

biKNOXulars

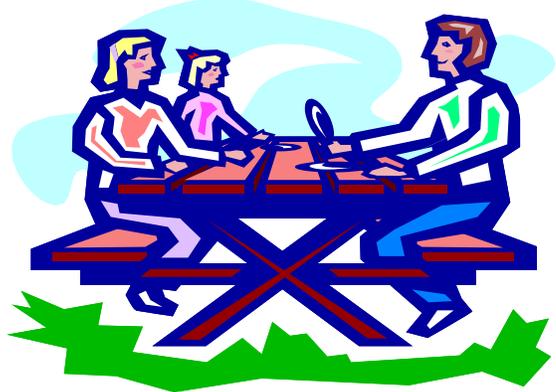
Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

PICNIC AT IJAMS JUNE 4 AT 6:30

On Wednesday evening, June 4, KTOS will meet for its annual Potluck Picnic at Ijams Nature Center at 6:30 p.m.

Please bring a covered dish (with serving utensil) to share with the group. This meeting is always a favorite - a time to meet and greet both old and new friends. There will even be some time for informal birding around the Nature Center.

At press time, no information was given pertaining to the use of disposables at the picnic. Therefore, as in the past, please bring your own reusable plate, cup and utensils to reduce the amount of waste generated. Think "Green" and be a good environmental steward!!



FIELD TRIPS FOR JUNE/JULY 2008

More field trips may be organized later this summer. Check tn-bird@freelists.org for announcements.

Saturday, June 7, 2008, 8:00 A.M.

Fort Loudon Dam Area

Leader: Tony King (865-988-6172)

Saturday, June 21, 9 a.m. to Noon

Bird Class: Summer Birds of Ijams Nature Center
Call Sheila at 577-4717 ext. 10 to register and/or to join Ijams.

Sunday, June 22, 6:00 a.m.

Field trip to the Cherohala Skyway, Monroe County, TN, and Graham County, NC

Departure time **6:00 a.m.** from the Stokely Center, 320 N Cedar Bluff

Alternate meeting place: Hardee's restaurant in Tellico Plains at 7:00 a.m.

Leader: David Trently (865-531-1473 h; 865-974-8664 w; naturetours@avianpursuits.com)

Saturday, July 12, 9:00 a.m.

Birding for Beginners at the Cove at Concord Park

Leader: Robin Barrow

(braveladyrobin@gmail.com, 297-2572)



See Page 3 for further details.





Presidential Perch - By Mark Campen

Quick quiz question: What is the most common breeding bird in Tennessee?

The answer is our mystery bird of the month. We will return to it later in this article.

I want to start by conveying my enjoyment of a recent KTOS field trip. I and nine other individuals walked around the grounds of the Knoxville Botanical Gardens and Arboretum for a few hours and saw some great birds and blooms. It started out slow, but we soon found ourselves amongst many birds. Although the total count was just under 30 species, we had great time and saw some great birds. We really had fun identifying the “bird of prey” sitting on a nest. Actually, what I thought to be a raptor due to the size of the nest ended up being a juvenile crow that had yet to fledge. The youngster looked as if he were too old to still be hanging around the nest for a free meal! I bet we’ve all known a few “birds” like that. Due to the location of the nest and the vegetation blocking it, it took a while to get the right angle to positively identify what we were looking at. As we moved on we encountered at least two American Redstarts jumping all around, as well as a couple Black and White Warblers. I know at least one person that got a good case of “warbler-neck” due to the atrophy of the ever-important bird watching neck muscles. It had been too long since I had gone on a good field trip. This is just an example of the good times and birding comradery that our organization offers. At a recent meeting I believe we all agreed that the field trips are of utmost importance and that we need to increase these opportunities for our members and to help us solicit new members. Let’s all make an effort this year to lead one field trip to a favorite birding spot and also attend at least one field trip and maybe bring a friend who isn’t a member.

Now, onto our mystery bird of the month, who “knows where the fire is.”

Nesting low, usually under five feet from the ground, this little beauty weaves in and out of thickets and scrub-shrub habitat feeding on insects and seeds and pulling together nesting material made up of bark strips, leaves, grasses and other plant fibers and hair. The nest will hold four pale blue-white eggs. The color of this bird, in which the male plumage can be striking, is not color

derived from pigment at all, but rather produced by the refraction of light within the feather itself. While the male is showy, the female is rather plain and striped, looking much like a number of sparrows at first glance. Look and listen for this small bird to be singing from a tree top or telephone pole, or flitting low in the bush. Now, the initial quiz question states that this is the most common breeding bird in Tennessee. This may have changed since 2000 when it appeared as a question on an exam in ornithology class, but I doubt it. If you question the answer, take it up with Dr. Buehler.

The correct answer to the last mystery bird question was Eastern Kingbird.

To check your answer to this month’s quiz, be sure to attend the next meeting to be held at lams on Wednesday evening, June 4, at 6:30.

Looking for Leaders

I joined KTOS because of its field trips. I started out birding on my own, but I quickly realized I needed help not just identifying the birds but also simply finding them. The field trips were immensely useful to me, and to many other fledgling birders as well.

Recently, the number of field trips we offer has declined to one or two each month. This is partly due to David Trently’s increasing success in his private business, Avian Pursuits, which decreases his availability for us; David has led over 1/3 of our field trips for the past five years. Clearly, what we need are more leaders.

You don’t have to be a capital-B Birdwatcher like David to lead a field trip. All it takes is a willingness to be at a set place at a set time, an idea of what you’re looking for, and the ability to make decisions about how long you stay in one place and where you go next. I led my first field trip in April, even though my life list is under 150 and I can’t tell a swift from a swallow. What made it a success was the wonderful people like you who showed up to share your enthusiasm and knowledge.

Do you want to see more birds? Would you like to hang out with other birdwatchers? The best way is to lead a field trip yourself. Simply choose a place and time, then I’ll put it in the calendar. If you would like suggestions about where to go, talk to me for ideas—but don’t overlook the obvious. Some of the birdiest spots are right in your own backyard (especially if you’re Dean Edwards or Janet McKnight).

--Robin Barrow, Field Trip Coordinator

FIELD TRIPS FOR JUNE/JULY 2008

Saturday, June 7, 2008, 8:00 A.M.

Fort Loudon Dam Area

Leader: Tony King (865-988-6172)

Meet at 8:00 in the lower Ft. Loudon Dam overlook parking area. This area is reached by taking the marked exit off U. S. Route 321 on the north (I-75) side of the dam. We will visit both overlooks at the dam, looking for Gulls, wading birds, waterfowl and raptors. We will also visit the area south along the river, where we can see a Bald Eagle nest. With time permitting, we will cross the dam and check the area of the beaver ponds. There are major beaver pond areas to visit as well as the open water areas of the reservoirs and tail waters. We could finish up before lunch time. Walking should be fairly moderate. Bring water.

Saturday, June 21, 9 a.m. to Noon

Bird Class: Summer Birds of Ijams Nature Center

Is that a white-eyed vireo I hear calling from the brush? From buntings to cuckoos to yellow-breasted chats, join bird-brain Stephen Lyn Bales for a workshop on the birds that only spend their summers at Ijams or nearby. The class begins inside, then moves outdoors. Excellent for beginners or as a refresher course. Free to Ijams members, \$10 for non-members. Call Sheila at 577-4717 ext. 10 to register and/or to join Ijams.

Sunday, June 22, 6:00 a.m.

Field trip to the Cherohala Skyway, Monroe County, TN, and Graham County, NC

Departure time **6:00 a.m.** from the Stokely Center, 320 N Cedar Bluff

Alternate meeting place: Hardee's restaurant in Tellico Plains at 7:00 a.m.

Leader: David Trently (865-531-1473 h; 865-974-8664 w; naturetours@avianpursuits.com)

You must contact the field trip leader at least by Thursday, June 19, if you plan to attend. If you do not, there may be no one at the meeting place when you get there. The early departure time (we'll still start birding well after sunrise) allows for us to begin in the area while bird activity is high - and before the Sunday motorcycle crowd really hits the road. Possible birds include: Least Flycatcher (NC); Blue-headed Vireo; Common Raven; Black-capped Chickadee; Red-breasted Nuthatch; Brown Creeper; Winter Wren; Golden-crowned Kinglet; Veery; Northern Parula; Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Blue Blackburnian, Worm-eating, Hooded and Canada Warblers; Ovenbird; Scarlet Tanager; Rose-breasted Grosbeak; and Red Crossbill (rarest of those listed). Bring lunch, drink

Saturday, July 12, 9:00 a.m.

Birding for Beginners at the Cove at Concord Park

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

Meet in front of the boat shop. The focus of this trip is to engage newcomers and youth in birdwatching. We will focus on the basics of locating and identifying common birds around the park. More experienced birdwatchers are welcome, of course. Walking will be easy and we will finish well before lunch.



KTOS Financial Report - Calendar Year 2008

	May	April	YTD
Income:			
. Dues	\$ 38.00	\$ 82.00	\$1,714.00
. Shade Grown Coffee	0.00	114.00	477.00
. Interest	26.38	28.92	107.53
. Silent Auction	0.00	0.00	0.00
. Owen Memorial	0.00	0.00	2.00
. Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	\$ 64.38	\$ 224.92	\$2,300.53
Expenses:			
. Newsletter	\$ 89.60	\$ 0.00	\$ 274.06
. Supplies	0.00	0.00	27.10
. Shade Grown Coffee	0.00	83.35	361.54
. Member Dues to TOS	22.00	111.00	2,354.00
. Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expenses	\$111.60	\$ 194.35	\$3,016.70
Other:			
. J.B. Owen Award	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Account Balances			
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$3,901.80	\$3,974.75	
. J.B.Owen Memorial	\$7,407.87	\$7,382.14	
Memberships	124	122	
Paid 2008 Memberships	124	122	
New Members:			
None			

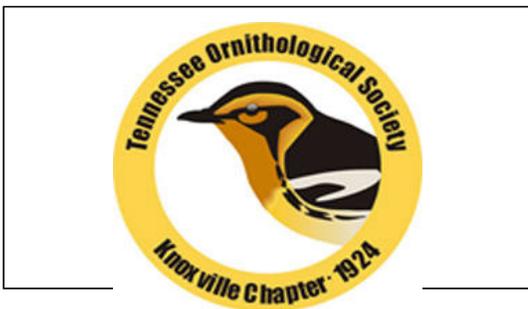
KTOS MEMBERSHIP

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 September issue is August 22.

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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Royal Blue WMA – Cerulean Warbler Field Trip Report

The KTOS field trip to meet with Than James Boves (UT-FWF graduate researcher) and visit Cerulean Warbler nesting areas was enjoyed by 13 members on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. Than provided excellent background on the Cerulean Warbler research project and led us to nesting and calling areas in three forestry treatment areas on Royal Blue WMA. The research is intended to identify cerulean nesting density and success, and tolerance to forest harvest and management variations in 50-acre plots and control. Of preliminary interest, even the heaviest harvest scenario holds more nesting Ceruleans than the control. Than's research is part of a regional initiative in the Cumberlands and other high elevation forested habitats.

A beautiful day and bumpy road led us to 2,700-feet in elevation; the views and the bird observations were excellent. We scoped 3 Cerulean nests in high-canopy, some with females incubating clutches. We also heard numerous Cerulean males in established nesting territories. Than's field crew even demonstrated a mist-netting technique they use to capture and band Ceruleans defending their territories. Many other bird species were observed or heard. We glassed a Redstart on a nest, and were afforded close-up views of a male Hooded Warbler and a Scarlet Tanager, in addition to the Ceruleans. Among the other species heard/observed were Ovenbird, Blackburnian Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler and Black and White Warbler.

Than has already welcomed KTOS back in the future, and will be glad to give a presentation on his research in a couple of years when further into his study. It was great to talk amongst our group and meet some KTOS members that can't usually make the meetings.

Submitted by Wayne H. Schacher, field trip facilitator

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