



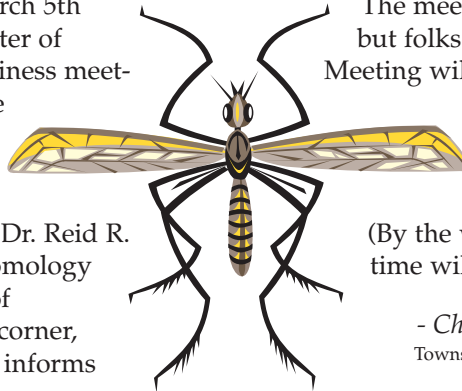
through the **biKNOXulars**

Newsletter of the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

UT entomologist, Dr. Reid Gerhardt, to discuss West Nile Virus at March 5th Meeting

Anyone who spends time outdoors will be interested in coming to the March 5th meeting of the Knoxville chapter of TOS. We will start with a short business meeting that will include news about the upcoming spring TOS meeting which our chapter will host. (See story on page 6.)

Our presenter for this month is Dr. Reid R. Gerhardt of the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology at University of Tennessee. With Spring around the corner, his will be a very timely topic as he informs us about West Nile Virus.



Please come, and bring your questions! The meeting officially starts at 7:30 p.m., but folks start to arrive to socialize at 7:00. Meeting will be in Room 117 (across the hall from Pendergrass Library), UT Vet School on Center Drive off Neyland Drive. Contact an officer if you need directions. Please join us! (By the way, starting in October, the meeting time will move to 7:00 p.m.)

- *Charlie Muise, program coordinator*
Townsend, TN • lat 35 deg, 38'23" long 83 deg, 41'22"

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March into spring with these field trips. Yahoo!

Sunday, March 1, 8:00 AM
Kyker Bottoms Wildlife Refuge. See page 1.

Friday, March 7, 6:00 PM
Ijams' Woodcock walk • Adults
Forks of the River WMA. See page 2.

Saturday, March 8, 8:00 AM
Cove Lake State Park and Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery. See page 2.

Saturday, March 15, 6:00 PM
Ijams' Woodcock walk • Families
Forks of the River WMA. See page 2.

Sunday, March 30, 8:00 AM
Fort Loudoun Dam area. See page 2.

Sunday, March 1, 8:00 AM
Kyker Bottoms Wildlife Refuge

Leader: David Trently (dtrently@utk.edu; 974-8664 w; 531-1473 h)

Leave at 8:00 a.m. from the Stokley Building parking lot, 320 N. Cedar Bluff, Knoxville, or meet at approximately 8:45 a.m. at Kyker Bottoms. The target for this trip will be migrating waterfowl. We will also look into the excellent sparrow habitat. We should finish at Kyker Bottoms around noon. At that time, if there is interest, we will make a lunch stop in Vonore then go on to the Chota wildlife refuge.

(Continued on page 2)

March Field Trips - Let's go birding!

(Continued from page 1)

Friday, March 7, 6:00 PM

Woodcock walk • Forks of the River WMA

Leaders: David Trently and Pam Petko-Seus. Call 577-4717, ext. 11 to pre-register.

It's time to go visit the woodcocks. We'll meet at Ijams Nature Center at 6 p.m. and then carpool the short distance to Forks of the River Wildlife Management Area. Then we'll walk about one mile. Along the way we should hear lots of courting spring peepers and chorus frogs; maybe even a barred or screech-owl. Dress for muddy conditions. This is an Ijams Public Program for adults only. It's free to Ijams and KTOS members. Please call ahead to pre-register.



woodcock field trip. We'll meet at Ijams at 6 p.m. and then carpool the short distance to Forks of the River Wildlife Management Area. Like before, we'll walk about one mile and should hear lots of spring peepers and chorus frogs; maybe even a barred or screech-owl along the way. Dress for muddy conditions. This is an Ijams Public Program for adults and adults with children. It's free to Ijams and KTOS members, but please call ahead to pre-register.

Sunday, March 30, 8 AM

Fort Loudoun area beaver ponds, open water and tail waters.

Leader: Wes James (988-2433)

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the Tellico Canal Bathhouse/parking area adjacent to the canal that connects Tellico and Fort Loudoun Reservoirs. This area is reached by taking the first exit after crossing the Fort Loudoun Dam Bridge. The exit

says Tellico Village, Route 444. After taking this exit you go straight across Tellico Parkway (Route 444) to the bathhouse and parking area. It is the same road that goes to the Tellico Canal boat ramp. There are major beaver pond areas to visit as well as the open water areas of the reservoirs and tail waters. There is also a lot of early succession "sparrow" habitat. Expect to see several waterfowl and wading bird species, sparrows, raptors (possibly bald eagle and maybe an early osprey) and numerous other passerines. We could finish up before lunch time. Walking should be fairly moderate.

The weekends of March 15-16 and March 22-23 are open at this time. We may have a trip for those weekends to discuss at the meeting. If you have suggestions, comments or wish to lead a particular hike, please call Harold Howell at 865-828-6302.

- Best regards, Harold, field trip coordinator

Saturday, March 8, 8:00 AM

Cove Lake State Park and Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery.

Leader: Harold Howell (howellh2@bellsouth.net; 865-828-6302 h).

Meet at Ingles Supermarket parking lot on Emory Road just east of I-75 promptly at 8:00 a.m., or at the Cove Lake State Park restaurant parking lot at 8:30 a.m. We will explore around Cove Lake first, then head for Eagle Bend. Target birds waterfowl, shorebirds and other early migrants. Bring lunch and a drink and be prepared for muddy conditions.

Saturday, March 15, 6:00 PM

Ijams' Woodcock walk • Forks of the River WMA

Leaders: Lyn Bales and Peg Beute. Call 577-4717, ext. 11 to pre-register.

In case you can't make the first, here's a second

Phone Numbers to Remember - Courtesy of Ron Hoff

U.T. Plant Sciences Farm - Bobby Mckee: (865) 573-3856

Kyker Bottoms - Bill Smith, manager: (865) 856-8691

Dead Birds for Study - David Buehler at UT: (865) 974-8845

2002 Knoxville Christmas Bird Count - Dean Edwards, compiler

This was the 100th anniversary of the first Audubon Christmas Bird Count in Knoxville (and TN). We tied a record with 94 species (+1 CW). This is the third time we have had 94 species on count day. Three species have been added to the count history bringing our total for the history of the count to 154, I believe.

- Boyd Sharp located a pair of **Brown-headed Nuthatches** on private property in Farragut on 15 Dec 2002 for what is likely the first Knox County record of the species. Steve and Gail Clendenen were able to locate them on count day. The NAS/Cornell database indicates a record of 4 BHNUs on the 15th CBC but, personally, I suspect that is a data entry error. I have not been able to check the official printed total though the downtown branch of the Knox Co. library does have a copy of the appropriate issue of "*Bird Lore*," just haven't had time to make it down there.

- Another new species to the count was **3 Lapland Longspurs** at the UT Plant Science Farm on Alcoa Hwy located by Tome Howe. Tom had first reported these birds back in November.

- Allan Trently and Pennie Jennings briefly saw a yellowlegs sp. near Topside Road in Blount County. Susan Hoyle relocated the bird the next day and confirmed it was a **Greater Yellowlegs**—our third new bird for the count.

- Tom Howe, Dean and Amber Edwards independently found and IDed a female **Greater Scaup** near Louisville in Blount Co. This is only the second record for the species on the count; the other being a single bird in 1965 (66th).

- Chris Welsh had a flyover **Tundra Swan** while kayaking on the TN River. This is the third record of this species

on the count with single birds in 1985 (86th) and 1989 (90th). Chris's report of **Wild Turkey** also represents the third report, all consecutive, of this evermore common species.

- The female **Rufous Hummingbird** has returned to the home of Jean Stierberger in Farragut for the 5th(!) year in a row. Fred Moore recaptured the little gal in November to confirm that she is indeed the same individual originally banded in New Orleans in 1996. This may make her the oldest known individual of the species (I need to confirm that).

- Several parties reported **Sandhill Cranes** along the TN River with a high count of 60. This is only the third count-day record for the species and represents a new record total. Three parties reported a **House Wren**. This species is unusual for the count (6th time on the count) but is increasingly common as a breeding species in Knox Co in recent years.

Other goodies:

- **Great Egret** for the lucky 13th consecutive year,
- 1 adult **Bald Eagle** near where the Little River joins the TN River reported by Allan Trently, Pennie Jennings, Chris Welsh, Marcia Davis and Barbara Finney;
- **2 Purple Finches** and **6 Red-breasted Nuthatches** were the only northern invaders.

- Some big misses: Common Loon, American Wigeon, Northern Bobwhite, Herring Gull, Great Horned Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker, Loggerhead Shrike, Vesper Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird, Pine Siskin

- Dean Edwards, Compiler, Knoxville CBC

Knoxville, TN (TNKN) • Saturday, 4 January 2003

Date: Saturday, 4 January 2003

Observers: 56 (including 11 feederwatchers)

(see observer list at the end of this report)

Parties: 24-28

Total species: 94 + 1 CW

Total individuals: 23,368

Weather: Clear and sunny, all water open, no snow cover

Temperature: Low: 30F, High: 41F

Winds: SW 5mph

Party Hours: by foot 76.75, by car 38.00, by boat 1.00

Total: 115.75, owling 3.00, feeder watching 15.92

Start time: 5:00, **End time:** 18:00

Party Miles: by foot 53.50, by car 521.10, by boat 3.50

Total: 578.10, owling 10.00

Species: Pied-billed Grebe 63, Horned Grebe 8, Double-crested Cormorant 4, Great Blue Heron 171, Great Egret 1, Black-crowned Night-Heron CW, Black Vulture 45, Turkey Vulture 46, Canada Goose 600, Tundra Swan 1 (3rd time on count), Wood Duck 4, Gadwall 56, American Black Duck 2, Mallard 179, Northern Shoveler 4, Northern Pintail 2, Green-winged Teal 1, Ring-necked Duck 91, Greater Scaup 1 (2nd count), Lesser Scaup 3, Bufflehead 5, Hooded Merganser 109 (new record, old record: 80), Ruddy Duck 1, Bald Eagle 1 (ties record, numerous times) adult 1 immature 0, Northern Harrier 2, Sharp-shinned Hawk 6, Cooper's Hawk 12 (record, 9), Accipiter sp. 2, Red-shouldered Hawk 13, Red-tailed Hawk 44, American Kestrel 7, Wild Turkey 8 (3rd count), American Coot 70, Sandhill Crane 60 (3rd count; record, 3), Killdeer 257, Greater Yellowlegs 1 (**1st count**),

(Continued on page 4)

Knoxville Christmas Bird Count *(Continued from page 3)*

Wilson's Snipe 9, Bonaparte's Gull 673 (record, 360), Ring-billed Gull 2012, Rock Dove 721, Mourning Dove 348, Eastern Screech-Owl 3, Barred Owl 2, Rufous Hummingbird 1, Belted Kingfisher 49, Red-bellied Woodpecker 90, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 28, Downy Woodpecker 96 (record, 77), Hairy Woodpecker 10, Northern Flicker (YS) 63, Pileated Woodpecker 13, Eastern Phoebe 15 (ties record), Blue Jay 317, American Crow 3413 (record, 2100), Carolina Chickadee 450, Tufted Titmouse 355 (record, 285), Red-breasted Nuthatch 6, White-breasted Nuthatch 58 (record, 52), Brown-headed Nuthatch 2 (**1st or 2nd count**), Brown Creeper 18, Carolina Wren 251, House Wren 3 (record, 2), Winter Wren 8, Golden-crowned Kinglet 55, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 22, Eastern Bluebird 440 (record, 354), Hermit Thrush 9, American Robin 822, Northern Mockingbird 263, Brown Thrasher 11, European Starling 7305, American Pipit 4, Cedar Waxwing 190, Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle) 175, Pine Warbler 2, Palm Warbler 6 (ties record, few times), Eastern Towhee 138, Chipping Sparrow 35, Field Sparrow 336, Savannah Sparrow 23, Fox Sparrow (Red) 6, Song Sparrow 541, Swamp Sparrow 109, White-throated

Sparrow 822, White-crowned Sparrow 15, Dark-eyed Junco (SC) 150, Lapland Longspur 3 (**1st count**), Northern Cardinal 416, Red-winged Blackbird 46, Eastern Meadowlark 67, Common Grackle 3, Brown-headed Cowbird 22, Purple Finch 2, House Finch 190, American Goldfinch 218, House Sparrow 28

Total species: 94 + 1 CW, **Total individuals:** 23368

Observers: Jean Alexander, Lyn Bales, Jane Beintema, Peg Beute, Frank Bills, Joseph Byrd, Ed Clebsch, Meredith Clebsch, Gail Clendenen, Steve Clendenen, Marcia Davis, Norm Day, Cindy Day, Amber Edwards, Dean Edwards (compiler), Barbara Finney, Chris Foelli, Carole Gobert, Christopher Goggans, Paul Hartigan, Madeleine Hassil, Ron Hoff, Tom Howe, David Howell, Harold Howell, Susan Hoyle, Jim Human, Wes James, Pennie Jennings, David Johnson, Kristine Johnson, Tony King, Ed Manous, Janet McKnight, Ben Mooney, Dan Mooney, Laurie Mooney, Charlie Muise, Dollyann Myers, Charles Nicholson, Holly Overton, Margot Pantalone, Vince Pantalone, Joseph Pyle, Kelly Roy, Martha Rudolph, Susan Schott, Boyd Sharp, Mary Jane Sharp, Jean Stierberger, Alice Torbett, Allan Trently, David Trently, June Welch, Chris Welsh, Corwin Witt

Great Smoky Mountains National Park Christmas Bird Count - David Trently, compiler

Date: Saturday, December 21, 2002

Observers: 23 (see observer list at the end of this report)

Party Hours: 60.5

Total birds on count day: 1,743

Species reported on count day: 54

Low Temperature: 28 F (-2 C)

High Temperature: 51 F (11 C)

AM Weather: clouds - Local Fog

PM Weather: clouds - Partly Cloudy

HC = high count

Species: Great Blue Heron 1, Wood Duck 6 HC (tied with 2000), Mallard 28, Cooper's Hawk 1, Red-shouldered Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 6, American Kestrel 3, Wild Turkey 12, Killdeer 15, Wilson's Snipe 1, Rock Dove 65, Mourning Dove 14, Belted Kingfisher 4, Red-headed Woodpecker 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker 10, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 4, Downy Woodpecker 42, Hairy Woodpecker 12, Northern Flicker 11, Pileated Woodpecker 14, Eastern Phoebe 10, Blue Jay 18,

American Crow 222, Common Raven 5, Carolina Chickadee 182, Black-capped Chickadee 50, chickadee sp. 14, Tufted Titmouse 75, Red-breasted Nuthatch 7, White-breasted Nuthatch 39, Brown Creeper 22, Carolina Wren 56, Winter Wren 8, Golden-crowned Kinglet 105, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1, Eastern Bluebird 25, Hermit Thrush 3, American Robin 143, Northern Mockingbird 11, Brown Thrasher 2 HC (tie with 1996), European Starling 55, American Pipit 30 (first time on count), Palm Warbler 2 HC (1 in 1992), Eastern Towhee 2, Field Sparrow 12, Song Sparrow 54, Swamp Sparrow 13, White-throated Sparrow 54, Dark-eyed Junco 108, Northern Cardinal 87, Eastern Meadowlark 18, House Finch 16, Red Crossbill 4, American Goldfinch 37, House Sparrow 2

Observers: Jean Alexander, JoAnne Benard, Ken Clarke, Marcia Davis, Tony Headrick, Harold Howell, Jay Howell, Susan Hoyle, David Johnson, Kristine Johnson, Tony King, Ed Manous, Alison McNutt, Bill McNutt, Dan Mooney, Laurie Mooney, Art Newman, Chuck Nicholson, Martha Rudolph, Boyd Sharp, David Trently, Keith Watson, June Welch



Old Migrants Should Never Die

Don't throw away your old Migrant issues!!! If you have any unwanted issues of The Migrant, the journal of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, please bring them to a KTOS meeting. We have had requests for back issues, and some of these are in very short supply or we have none of them available at all.

Cades Cove Christmas Bird Count - Susan Hoyle, compiler

Date: Sunday, December 29, 2002

Hours Walked: 39.00 **Miles Walked:** 41.20

Hours Driving: 11.25 **Miles Driving:** 108.80

Hours Owling: 3.25 **Miles Owling:** 23.90

Numbers of parties: 8 (see observer list at the end of this report)

Weather: 27-58 degrees F., mostly clear, water partially frozen in the morning, 1" snow on north slopes above 3000'

Species: Pied-billed Grebe 8, Great Blue Heron 2, Black Vulture 39, Turkey Vulture 83, Canada Goose 37, Mallard 29, Bufflehead 11, Northern Harrier 1, Cooper's Hawk 1, Red-shouldered Hawk 4, Red-tailed Hawk 4, American Kestrel 3, American Coot 10, Killdeer 30, Mourning Dove 22, Screech Owl 8, Barred Owl 3, Belted Kingfisher 4, Red-bellied Woodpecker 11, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 5, Downy Woodpecker 30, Hairy Woodpecker 8, Northern Flicker 10, Pileated Woodpecker 36, Eastern Phoebe 7, Blue Jay 32, Common Crow 164, Common Raven 6, Carolina Chickadee

162, Tufted Titmouse 75, Red-breasted Nuthatch 29, White-breasted Nuthatch 54, chickadee spp. 4, Brown Creeper 4, Carolina Wren 5, Winter Wren 7, Golden-crowned Kinglet 54, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 9, Eastern Bluebird 58, Hermit Thrush 5, American Robin 5, Northern Mockingbird 9, European Starling 74, Yellow-rumped Warbler 6, Eastern Towhee 11, Chipping Sparrow 9, Vesper Sparrow 2, Field Sparrow 29, Fox Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 151, Swamp Sparrow 21, White-throated Sparrow 20, Dark-eyed Junco 110, Northern Cardinal 43, Eastern Meadowlark 39, Rusty Blackbird 2, House Finch 14, Red Crossbill 130, American Goldfinch 40, House Sparrow 1

Total individuals: 1821

Total species: 59

Species added to list: Cooper's Hawk and Vesper Sparrow

Observers: Mark Armstrong, Lyn Bales, Tracey Everson, Paul Hartigan, Audrey Hoff, Tom Howe, Susan Hoyle, Jim Human, Evan W. James, Kristine Johnson, Charlie Muise, Martha Rudolph, David Trently, Chris Welsh



By Lyn Bales

100 years of counting Christmas birds in Tennessee

There was a time in the late 1800s when birds were under an all out assault in this country. Millions were killed annually by hunters for the meat

trade. Hundreds of barrels filled with dead birds were sent to big-city markets every day. Christopher Cokinis reports that one supplier alone from Monroe County, Michigan shipped 2 million pigeons to market in 1883. An urban cook could buy a dozen dead birds for as little as 12 cents.

Meanwhile, the fashion of the time was for the "well-dressed" woman to wear a hat adorned with feathers. Some bonnets were so adorned they looked more like Shoshone headdresses. Entire heron and egret rookeries were wiped out just for the sake of the showy avian plumes and at times, whole dead birds were simply attached to the brim of a socialite's chapeau. Such was the fashion in polite society.

Back then there was another odd spectacle that took place among the menfolk around Christmas. The guys would gather outside, form teams and conduct "side hunts." For the afternoon, each side would kill birds, pile up their lifeless carcasses and at the end of the hunt count the totals. The side with the most dead birds won.

In 1900, the newly formed National Audubon Society suggested something radical. They organized the first Christmas Bird Count. Instead of killing them, why not simply count all the birds you could find? Wouldn't that be easier on the birds? The hardened gamesmen must have

been "underwhelmed," but luckily for the birds, the concept slowly caught on and spread throughout the land.

In Tennessee the first Audubon Christmas Bird Count happened right here in Knoxville. According to the late J. B. Owen, the state's first bird count was made by Magnolia Woodward who counted birds around her house near Park Avenue. (Later changed to Magnolia Avenue.) A visit to the Audubon website reveals that the count was made on December 1, 1902. The list of birds counted for two hours that day included: 6 Carolina Chickadees, 3 Tufted Titmice, one wren and 12 goldfinches.

I decided the best way for me to commemorate the first count's centennial was to go there and count birds once again. A check with the McClung Historical Collection turned up a City Directory for 1903. (The data would have been collected in 1902.) Miss Magnolia Woodward, a teacher at Girls High School, lived on Castle Avenue (today Castle Street) just off Park. That neighborhood was part of the Chilhowee Park Community, an early suburb of Knoxville.

On Sunday, December 1, 2002, exactly 100 years after Magnolia inventoried birds there, I counted for two hours just as she had done. It was sunny but very cold. Although I managed to count more birds than she did, 86 percent of what I saw were starlings and pigeons, both introduced species that weren't around her neighborhood 100 years ago. Otherwise we counted many of the same species and as with Magnolia, not a single bird died in the process.

Now, that's progress.

KTOS announces plans for the Spring 2003 State Meeting • May 2-4 Golden birdman Chandler Robbins is keynote speaker

The Knoxville Chapter of Tennessee Ornithological Society is pleased to announce plans for the state's Spring 2003 meeting.

We are fortunate to have an excellent speaker for this event. Dr. Chandler Robbins, an eminent ornithologist, is visiting from the US Geologic Service in Laurel, Maryland to speak with us. Among his many credits, Dr. Robbins wrote the original Golden Guide to birds and was instrumental in starting the Breeding Bird Surveys, the most scientifically important citizen science project related to birds.

He has authored hundreds of scientific papers and helped shape many research methods in use around the world today. Much of his effort in the last two decades has been to band neotropical migrants in their Central American winter range. The American Birding Association's Research and Education award is named for his many years of service on both fronts.

We sincerely hope our birding friends in surrounding states, as well as TOS members, will turn out for this special speaker.

The meeting is May 2-4 at the Episcopal School of Knoxville (ESK) in West Knoxville. The banquet on Saturday night featuring Dr. Robbins' talk will be in the ESK dining hall and catered by Gus's Catering.

A silent auction to benefit the JB Owen Memorial Fund will be completed during the banquet. The first donation from the JB Owen fund recently was awarded to the Foothills Land Conservancy to aid in the protection of critical habitat. *(See story on page 7.)*

Much of Dr. Robbins work has demonstrated that habitat loss is a primary cause for the decrease in numbers experienced by many species of birds.

Field trips: Trips are expected to include: Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Sharps Ridge, Kyker Bottoms, Kingston Steam Plant and Cove Lake.

Registration: \$7 if postmarked before April 10, \$8 after. Dinner/speaker \$15 additional. Please fill out the form at the bottom of this page or a copy of this form. Mail registration to Jerry Hadder, Treasurer, KTOS, 18 Rockingham Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Checks can be made out to KTOS.

Motels: 20 rooms at two hotels on Lovell Road have been reserved for the meeting. In both cases, they are "reserved" under the TN Ornithological Society. Please mention that when you register.

- Days Inn: 865-966-5801. \$44.95 + tax for double room, includes continental breakfast. After April 1, the rooms will be released

- Motel 6: 865-675-7200. \$36.99 + tax for double room, includes coffee only. After April 15th the rooms will be released.

Directions: From Interstate 40 take the Lovell Road exit. Take Lovell Road north (left off ramp if you come from I-40 west; right off ramp if you come from the east) about 1/2 mile. Turn left on Gilbert Street. ESK is down about a quarter mile on the right. The address is 950 Episcopal School Way.

- Charlie Muise,
KTOS vice president



Registration Form

Registration for Spring 2003 TOS meeting, hosted by Knoxville

Name _____

Address _____

Chapter affiliation _____

Number of TOS fall or spring meetings you have attended _____

Number of people you are registering for \$7* each _____ X \$7*= _____

Number of people you are registering for the banquet at \$15 each _____ X \$15= _____

Total _____

Please make checks out to **KTOS**
Please send registration and check to:
Jerry Hadder, Treasurer, KTOS, 18 Rockingham Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830

* \$8 after April 10

Foothills Land Conservancy receives first J. B. Owen Award

KTOS Treasurer Jerry Hadder (left) presents the first J.B. Owen Award to Randy Brown, Executive Director of the Foothills Land Conservancy, at the February KTOS meeting.

This Award, in the amount of \$250.00, is for support of the Conservancy's important work in the acquisition of wetlands for the welfare and conservation of cranes and other birds.

The J.B. Owen Memorial Endowment provides funds for the J.B. Owen Awards.

For information on the Endowment, to make contributions to the Endowment, or to apply for an Award, please contact Jerry Hadder, 18 Rockingham Lane, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830.



 MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Cumberland Trail Auction to raise funds to help build more trail

Third Annual Cumberland Trail Auction will be held Saturday, April 12 at the Garden Plaza Hotel in Oak Ridge. The auction proceeds will be used to help pay for lodging, food and transportation for all the volunteers who will build trail during The "Big Dig" in May/June 2003.

The Cumberland Trail starts at Cumberland Gap and continues southwestward on the ridge of Cumberland Mountain for 50 miles to Caryville (The closest part of the trail to Knoxville.) Then the trail

goes under I-75 and into Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area and over to Frozen Head State Park. The trail continues all the way to Chattanooga. It's not all built yet, the "Big Dig" will move it one step closer to completion. Currently there are 120 miles open for hiking in 10 segments.

- Submitted by Arleen Scheller, Development Director, Cumberland Trail Conference, 931-456-6259

Neighboring Bird Club Spring Meetings

Traveling this spring? Then check out the springs meetings of these organizations:

Alabama Ornithological Society • April 18-20
Dauphin Island, AL, <http://www.bham.net/aos/>

Florida Ornithological Society • April 11-13,
Clewiston/Moore Haven area (Lake Okeechobee)
<http://www.fosbirds.org/>

Georgia Ornithological Society • April 25-27,
Augusta, GA <http://www.gos.org/>

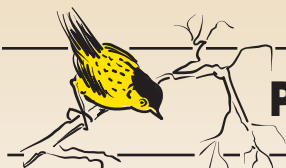
Kentucky Ornithological Society • April 25-27,
Blue Licks Battlefield State Resort Park, Mount Olivet,
KY, <http://www.biology.eku.edu/kos.htm>

The Carolina Bird Club • April 25-27, Clemson, SC
<http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/index.html>

Virginia Society of Ornithology, May 2-4,
Charlottesville VA
<http://www.ecoventures-travel.com/vso/>

KTOS Financial Report - Calendar Year 2003

	February	January	YTD
Income:			
. Dues	\$192.00	\$404.00	\$596.00
. Mugs	\$0.00	\$45.50	\$45.50
. Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Owen Memorial	\$0.00	\$62.00	\$62.00
. Fuller Gifts	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$40.00</u>	<u>\$40.00</u>
Total Income	\$192.00	\$551.50	\$743.50
Expenses:			
. Newsletter	\$0.00	\$70.30	\$70.30
. Supplies	<u>\$5.07</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$5.07</u>
Total Expenses	\$5.07	\$70.30	\$75.37
Other Expense:			
. Foothills Land Conservancy	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
Account Balances			
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$5,251.03	\$5,064.10	
. J.B.Owen Memorial	\$4,435.42	\$4,373.42	
Memberships	147	145	



Presidential Perch

Things are moving along nicely in preparation of our TOS Spring Meeting, May 2-4. (See story on page 6.) All the major items are checked off the list, but there's still plenty to do. I hope you're getting the urge to volunteer to help! As we get closer to the event, we'll be looking for more members to help—so be ready!

KTOS officer elections will be held in May. If you are interested in one of the positions, or want to nominate someone, let us know.

As always, if you have suggestions for speakers or programs for our monthly meetings or for field trips you'd like to take, let us know.

For those with e-mail, we are debating methods for sending the newsletter to you via this method, thus saving on printing and mailing costs. We would like some input from you as to whether you would be interested in receiving your newsletter via e-mail through an attached pdf file. If you received it this way, you'd notice that "*through the biKNOXulars*" is actually in color! Check it out on the tnbirds.org website.

Finally, if you'd like to report your first spring sightings of returning migrants and don't feel the info is worthy of the statewide TN-BIRD listserv, send

your report to me at dtrently@utk.edu and I'll forward it to my list of KTOS members. If you're not on this list and want to be, let me know!

- David Trently, President KTOS

OF NOTE!

Edwards have big year at home!

Congratulations to **Dean and Amber Edwards** for seeing 103 species of birds at his/their new house in one year. (From Martin Luther King Day weekend 2002 to 2003.) They live in the Cedar Bluff area (Amber joined him in June.) of West Knoxville. With half an acre on a ridge and about 25 acres of woods behind them, the Edwards-Big-Year-At-Home-List includes: 7 raptors (including Peregrine Falcon and Osprey), 6 woodpeckers, 5 flycatchers, 6 vireos, 6 thrushes (missed Veery) and 21 warblers. Surprisingly, not a single Rock Dove or House Sparrow. Go figure.

Tanner's ivory-billed book to be reborn

Dover Publishing is reprinting **Dr. James Tanner's** book on the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Watch for it in July 2003. Price has not been announced.

KTOS Membership

Renew your membership with KTOS by mailing your annual dues to Jerry Hadder, 18 Rockingham Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Membership fees are \$18 for an individual and \$20 for a family. Sustaining memberships are \$28 and a Life membership with TOS is \$200 with an annual fee of \$8 to the local chapter.

PRESIDENT.....David Trently
1029 Morrow Rd.
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