAVE THE DATES!!!

FEBRUARY 7-15, 2009

Why? The Rusty Blackbird has been steeply declining, with estimates of an 85-99% population drop over the past 40 years. Although the cause for this alarming decline is not known, winter habitat loss and degradation are likely candidates. Rusties are getting scarce and patchy in their winter distribution, making it difficult for research and management we need to save the species. Collaborating with Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's and National Audubon Society's e-Bird project, we are enlisting the power of the birding public (you!) to help locate local, but predictable wintering concentrations of Rusty Blackbirds. We are mobilizing an all out "blitz" to locate Rusty Blackbirds and create a map of wintering Rusty Blackbird "hot spots" that will help focus research, monitoring and conservation attention..

Who? Birders from all of the Rusties' winter range (see below).

What? During a single 9-day period, volunteers will search for Rusty Blackbirds in any locations and habitats deemed as potentially suitable for wintering Rusty Blackbirds, particularly flocks or concentrations (e.g., dozens or even hundreds of birds). Areas of concentration will be revisited in the future to determine if they are indeed Rusty Blackbird hot spots.

When? February 7th thru 15th, 2009 – when Rusties become easier to find (males sing!) and the population is relatively sedentary.

Where? We are focusing on the following states known to comprise the Rusty Blackbird winter range: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas (east), Virginia, and West Virginia.

How? It's simple! Use whatever you like – your data base of previous sightings, birding intuition, local legend, or local knowledge – to search the most likely places for wintering Rusty Blackbirds. You can go wherever you like, whenever you like, and as often as you like anytime between the dates of February 7-15, 2009. We are simply seeking observations on the number of birds present at each location visited, along with very basic habitat information. All you have to do is submit your observations (or lack thereof) via e-Bird. We will do the rest!

Information and instructions will also be available on Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's e-Bird site:www.ebird.org

KTOS MEMBERSHIP

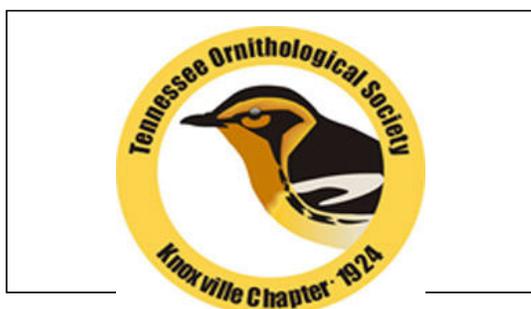
Join or renew your membership in KTOS by mailing your annual dues

to: Marie Oakes
18 Rockingham Lane
Oak Ridge, 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 Feb. 21

Due to cost and space restrictions, please limit your article to 700 words. For a color version of this newsletter or for past issues, go to the TOS home page, <http://www.tnbirds.org> and click on "local chapters/Knoxville"



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2009 ANNUAL MEETING TO BE AT NASHVILLE

May 1-3

The Nashville Chapter extends an invitation to all TOS members across the state to attend the 2009 TOS Annual Meeting, to be held May 1-3, 2009. The meeting will be headquartered at the Baymont Inn & Suites located at 111 Penn Warren Drive in Brentwood TN, off I-65 at Exit 74-B.

The Saturday afternoon TOS Board of Directors Meeting and the Saturday evening banquet and Annual Business Meeting will take place at [Crieveview United Methodist Church](#), 451 Hogan Rd, across from Ellington Agricultural Center. [Birding on the Ag Center grounds](#) is usually productive and it is worth a visit before dinner.

Field Trips

The field trip schedule and destinations are still being finalized, but will include several locales you have grown to know and love in the Nashville area. These include:

- [Radnor Lake State Natural Area](#)
- [Shelby Bottoms](#)
- [Beaman Park](#)
- Bell's Bend Park

Beaman and Bell's Bend Parks are two of the newest parks in the Nashville area. Both parks are located northwest of downtown Nashville.

Registration

Fees are \$10.00 for registration and \$20.00 for the Saturday evening banquet buffet.

The speaker for the Saturday night banquet will be Gary Myers, Executive Director of TWRA. Gary has served as Executive Director since 1978 and is scheduled to retire on March 1, 2009. During his long tenure, Gary has been a great friend to TOS.

It is not too early to be making plans to attend the Spring Meeting.

For more information on the meeting, go to the Tennessee Ornithological Society web site at tnbirds.org.

through the biKNOXulars (USPS 697-010)
Published monthly, except January, July and August by the
Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society,
5400 Crooked Pine Lane, Knoxville, TN 37921
Subscription Price \$8.00. Periodical Postage paid at Knoxville, TN 37901
POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to:
through the biKNOXulars, 5400 Crooked Pine Lane, Knoxville, TN 37921