



June Meeting: Potluck Picnic at Ijams

Join us to close out a successful and fun KTOS year at our summer potluck picnic at Ijams Nature Center on **Wednesday, June 6, at 6:30 p.m.** Bring a tasty dish to share with a serving utensil (and your own drink), and Jean Alexander will again provide our traveling dishes and silverware.

The picnic and short meeting will start promptly at 6:30 p.m. because Ijams will need the room for a program later that evening. Luckily for us, that program is an owl prowl, and Stephen Lyn Bales has graciously invited all KTOS members to stay and attend for free, if interested. The owl program will start at 9 p.m. with a talk and demonstration with live birds, followed by a walk along some of Ijams' trails in hopes of hearing some wild birds calling.

For directions, visit www.ijams.org/about/directions.html.



Rosemary Gilbert Bell.

Discover Birds Books Now Available

At the April meeting, KTOS members voted to purchase 200 *Discover Birds* activity books, and our order has now arrived! The books were purchased at cost (\$1.00 each) from TOS and are available for members to purchase from the club for \$2.00 per copy. Activity books may be purchased for personal use or members can also choose to sponsor a classroom.

If you wish to sponsor a teacher's classroom by purchasing 30 books to donate for student use, the books will be sold at cost and KTOS has agreed to cover half the expense of a sponsorship. Therefore, members wishing to sponsor a teacher's classroom can do so for only \$15!

Books will be available at the June meeting, but you may also place your order in advance by contacting Margaux Cowan-Banker via email at margauxmichelle@hotmail.com.

Upcoming Vote on Operation Migration

At the May meeting, a motion was made and passed to support Operation Migration with a donation of \$200 to cover one mile in 2012. Because of the amount of the donation, a second vote will be needed and will be taken at the June picnic meeting.

Donations to Operation Migration help support reintroduction efforts for the endangered Whooping Crane, whose eastern migratory population currently stands at about only 100 birds.



Whooping Crane,
Kirsten Munson.

New Officers Elected

A motion was also passed at the May meeting to accept next years' nominated club officers. The following people have been voted in to fulfill the following roles for the 2012 - 2013 club year: President, Billie Cantwell; Vice President, Patty Ford; Treasurer, Carole Gobert; Secretary, Melinda Fawver; Newsletter Editor, Michael Plaster; Newsletter Editor - Distribution, Robin Barrow; Field Trip Coordinators, Alice & Gary Woody; and 2012 - 2014 State Directors: David Johnson, Jean Alexander, and Harold Howell. The new officers will be installed at our June picnic.



Presidential Perch

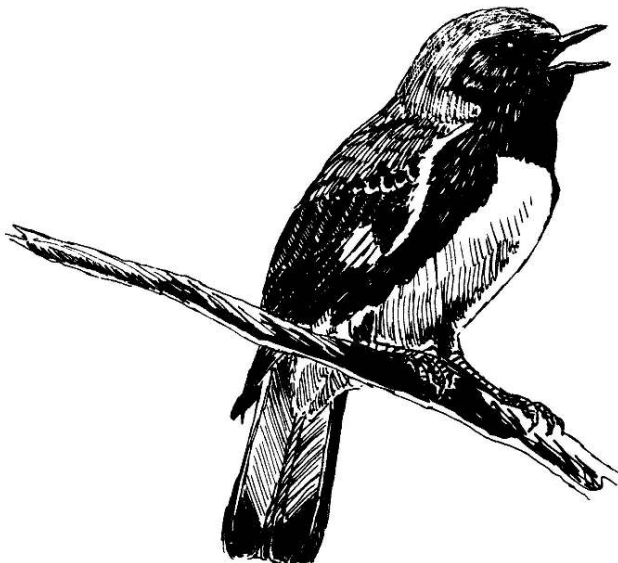
It's hard to believe that a year has passed! We have been busy with many projects, including helping an Eagle Scout student finish the observation blind at Kyker Bottoms Refuge, selling federal duck stamps, helping to repair the osprey nest platform on Looney Island, and creating a conservation committee to tackle even more projects. We even found time for some great field trips! All this takes a lot of work, and I want to thank all the officers and volunteers who have helped to make this a great year for KTOS.

We have lots of other things coming up in the near future that will also have a real impact on our club. The hummingbird festival in July is gearing up to be an awesome event. We will have vendors selling books, paintings, snacks and ice cream, and even stepping stones! Don't forget to bring your items for the Bird Bargain Barn already priced. If you have items to donate but can't make it to the festival, just let me know and you can drop off your items with me. On the digital front, we still have plans to add new birding trails to the web site. A new promotional brochure for KTOS is also in the works, and we have much planning to do for the state TOS meeting that we'll host again next spring.

So keep those ideas coming, keep birding, and stay in touch through Facebook, the Yahoo! group KNOXVILLE-TOS, and the KTOS web site. I am looking forward to another busy year with KTOS.

Again, THANK YOU to a great group of birders!

Billie Cantwell



Black-throated Blue Warbler, Steven D'Amato.

Get Out and Get Birding! Summer Field Trips

Cherohala Skyway

Sunday, June 10 @ 7:00 a.m.

Leader: Mike Nelson, madbirder@surfbirder.com

Get up early to beat the heat and see high-elevation birds of the mountains on this early June trip. After carpooling from west Knoxville or Tellico Plains (details below), the group will head to the Cherohala Skyway that bridges Tennessee and North Carolina. We'll begin the drive up by checking the pull-offs along the way for breeding migrants like Louisiana Waterthrush, Northern Parula, Black-and-white Warbler, and Red-eyed Vireo. At another overlook, we'll check the open forest below for Red-headed Woodpecker and Pine Warbler before continuing up to some woodland for Blackburnian and Canada Warblers. Once past the 5,000-foot elevation mark, the group will come to Hooper Bald and check for Northern Bobwhite, Least Flycatcher, Veery, Gray Catbird, Blue-headed Vireo, and Hairy Woodpecker. At Huckleberry Knob, we will walk the bald looking for breeding Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Hermit Thrush. On the way back down, we'll stop in some rhododendron forest to check for Hooded and Black-throated Blue Warbler.

To carpool, meet at 7:00 a.m. at the west end of the Kroger parking lot just east of the intersection of Northshore Drive and Pellissippi Parkway (9501 Northshore Drive SW, Knoxville, 37922). If you live south or east of Knoxville, you can also meet up with the group at 8:00 a.m. at the Hardees restaurant in Tellico Plains.

This is an all-day field trip, and the group should arrive back around 5:00 p.m. We'll stop for breakfast in Tellico Plains and to get some snacks. Bring a packed lunch as we'll stop on one of the balds for a picnic-style lunch. We may also stop on the way back in Tellico Plains for those who want to get something to eat later in the day.

The above trip is the only one planned for June and none are scheduled for July and August; there is the possibility, however, that others will be scheduled later. If so, these trips will be posted to our Yahoo! KTOS group, Facebook, our web site, TN-Bird, and Outdoor Knoxville.

If anyone has suggestions for good summer birding locations or wants to lead a field trip, please contact Alice Woody at gamwoody@comcast.net. Otherwise, have a good summer and we'll restart the regular field trip efforts in the fall.

Alice Woody

Mark Your Calendars! Hummingbird Festival on July 29

On Sunday, July 29, between 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., KTOS will host its second-ever hummingbird program and banding demonstration at Ijams Nature Center. Though our first hummer event back in 2009 was a success, we're going even bigger and better this year. As the main highlight, we are fortunate to be able to bring back Bob and Martha Sargent of Alabama. The Sargents are the founders of the Hummer/Bird Study Group (HBSG), a non-profit organization dedicated to the study and preservation of hummingbirds and other neo-tropical migrants. Bob and Martha will deliver informative talks on hummingbirds throughout the day, and attendees will then be able to observe hummingbird banding with Mark Armstrong.

In addition, we will have vendors selling art, native plants, jewelry, ice cream, food, and drinks. A Bird Bargain Barn will also be open, where KTOS members will have donated new and gently-used bird- and nature-related items for sale. Money raised from sales in the bargain barn will be used to support our mission of bird conservation. If you have items you would like to donate, please bring them to the festival before noon, priced and ready to be put out. If you can't make it on the day of the event, you may also drop off items with Billie Cantwell in advance (see contact info on page 4). Volunteers are also welcome and needed to help throughout the day.

Admission to the vendor fair and bargain barn is free to all, and there will be a \$5 cost to attend the hummingbird presentation and banding demonstration. Admission for children under 6 and Ijams members will be free. All proceeds will benefit KTOS and Ijams Nature Center. To reserve your spot at the program, please RSVP to Ijams at 865-577-4717, ext. 119. Many thanks in advance to Ijams for playing such a big role in this event; we are so lucky to have such a wonderful partner in our own Knoxville backyard. For directions, visit www.ijams.org/about/directions.html.

Remember to come out on July 29 and celebrate our beautiful hummers!

Anderson County Count Results

On Saturday, May 12, birders across the nation took part in celebrating International Migratory Bird Day. Locally, Ron Hoff organized the annual Anderson County spring migration count as part of the North American Migration Count (NAMC).

During the one-day count, 106 different bird species were observed in the county, which is about average for this count. Blue-winged Teal, Red-breasted Merganser, and Stilt Sandpiper were all new species for this count, bringing the all-time species count total to 166. The all-time high was 118 species in 2008. Other count highlights included Pied-billed Grebe, American Kestrel (hard to find in this county), Willow Flycatcher, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Yellow Warbler, Bobolink (1st record in 13 years), and Baltimore Oriole.

Submitted by Ron Hoff



A male Wood Duck, as painted by Joseph Hautman, for the 2012–2013 Federal Duck Stamp.

Time to Pre-Order Duck Stamps

After the club's success selling Federal Duck Stamps last year, we have decided to do it again with this year's new 2012 – 2013 stamp. The new stamp features a beautiful drake Wood Duck swimming past reeds (shown above).

Ninety-eight cents out of every dollar generated from stamp sales goes directly to purchase or lease wetland habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge system. Since its inception in 1934, the stamp has generated over \$750 million dollars and protected more than 5.3 million acres. In Tennessee, the stamp has purchased over 120,000 acres of wetlands.

Duck stamps will be sold via pre-orders only this year in order to reduce the club's risk of buying too many stamps and not being able to sell them. The cost for a stamp and the protective holder is only \$18.00 with \$15.00 of that going directly to the federal program. The key chain and stamp combo will be sold unassembled so members can sign their stamps if they wish.

Pre-order yours today by signing up on the Google Doc found at tinyurl.com/ktos-duckstamp. A sign-up sheet will also be available at the June picnic.

Stamps will not be available until early July, but they may be picked up at the hummingbird festival, at the September meeting, or by arrangement with Billie Cantwell (see contact info on page 4).

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

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Nest Box Monitoring at Seven Islands

It was a wonderful Saturday morning at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge on May 12 for nest box monitoring. Michael Plaster, John Owen, Karen Sundback, Colin Leonard, and I met in the parking lot where we watched juvenile Eastern Bluebirds, Red-winged Blackbirds, and a Northern Mockingbird forage for food. There was a pair of Barn Swallows making many trips from the first barn down to the river to get mud for the nest they were building. After a discussion about different nesting materials, different styles of housing, feeding, and books, we watched a male bluebird invite a female to the nest box. He would do his wing-wave and then fly to the ground for a small piece of dried grass and offer it to her. Both would go into the box and back out. I am sure that on the next box check we will have a bluebird nest fully built.



Eastern Bluebird, Wikimedia Commons.

We then took a hike up the hill to check some more boxes. On the way, we heard a Gray Catbird and saw Yellow-breasted Chat, Common Yellowthroat, Red-headed Woodpecker, and Indigo Bunting. We also observed a Tree Swallow nest with six white eggs. The next box had two-day old Carolina Chickadees. As we continued, we observed Great Blue Herons, Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers, Northern Cardinals, Orchard Orioles, tons of Indigo Buntings, Field Sparrows, Tree Swallows, rabbits, butterflies, dragonflies, and deer.

Submitted by Billie Cantwell