



## Nature Items Needed

We will have a Bird Bargain Barn again this year at the Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival (see page 3). Any nature related items are needed for sale. If you have some things that you would like to donate, please price it, box it, and bring it to the June Picnic at Ijam's Nature Center on June 4, 2014.

## No Meetings during July and August

KTOS will not meet in July or August. However, you can see current KTOS announcements on our [website](#), [FaceBook](#) page, and on our [Yahoo! Group](#) where most announcements are made. The Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival information is on its own [FaceBook](#) page and on Ijam's [website](#).

## New Officers Elected

A motion was passed at the May meeting to accept next year's nominated KTOS officers. The following people have been voted in to fulfill the following roles for the 2014–2015 year: President, John O'Barr; Vice President, Merikay Waldvogel; Treasurer, Carole Gobert; Secretary, Karen Wilkinson; Newsletter Editor, Michael Plaster; Field Trip Coordinator, Tom Howe; and 2014–2016 State Directors: David Johnson, Jean Alexander, and Harold Howell. The new officers will be installed at our June picnic.



KTOS Members who participated in Cades Cove Field Trip

## June Program: KTOS' Ninetieth Anniversary

The Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society will celebrate its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the June 4th picnic at Ijam's Nature Center (2915 Island Home Ave, Knoxville, Tenn.).

KTOS was organized in 1924 under the leadership of Harry P. Ijams and his close acquaintances, KTOS will be celebrating its ninety years of dedicated contributions to the science, conservation and enjoyment of birds in East Tennessee. A slide show of historic photos from the past and present will be included in our celebration. We will gather at **5:30 p.m.** Please bring a dish to share, a serving utensil, and your own drinking cup. Come early and enjoy the back patio and do a little birding! This is always a fun gathering as people reminisce about past field trips and upcoming.

## KTOS Field Trip Report: Cades Cove, May 24, 2014

The following species were observed during KTOS's Cades Cove Field Trip on May 24, 2014: Wood Duck, Wild Turkey, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Ovenbird, Black-and-white Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow-throated Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, and American Goldfinch. Additional information for the field trip is posted at [Ebird](#).

Common Yellowthroat.  
Source: Wikimedia Commons



## Presidential Perch

Our Discover Birds program finale for 2013-2014 school year was at the Clayton Bradley Academy in Maryville. After this program, our total will be 432 students for this school year! I am really proud of the KTOS volunteers that have made this a wonderful outreach to kids. It will be exciting to see this program continue to grow. Sevierville Primary has already ask that we come back next year!

Our next big event is the Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival on August 23, 2014. We have new speakers, new vendors, more activities and lots of ideas! Be sure to mark your calendar for August 23.

Of all the things I have done in my lifetime, I have to say that the experience and knowledge I gained and friends that I have made in the last five years as an officer with KTOS ranks right at the top! I have seen a lot of club members come and go, watched as our members became more active and thankful for the wealth of knowledge and talent that you have shared. We have accomplished a lot with the Discover Birds program and the Wonder of Hummingbirds festival! I'm grateful to have been able to play a part in what has been achieved.

*Billie Cantwell*

## Welcome New Members

Please welcome the following new members: Grady Amann, Glenda Ross, and Mary Tankersley.



KTOS Members cleaning Sharp Ridge Memorial Park in April 2014.



Mark Armstrong with banded bird during Hummingbirds Festival.

## Get Out and Get Birding! June Field Trips

**Alum Cave & Mt. Le Conte**  
**Saturday, June 7, 2014, 8:00 a.m.**  
**Leader: Tom Howe (865) 748-9610**  
[thowe@lillyco.com](mailto:thowe@lillyco.com)

We will meet at Sugarlands Visitor Center in Great Smoky Mountains National Park near the restrooms at 8:00 a.m.

We will drive south on US-441 to the Alum Cave Trail parking lot and hike from there. *THIS IS A RATHER STRENUOUS HIKE*, steep in a few areas; five miles each way (ten miles total). You can turn around at the half-way point (or whenever) at the Bluffs where Peregrine Falcons breed. Other birds we might see include Black-throated Blue, Hooded and Canada Warblers, Black-capped Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches—all before we reach the half-way point. Bring plenty of water, snacks, and lunch. Hiking poles are a plus. Insect repellent may be needed. This is also the most picturesque hike to Mt. Le Conte.

**Ralph Ranch**  
**Thursday June 19, 2014, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**  
**Leader: Tony King, (865) 988-6172**

Ralph Ranch is the 11-acre property of TOS members Tellisa Ralph and Curt Zickefoose located at 10312 Washington Pike in Corryton, Tenn. It has a 1.25-acre pond surrounded by pastures and open oak forest. Target birds include Red-headed Woodpecker and Bobwhite. Bring a fishing rod for bass in the pond. Boots and insect repellent may be needed.

# Fourth Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival — August 23<sup>rd</sup>!

Vickie Henderson

The male Ruby-throated hummingbird leaves a dazzling impression with his bright red throat and fierce temperament, but many are surprised to learn that the female hummingbird does all the work of raising the young! Hummingbirds do not establish pairs bonds, as many other birds do, but only come together briefly for breeding.

The female builds a nest of plant fibers, approximately the size of a quarter, and decorates it with silvery green lichen. She binds the nest materials together with sticky spider silk and secures it to a branch by wrapping the silk around the entire limb over and over again, sometimes hanging upside down. Then without any assistance from a mate, she incubates her eggs, feeds her nestlings (usually two) and often begins her second brood while still feeding fledglings from the first brood! This is only a glimpse into the fast-paced lives of hummingbirds, a species that can easily charm the most casual of backyard bird watchers.

T. David Pitts, Professor of Biology at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has conducted extensive research on the little-known habits of nesting female Ruby-throats and learned some fascinating new information. You will have an opportunity to hear Dr. Pitts speak on his research on Saturday, August 23, 2014 at the fourth annual Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival, in Knoxville, Tenn. Visitors to the festival will also see hummingbirds up-close as Master Bander, Mark Armstrong, demonstrates how hummingbirds are captured, weighed and measured, and banded before being released to continue their migration journey.

Banding has enormous scientific value, providing a way to document the specialized timing and direction of hummingbird movement during migration. August and September are busy migration months in East Tennessee when thousands of hummingbirds from northern breeding territories are moving south through our state on their way to wintering grounds in Central America and southern Mexico.

The festival will treat visitors to renowned speakers on nature topics, live animal demonstrations, guided nature walks and vendors selling food and drinks, locally made arts and crafts, bird feeders and supplies, garden items, and a "Bargain Barn" selling gently used books and other merchandise with nature-related themes.

New for 2014, a special children's area will offer educational activities for kids and child-focused nature walks! Environmental Man, portrayed by Oliver Lang, will also enchant children with his food-chain costume and his ability to channel familiar animals that tell him stories containing valuable lessons about conservation.

Expert speakers will present programs from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. T. David Pitts will speak on hummingbirds and bluebirds, David Unger, Professor of Biology, Maryville College, will speak on wolves and bears. Chris Ogle, with TWRA, will speak on wildlife diversity in Tennessee, and Peg Beute, naturalist with Ijams Nature Center, will offer information about hummingbird plants for your garden.

Stephen Lyn Bales, author of *Ghost Birds*, will speak about the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, and Joel Greenberg, author of *A Feathered River Across the Sky: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction*, will speak on the passenger pigeon. Chris Mahoney, Master Gardener from Chattanooga, will be available to discuss plants and flowering shrubs that can help attract hummingbirds to your garden and Steve McGaffin, Naturalist and Educator for the Knoxville Zoo, will lead a butterfly walk. Additionally, Lynne McCoy, a wildlife rehabilitator who takes in 600-800 birds and mammals per year, will bring a few of her animal "ambassadors" to meet festival visitors.

The Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival will take place **Saturday, August 23, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** and has an admission of \$5.00. Children under six are admitted free. Hummingbird banding will begin at 8:00 a.m. and last until 2:00 p.m. The festival is co-sponsored by the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society and Ijams Nature Center, and will be located at Ijams Nature Center, 2915 Island Home Ave., Knoxville, Tenn. [(865) 577-4717].

For more information about the festival or to join the festivities as a volunteer, contact Billie Cantwell at (865) 567-4273.



**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 (high school or younger), or TOS life membership for \$450 with \$8 annual fee to Chapter.



[www.tnbirds.org/KTOS.html](http://www.tnbirds.org/KTOS.html)

**2013 — 2014  
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