



biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society



KTOS Annual Potluck Picnic

Wednesday, June 2, 2010

6:30 p.m.

UT Gardens

We are going to have our picnic in the Shade Garden area. Please bring a covered dish (with serving utensil) to share with the group. Cups and ice will be furnished, but you will need to bring your favorite drink.

Jean Alexander and David Johnson will provide plastic ware and silverware. As always we will recycle and reuse. 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 and browsing around the gardens. ~Billie~

KTOS FIELD TRIP FOR JUNE

There is only one field trip planned for June; however, there is the possibility that others will be scheduled later. If so, these trips will be posted on our Yahoo TOS site or on TN-Bird.

If you are not yet a member of our Yahoo site, call Billie at 865-567-4273 or e-mail her at BFCantwell@gmail.com

Sunday, June 13
8am-11am
Eastbridge Industrial Park Grassland
Mascot, TN (East Knox County)
Leader: Mark Campen - 865-414-5593

This trip got rained out, so I thought we would try again. We will meet at Holston Middle School off Rutledge Pike and carpool.

Anyone coming from the east and/ or wants to meet closer to the birding area should call me.

Bird On!
Mark

2010 OFFICERS

The following individuals were elected at the May meeting for local and state offices for the year 2010:

President - Mark Armstrong
Vice President - Billie Cantwell
Treasurer - Carole Gobert
Secretary - Angela Hoffman

State Directors - 2-year term

Ginger Goolsby
Harold Howell
David Johnson

The new officers will be installed at the June meeting.

Respectfully, David Johnson, Chairman

KTOS FINANCIAL REPORT - CALENDAR YEAR 2010

	May	April	YTD
Income:			
. Dues	\$ 0.00	\$ 168.00	\$ 1,494.00
. Shade Grown Coffee	137.00	0.00	477.00
. Interest	17.89	18.74	90.22
. Silent Auction	0.00	0.00	0.00
. Owen Memorial	0.00	0.00	2.00
. TOS Spring Meeting	<u>203.00</u>	<u>1,895.00</u>	<u>2,509.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 357.89	\$ 2,081.74	\$ 4,572.22
Expenses:			
. Newsletter	\$ 69.95	\$ 232.93	\$ 432.78
. Supplies	68.34	62.99	145.19
. Shade Grown Coffee	81.57	147.00	477.48
. Member Dues to TOS	166.00	0.00	2,292.00
. TOS Spring Meeting	<u>1,560.98</u>	<u>.00</u>	<u>1,860.98</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 1,946.84	\$ 442.92	\$ 5,208.43
Account Balances			
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$4,686.08	\$6,292.49	
. J.B.Owen Memorial	\$6,983.50	\$6,966.04	
Memberships	118	118	
Paid 2010 Memberships	118	118	
New Members:			
None			

Whip-or-wills on Mother's Day

I was reading *Natural Histories* by Stephen Lyn Bales. And as good timing would have it, I read the chapter on Whip-or-wills on Mother's Day in May. The story of the Cherokee Chief Oconastota was weaved into this chapter, and the place of his burial happens to be the best place in our area to hear Whip-or-wills. I was very moved by the whole chapter, and the exquisite way the author connected our history to this elusive bird. I made an impromptu decision and said to my two sons, "Let's get in the car boys, we're going to Chota."

At an hour before sunset, we headed down the trail to Chota monument. Just like the author described, we saw Orchard Orioles and Indigo Buntings as we walked. Once there, we visited the grave of Oconastota, and my boys thought it fitting to put some stones and wildflowers on his grave marker. In the center of the pillar monument was a rectangular stone slab with a bathtub-shaped indentation. The three of us lay down in the center of the stone slab and felt the warmth of the sun still in the rock. Each boy was cradled in each arm, and we looked up at the sky and waited for the first Chuck-wills-widows to start their songs. The light faded to nothing; the Chucks were whistling their songs, and the 6-year-old boy was getting spooked by the Indian Spirits he was sure he was seeing. Then we heard the Whip-or-will. I stood by the waters edge, and cupped one hand at an ear towards the Chucks, and cupped the other ear towards the Whips, and stood in sheer joy to hear both birds at once, in such a beautiful, sacred place.

On the way out of the parking lot, I saw eye-shine in the road. I knew it was one of our singers, a Chuck or a Whip, which one I will never know, but a first sighting for me either way. I slowly drove closer, and the bird flew low over the car before disappearing in the dark. I was so happy to see the bird, and so happy to end the day so beautifully. My boys will always remember how a bird can thrill their mother.

And from now on, I will go to Chota at sunset on Mother's Day, hopefully with my sons. A wonderful book spawned a wonderful new tradition for a nature-loving mother and her two precious boys.

~ Janet Lee McKnight ~

COFFEE FOR THE BIRDS

Most of the original coffee trees brought to the New World from European countries would burn in the sun which made shade necessary for growth. However, over the past 30 years new sun tolerant trees have been developed to yield higher production rates. But sun coffee requires chemical fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and pesticides to be added to promote growth. This also contributes to toxic water runoff and lack of habitat for many species

Shade grown coffee tastes better, grown with less pesticides, promotes healthy environment, provides bird habitat and greater biodiversity and helps sustain rainforests.

See David Johnson and place your coffee order and help preserve bird habitat.



Presidential Perch

Hi Folks

Now that the spring meeting is over, we are flying into the beginning of summer. We'll be having our spring picnic at UT Gardens which will be a new location which I think will be a nice place to meet.

The next big thing for my summer is the beginning of MAPS at Seven Islands Refuge. MAPS (monitoring avian productivity and survivorship) is the program organized by the Institute for Bird Populations and is a way to contribute to our understanding of the dynamics of bird populations. We will have 8 banding sessions starting on May 23 and continue until August 1.

We band a nice variety of grassland birds so if anyone would like to see what we do please contact me about our schedule and visit the station. We just finished up our fall/winter/spring banding at Seven Islands on May 9 and ended up with 471 banded birds plus 77 recaptures for a total of 548 birds. We conducted 14 sessions from September 20, 2009 to May 9, 2010 and put in 410 net hours banding. We banded a lot of the grassland birds that you would expect at the refuge - we had 77 Field Sparrows, 69 Indigo Buntings (most all last September) and 63 Song Sparrows. We also banded White-throated, Vesper, Swamp, Savannah, Fox and White-crowned Sparrows. I think it is pretty interesting to see birds returning year after year.

Our oldest bird to date is an Orchard Oriole that was banded in 2005 but by ageing him, we knew he hatched in 2004. We also caught 2 Common Yellowthroats that we banded in spring 2008 that we caught again in the same location in spring 2010. We caught a banded American Goldfinch that we know hatched in 2006. Also from 2006 was a White-throated Sparrow that was banded by Jim Giocomo. This is the really neat thing about banding to me. At all of our banding locations on the refuge, we band a lot of new birds, but we also recapture birds that we now know are performing amazing feats of navigation and survival. One thing we haven't had yet is a foreign recapture which is a bird banded at another location and captured at the refuge. It will happen one of these days.

Banding at Seven Islands wouldn't happen without the efforts of a lot of volunteer helpers performing the delicate task of removing birds from nets, recording data and setting up nets and more. Many thanks to all of you.

Sometime this summer I would like to have another hummingbird banding demonstration, and I will post on our Yahoo group when and where it will be.

Thank you, Mark



July Program Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Carla Irene Dilling

Eastern hemlock provides cover for turkey, ruffed grouse, snowshoe rabbit, rabbit and porcupine. In addition, it is a vital foliage resource for deer in the winter, is correlated to avian community composition, is associated with over 400 species of insect and its canopy is a preferred habitat for a variety of mammal. Eastern hemlocks also serve as a key component of riparian habitats by lowering stream temperature, stabilizing variation in stream temperature, regulating stream flow and producing an aquatic environment favorable to fish and aquatic macro-invertebrates.

Hemlock woolly adelgid is an invasive insect species dramatically reducing populations of Eastern and Carolina Hemlock throughout the eastern United States. Hemlocks are considered a foundational species that defines much of the structure of a community by creating locally stable conditions for other species, and modulating and stabilizing fundamental ecosystem processes.

A variety of cultural, biological and chemical control methods can be used to manage the spread of hemlock woolly adelgid. As part of a more long-term solution for this pest, a suite of biological control agents are being researched by entomologists such as Carla Irene Dilling, a native of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, who earned a Bachelor of Science in ecology and evolutionary biology and a Bachelor of Arts in anthropology from Ohio State University. Carla entered the University of Tennessee as a research assistant in the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife in January of 2005 and is currently enrolled in a Ph.D. program in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology. Her studies include eastern hemlock insect diversity and chemical control of the woolly adelgid.

The meeting will be July 7th 6:45 p.m. Room 117 in the UT Veterinary Building. Please park in staff lot 66. Hope to see everyone there. ~Billie~

AUGUST PROGRAM

Now is the time to start preparing those special photos!

Local birds.



Your favorite birds.

Photos from trips where you found more "exotic" birds.

We want to see them all!

We would like as many members as possible to participate so please limit your presentation to 10 - 15 photos. Presentations need to be on either a CD or memory stick.

**Please contact Billie Cantwell by 7/28/10
865-212-9797 or BFCantwell@gmail.com**

The meeting is Wednesday August 4th, 6:45 p.m. in room 117 of the UT Veterinary Building. Bring a friend, tell a neighbor and come on out for an evening of entertainment. See you there!. ~Billie~

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 Sat, Aug 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"



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 Marie Oakes
18 Rockingham Lane
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
(865) 483-9287
marieoakes@msn.com

SECRETARY Kathy Bivens
Post Office Box 84
Alcoa, TN 37701 (865) 983-7349
Cell (865) 250-6410
volkathy@yahoo.com

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

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

FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR- Robin Barrow
Cell (865) 297-2572
braveladyrobin@gmail.com

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SHARP'S RIDGE CLEAN-UP, SATURDAY, APRIL 17

Front row - Mark Campen and Chris Welsh
2nd row - Larry French, Ginger Goolsby, Patty Ford, Alice Woody, Lola Estes and Deedee Blane
Back row - Chuck Nicholson, Tony King, Gary Woody and Chuck Estes
Photographer - Denise Nauman King