



KNOXVILLE CHAPTER OF THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

I wish you Bluebirds

Bluebirds are associated with hope, happiness and things that we love. In 1903 W.L. Dawson wrote “Reflecting heaven from his back and the ground from his breast, he floats between sky and earth like the winged voice of hope” referring to Eastern Bluebirds in his field guide, *Birds of Ohio*. These creatures are one of the most beautiful birds and can be enjoyed all year in East Tennessee.

Would you like them to visit your yard? Please come to **Wild Birds Unlimited** (7240 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tenn.) on Saturday, **February 9, 2013 between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m.** Discover how to attract Eastern Bluebirds, where to put your box, and how to monitor and care for them. Now is the time to put out a bird’s future home—the bluebirds are about to start checking out their nesting sites!

Information will be provided by Billie Cantwell who has monitored Seven Islands’ Bluebird trail for the past 5 years.



Eastern Bluebird, Source: Wikimedia Commons

February Program: Regular People, Real Science

Join us on **Wednesday, February 6, at 6:45 p.m.** for Tiffany Beachy’s presentation “Regular People, Real Science.” Discover why citizen science maybe the wave of the future for natural science. The Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont has used citizen science for years as a tool to connect people with nature. Tiffany Beachy received her masters degree in Wildlife Science from the University of Tennessee, and has participated in avian research in various locations in the US, Canada, Mexico, Ecuador (Galápagos Islands), and Venezuela. Join us to hear Tiffany tell us why citizen science is so important!

This meeting will be held in Room 117 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. For directions, please visit the meetings page on KTOS’ website at www.tnbirds.org/chapters/knoxvill/KTOS_Meetings.html.

KTOS Presentation at Farragut Branch Library

On **February 9, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.**, Paula Shcneeberger will discuss several aspects of birds at the **Farragut Branch Library** (417 N. Campbell Station Rd., Knoxville, Tenn.). Paula was a Naturalist, Biologist, and Environmental Educator for the Miami-Dade Parks Department for over 16 years.

She has an extensive show-and-tell bird collection that she will use during her discussion. This collection includes different talons, beaks, feathers, skeletons, skulls, and taxidermy specimens from various bird species.

Weather permitting, the group will walk the trails around the library looking at the birds in the area. If you plan to attend, please do not forget to bring your binoculars.

Common Yellowthroat.
Source: Wikimedia Commons



Presidential Perch

January has been a very busy birding month with the Christmas Bird Count for Knox County, a KTOS trip to Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge organized by Tom Howe, the Tenn. Sandhill Crane Festival, and the Wilderness Wildlife Week™ in Pigeon Forge. Mark Armstrong has been busy banding hummingbirds wintering in Tennessee. He banded another Rufous hatching-year female on the Riverbend Peninsula in West Knoxville and then one more the same day in New Market located in Jefferson County.

I hope you will participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) starting February 15 and ending on February 20, 2013. The GBBC engages bird watchers of all ages and experience levels in identifying and counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where birds are located. It is really fun project and you will be participating in a citizen science project!

I am very grateful for Paula Schneeberger's help with the "Birds! Show and Tell" information sessions at Wild Birds Unlimited (WBU), promoting birding and KTOS. Paula will have a discussion at the Farragut Branch Library on February 9, 2013. Thank you Mindy Fawver for your talents in creating our new fliers to announce programs for WBU and KTOS.

This is going to be a busy spring for KTOS members—we will host the Spring TOS Meeting April 26-28, 2013 and prepare for our August 25, 2013 Hummingbird Festival at Ijams Nature Center. We will also have our KTOS elections soon. Please let any of our officers know if you would be interested in serving the KTOS.

Please visit our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/KnoxvilleTOS) where we share information about birds, events, and other bird related sites. If you have not "liked" KTOS on Facebook, please consider doing it.

Billie Cantwell



Red Crossbills, a resident in Tennessee.
Source: Wikimedia Commons

Get Out and Get Birding! February Field Trips

Owl Foray
Saturday, February 16, 2013 @ 5:00 p.m.
Leader: Kevin Burke, kevin.burke@noc.com, (865) 436-1159 (W), cell (240) 422-9483 (C)

We will listen for owls on Newfound Gap Rd until dusk. Meet at the Sugarlands Nature Center on US 441 at 5:00 p.m. The rain/wind date for this field trip is February 17, 2013 meeting at the same location and time.

Hiwassee Island Eco Cruise
Saturday, February 23, 2013 @ 9:45 a.m.
Coordinator: Michael Plaster, KTOS.Editor@gmail.com.

KTOS will cruise the Tennessee River to Hiwassee Island via Blue Moon Cruises again this year. The cost is \$39 plus tax per person for the 3 ½ hour cruise and includes a naturalist interpreter and a full barbeque buffet. Last year we saw cranes, eagles, osprey, and other resident and migrating species.

On the day of the cruise, be sure to arrive at the dock of Sale Creek Marina no later than 9:45 a.m. (3900 Lee Pike, Soddy Daisy, TN, 37379). For specific directions, visit tinyurl.com/agvuqu6. Please make your own reservations by calling Blue Moon Cruises and Tours at (888) 993-2583 or by using their website (www.bluemooncruises.org). Please identify yourself as a member of the KTOS when making your reservation.

Kyker Bottoms Refuge and Abrams Creek
Saturday March 2, 2013 @ 8:30 a.m.
Leaders: Tom Howe, tomandamy@nxs.net and Warren Bielenberg, birdglass44@aol.com, (866) 681-7884.

Kyker Bottoms re-opens to the public on March 1, so this is our first chance of the year to bird large segments of this property. Early migrants, late winter sparrows, Red Crossbills, wrens, and rails may be some of birds that may be seen on this field trip. It may be possible that the fields may be wet, so please wear appropriate clothes. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the paved parking lot by the "old" observation platform on Big Gully Rd.

New Members

Marion Plemons, Jenni Sprinkle, Jane Whitaker, and Karen and Jeff Wilkinson have recently joined KTOS. Welcome!

KTOS Financial Report Calendar Year 2012

Birding Briefs

	2012	2011
Income		
. Dues	\$3,341.00	\$3,390.00
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$1,688.65	\$1,151.25
. Interest	\$90.28	\$117.19
. J. B. Owen Memorial	\$170.00	\$563.00
. Duck Stamp Sales	\$436.00	\$395.00
. Projector Lamp Rental	\$10.00	\$0.00
. Wine Tasting Events	\$1,190.00	\$0.00
. Hummingbird Festival	\$3,132.50	\$0.00
. Activity Book/Class Spon.	\$163.00	\$0.00
Total Income	\$10,221.43	\$5,616.44
Expenses		
. Newsletter	\$448.84	\$864.80
. Supplies	\$233.85	\$90.38
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$1,561.22	\$1,380.39
. Member Dues to TOS	\$2,190.00	\$2,076.00
. J. B. Owen Award	\$500.00	\$600.00
. Duck Stamp Program	\$300.00	\$412.98
. Activity Books	\$200.00	\$0.00
. Wine Tasting Events	\$500.00	\$0.00
. Hummingbird Festival	\$1,953.91	\$0.00
. Operation Migration	\$200.00	\$0.00
. TN Crane Fund	\$280.00	\$0.00
. 2013 Spring Meeting	\$300.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$8,667.82	\$5,424.55
Account Balances		
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$5,230.51	\$4,133.32
. J. B. Owen Memorial	\$9,101.92	\$8,645.50
2011 Memberships		106
Paid 2012 Memberships	131	

Tom Howe recently organized a field trip to **Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge** (WNWR) in Madison, Ala. The group enjoyed the company of excellent local birders, Dwight Cooley and Damien Simbeck. Their help ensured that the KTOS group collectively observed 104 bird species, which is too long to list here. KTOS members for this field trip included: **Robin Barrow, Eric Bodker, Vickie Henderson, David Johnson, Jean Alexander, Tony King, Denise Nauman, Oliver Lang, Jerry Ledbetter, Merikay Waldvogel, Ed LeGrand, Michael Plaster, June Welch, Chris Welsh, Karen Wilkinson, Oliver Lang, and Jerry Weaver.**

A highlight of the Cades Cove Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was the unexpected sighting of a **Short-eared Owl** by **Susan Hoyle** and **Kris Johnson**. The bird flew up from one of the recently burned fields west of Sparks Lane in Cades Cove. It flew a short distance, posed, and then flew again. This was only the second record of a Short-eared Owl in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park; the previous sighting was also in Cades Cove.

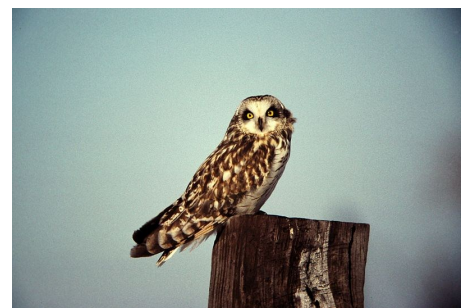
The Park has been gradually restoring fields formerly under agricultural leases to native meadows and wetlands by planting native grasses and wildflowers. They are using prescribed fire as a tool to keep the areas open. Northern Harriers and Red-shouldered Hawks are frequently observed and several species of sparrows are becoming more common. The CBC provides valuable trend data for Park resource managers.

Have you seen something that you want to share? E-mail your bird information (e.g., species, number, date, location) to Michael Plaster at ktos.editor@gmail.com.

Great Backyard Bird Count

The 2013 **Great Backyard Bird Count** (GBBC) will take place **Friday, February 15, through Monday, February 18, 2013**. Everyone is welcome—from novice birders to experts. It can take as little as 15 minutes on one day, or as long as you like each day of the event. The GBBC is free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds too.

Participants will tally the number of individual birds of each species they see during their count period. The data will be entered by each participant at the GBBC website. This year each participant must set up a free GBBC account to submit their checklists, even those who have participated in the past. For additional information and how to create a GBBC account please visit www.birdsource.org/gbbc/howto.html.



Short-eared Owl,
Source: Wikimedia Commons

KTOS membership: Join or renew by mailing your annual dues to Carole Gobert, 1304 Barcelona Drive, Knoxville, TN 37923. Dues levels: \$26/individual, \$30/family, \$38/sustaining, \$13/student, or TOS life membership for \$450 with \$8 annual fee to Chapter.



www.tnbirds.org/KTOS.html

**2012 — 2013
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KTOS Wine Tasting! *Bhutan: The Land of the Thunder Dragon*

Back by popular demand, the most informative wine tasting you will ever attend. Not only will you learn about various wines, but also about a kingdom and its culture. You will meet new friends, share experiences, and most of all have FUN! Make your reservations now for this 6:30 p.m. event on **Saturday, February 16, 2013** by contacting Billie Cantwell at bfcantwell@gmail.com.



Great Hornbill, a near-threatened species in Bhutan
Source: Wikimedia Commons

Mike Nelson will present, *Bhutan: The Land of the Thunder Dragon*. Having just returned from his second trip to this Himalayan birding paradise he will talk about this country's conservation efforts against the pressing commercialism it is facing and its core Buddhist values. A tasting will also be involved with wines from around the world. Please bring a dish to share. Cost is \$35 per person in advance and seating is limited to 25 people.

The event will be at **Legacy Parks Foundation** (OUTDOOR Knoxville Adventure Center) located at 900 Volunteer Landing Ln., Knoxville, Tenn.