



biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

Golden-winged Warbler *Topic of Scott Dykes Presentation*

Tennessean Scott Dykes has been employed by TWRA since 2004 where, for the first three years, he was a Field Wildlife Manager conducting inventories for Greatest Conservation Need (GCN) species on State Wildlife Management Areas. Since 2007 he has been the Morristown Office's Regional Conservation Planner/Biologist. He is currently working on Appalachian Cottontail surveys, the North Cumberland Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), a Wild Hog eradication program and Golden-Winged Warbler habitat work at Hampton Creek Cove State Natural Area (Roan Mountain).

Scott's presentation is on his Golden-Winged Warbler habitat work and will take us through the project from ground clearing and re-planting to lessons learned and future plans. Scott will also tell us what the Golden Wing thinks about all his hard work.

The Golden-winged Warbler, a Tennessee "In Need of Management" species, can be found across the state during spring and fall migration but breeds primarily at higher elevations in the Cumberland Mountains and eastern mountains of Tennessee.

It nests in shrubby fields, occasionally in recent clear-cuts and especially on old narrow coalmine strip benches. The breeding range includes the northeastern and north-central United States north to southern Ontario and the Golden-winged warbler travels to Central America and northern South America for the non-breeding season. Unfortunately, this species is of high conservation concern because of a long term declining population trend. The causes for this decline include loss of breeding habitat due to reforestation and current mining practices, hybridization with the closely related Blue-winged Warbler and habitat loss on the wintering grounds. A 2001 survey conducted in the project area concluded that there were some 7 to 15 Golden Wing territories but they are dependent on habitat management to attract and maintain the species.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 2nd at 6:45 in Room 117 of the UT Veterinary Building.



ANNOUNCEMENT

Alice Woody has volunteered to be our Field Trip Leader. Thank you Alice.

You can contact Alice at 865-573-4937 or e-mail her at gamwoody@comcast.net to ask questions or volunteer to lead a trip.

See Page 2 for February Field Trips.

2011 MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you have not already done so, please pay your Membership Dues for the year January 1 through December 31, 2011. You can give them to Carole at the next meeting or mail your dues to her at 1304 Barcelona Drive, Knoxville TN 37923.

Thank you!

"Use whatever talent you possess: the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sing the best"

~ Henry Van Dyke ~

KTOS FINANCIAL REPORT - CALENDAR YEAR 2010

| | November | October | YTD |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Income: | | | |
| . Dues | \$ 958.00 | \$ 0.00 | \$ 2,478.00 |
| . Shade Grown Coffee | 152.50 | 184.00 | 989.50 |
| . Interest | 18.65 | 18.27 | 201.04 |
| . Silent Auction | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| . Owen Memorial | 195.00 | 0.00 | 197.00 |
| . Spring Meeting | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,509.00 |
| . Donation | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 |
| Total Income | \$ 1,324.15 | \$ 202.27 | \$ 6,474.54 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Expenses: | | | |
| Newsletter | \$ 97.45 | \$ 64.95 | \$ 725.13 |
| Supplies | 24.48 | 0.00 | 227.26 |
| Shade Grown Coffee | 231.38 | 80.97 | 995.79 |
| TOS Member Dues | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,292.00 |
| Spring Meeting | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2,060.98 |
| UT Garden Rental | 0.00 | 0.00 | 25.00 |
| J.B.Owen Award | 300.00 | 0.00 | 300.00 |
| Operation Migration | 400.00 | 0.00 | 400.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 1,053.31 | \$ 145.92 | \$ 7,026.16 |

Account Balances

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| . KTOS Checking & Savings | \$ 3,256.50 | \$ 4,399.00 |
| . J.B.Owen Memorial | \$ 8,536.67 | \$ 7,073.33 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|
| Memberships | 119 | 116 |
| Paid 2011 Memberships | 37 | 1 |

New Members:

Judith Mallory
Chris and Judy McMillan
Kelly Moran and Jason Sturner

KTOS Financial Report - Calendar Year 2010 2011

| | January | YTD |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Income: | | |
| . Dues | \$ 194.00 | \$ 194.00 |
| . Shade Grown Coffee | 43.75 | 43.75 |
| . Interest | 13.08 | 13.08 |
| Owen Memorial | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Income | \$ 250.83 | \$ 250.83 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Expenses: | | |
| . Newsletter | \$ 0.00 | \$ 0.00 |
| . Supplies | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| . Shade Grown Coffee | 176.83 | 176.83 |
| . Member Dues to TOS | 1,274.00 | 1,274.00 |
| . J.B. Owen Award | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| . Operation Migration | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$1,450.83 | \$1,450.83 |

Account Balances

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| . KTOS Checking & Savings | \$ 2,709.54 |
| . J.B.Owen Memorial | \$ 8,573.97 |

Memberships 122

Paid 2011 Memberships 62

**Field Trips for
February**



Sunday, February 6, 8:00 a.m.
Royal Blue WMA and Cove Lake State Park
Leader: David Trently,
naturetours@avianpursuits.com;
865-531-1473 (h); 865-974-8528 (w);
or 865-771-8288 (day of the trip only).

We birded these areas in November and had a very enjoyable day with Purple Finches, Rusty Black birds, Winter Wrens, and lots of ducks at Cove Lake. It is time to go back and see what changes the passage of a little time has brought. I'm betting more ducks!!

Either meet at the Ingles grocery store at 430 E Emory Road north of Knoxville at 8:00 a.m., or after 8:30 at the parking area for the field trip which is at GPS coordinates: N 36.36207 W 84.22568

For those of you not yet familiar with this part of Royal Blue, this area is off I-75 Exit 141 (Oneida exit), on the east side of the interstate, at the second major bend in Old Kentucky Road, heading southeast. The site has a marsh, a large pond that may have some waterfowl, mostly level dirt roads and plenty of wooded areas. We should be done there in about 2 hours, at which time we could check out some other areas of Royal Blue, as well as Cove Lake State Park on the way home.

Saturday, February 26, 8:30 a.m.
Cades Cove Campground & Sewage Ponds, Blount Co.
Leader: Warren Bielenberg, 865-681-7884
Birdglass44@aol.com

This trip is a 3-mile walk over level terrain on paved roads and unpaved trails. Possible birds include Wood Ducks, Mallards, Bufflehead and Snipe on the sewage ponds; there may be other waterfowl or shorebirds as visitors change from day to day. Other birds expected would be woodpeckers (Pileated, Downy, Redbellied, Hairy, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and flickers), both kinglets, White- and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Pine Siskins and Am. Goldfinch, E. Bluebirds, Am. Crows, Blue Jays, E. Phoebe, Yellowrumped Warbler, Palm Warblers and other migrants.

If you wish to carpool from Knoxville, meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Stokely Building on the northeast side of the Cedar Bluff exit, in the parking lot closest to Cedar Bluff. Otherwise, meet at the parking area by the campground store at 8:30. The store and the heated restrooms will NOT be open. There are vending machines with snacks and hot and cold drinks. Folks may wish to bring snacks, lunch and water, especially if they want to explore the Cove after birding.



*Presidential
Perch*

The following is an article, written by Anne Paine, which appeared in *The Tennessean* on Saturday, January 22.

**Sandhill Crane Hunting Proposal Delayed
Two-year wait will be used to study crane population**

A proposal to hunt sandhill cranes in Tennessee was laid to rest Friday — at least for now.

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission voted to delay consideration of the plan for two years. It had raised concerns among birders and some hunters as well. Commissioner Mitchell Parks made a motion Friday for a one- rather than two-year wait, which failed to rally support. "I don't see the need of dragging this out forever," he said. Commissioner Eric Wright had said the day before that a wait was to learn more about the crane population and to allow conflicting groups to try to work together.

Public comments gathered on the proposal showed 72 percent opposed a season on cranes, while 28 percent supported it. A telephone poll resulted in a closer margin, 37 percent opposed to 32 percent.

The Tennessee Wildlife Federation had pushed the state wildlife agency to consider the hunt, and the Tennessee Farm Bureau backed it, saying the birds damage crops.

The eastern population of sandhill cranes, which nearly disappeared in the 1930s, has been growing. The birds stop on migration, feeding and resting at the Hiwassee Refuge northeast of Chattanooga, and are celebrated at an annual crane festival that draws thousands of visitors.

Questions still unanswered

Questions remain about the sustainability of hunting the red-capped birds, according to the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

They reproduce slowly, unlike many hunted species, and aren't comparable to two sandhill crane populations to the west that are hunted, group members said. They want the festival turned into an eco-travel jewel that brings money to the state and wildlife agency.

Mike Butler, CEO of the wildlife federation, said some biologists say the population could support hunting and wildlife viewing, and it should grow even more in two years.

ALSO

Wallace Coffey wrote "Congratulations to Melinda Welton, Chris Sloan, Jan Shaw, Cyndi Routledge, Vickie Henderson and others who played major leadership roles considering the proposal to hunt Sandhill Cranes in Tennessee."

Vickie wrote: "This is an enormous accomplishment for the greater interest of the wildlife resources of Tennessee.

It is a time to say thank you to everyone, including TWRA and TWRC, for their good judgment and good effort on behalf of the cranes and wildlife management in Tennessee."

Hi Folks,
I've been interested in Saw-whet Owls for a long long time. Like a lot of other birds, we know some things about their reproductive life but not much about their migration and winter range. I have been lucky enough to band a few Saw-whets, and I even banded one this year at Seven Islands. The banders in Alabama are driving me crazy though. Through the efforts of the Hummer/Bird Study Group a total of 32 owls were banded in Alabama last fall plus three recaptures of birds banded in New York and Canada. This is really an amazing feat and just begins to show something of the wintering range of these birds. Next fall I may have to take some time off work so I can stay up later since many of the owls were caught after midnight. Their northward migration starts in March so it may be a good time to try again then.

On the 21st the TWRC decided to delay a decision on hunting Sandhill Cranes for two years to further study the population. This is really good news for the cranes and wildlife in Tennessee. I'm sure we'll be called upon in a couple years to write letters again, but this was an important first step. KTOS was represented at this meeting by Vickie Henderson, Tony King and Janet Lee McKnight.

~Mark~

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

While a hunting season on Sandhill Cranes has been averted for two years, one can be sure that this proposal will be back on the table at the end of the specified time. In the meantime, I think that we, as a club, should consider how we can best financially support our non-hunting views?

Could we buy and sell Duck Stamps at our club meetings? What are other ways we can "put our money where our mouth is" concerning TWRA so we can justify our stance against hunting the cranes?
Ginger Goolsby

PROGRAM NOTE FROM IJAMS

On Saturday, February 12 at 4 p.m. Ijams will be showing the award-winning documentary "Ghost Bird" about the recent sighting of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Arkansas in 2005. The cost is \$5. To sign up call: 577-4717, ext. 10.

Nancy and I will be on hand to answer questions.

Stephen Lyn Bales

naturalist/writer/speaker

Visit: [nature calling](#) and/or [Ghost Birds](#)

KTOS MEMBERSHIP

Join or renew your membership in KTOS by mailing your annual dues to: Carole Gobert
1304 Barcelona Drive
Knoxville TN 37923

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 Fri Feb 18

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"



PRESIDENT Mark Armstrong
1440 Fawn Road
Seymour, TN 37865
(865) 577-5398

marmstrong@knoxville-zoo.org
woodthrush@bellsouth.net

VICE PRESIDENT Billie Cantwell
1613 Cove Creek LN
Knoxville, TN 37919
Cell 865-567-4273 Home 865-212-9797
Bfcantwell@gmail.com

TREASURER Carole Gobert
1304 Barcelona Drive
Knoxville TN 37923
(865) 254-8841
cpgobert@hotmail.com

SECRETARY Angela Hoffman
813 Owl Hollow Road
Knoxville, TN 37923
Home (865) 670-8822
ahoffman07@bellsouth.net

EDITOR Ginger Goolsby
1126 Heykoop Drive
Morristown, TN 37814 (423) 581-9439
Cell (423) 748-4632
vtgoolsby@musfiber.com

EDITOR (Distribution) Patty Ford
8404 Mecklenburg Court
Knoxville, TN 37923 (865) 719-8383
pattyford@pfordonline.com

FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR- Alice Woody
Home 865-573-4937
gamwoody@comcast.net

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White-throated Sparrows are not always ground feeders! This feeder is almost four feet off the ground, and White-throated and Song Sparrows as well as the occasional towhee visit regularly for peanutbutter "suet".



Photo Ginger Goolsby