



‘Coordinated Bird Monitoring in Tennessee’ is topic of March 2 program

This Wednesday, March 2, state ornithologist Michael Roedel will present "Coordinated Bird Monitoring in Tennessee—why is it important?" During his presentation Roedel will inform us about the important work that Tennessee and other states are embarking on to study, monitor and conserve birds.

In 2004, Michael Roedel brought a life-time of bird watching and nature study to Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) when he became state ornithologist. He grew up on a family farm in Nebraska where some of his first life birds included Sandhill Cranes, *Grus canadensis*; Yellow-headed Blackbirds, *Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* and American Magpies, *Pica hudsonia*.

After an early career as a cabinetmaker, a degree in art and a year of study in Japan, Roedel turned his professional interests towards wildlife. He earned a

degree in wildlife, spent a semester focusing on birds at the Manomet Field Biology Training Program in Massachusetts and earned a masters degree in biology from the University of Nebraska. He has worked on biological monitoring and inventory projects across the United States and in Central America. In 1995 he began working on avian monitoring and conservation projects with Bob Ford at Tennessee Conservation League. He moved to Montana to work with The Nature Conservancy in 1998, and, of course, returned to Tennessee in 2004 to serve as state ornithologist.

Scientists and birders have been keeping track of information about birds in Tennessee for many decades. The Coordinated Bird Monitoring program aims to bring all of that information together. What

(Continued on bottom of page 5)

📅 MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March field trips. Spring is on the way.

Saturday, March 5, 5:45 PM

Forks of the River WMA. See page 1.

Sunday, March 13, 8 AM

Cove Lake State Park, Caryville, TN. See page 2.

Saturday, March 19, 9 AM to Noon

Sharps Ridge Cleanup. See page 2.

Saturday, March 26, 8 AM

Hastie Park, Knoxville, TN. See page 2.

Saturday, March 5, 5:45 PM

Forks of the River WMA Woodcock Walk

Leader: David Trently

(dtrently@utk.edu; 865-974-8664 w; 865-531-1473 h)

Meet in the parking lot of Ijams Nature Center at 5:45 p.m. for carpooling to Forks of the River WMA. We will walk about a mile and should hear lots of early frogs. Barred or Screech Owls are possible. We hope to see Woodcock in their mating

(Continued on page 2)

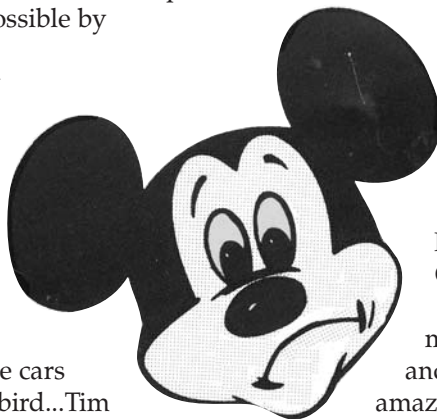
"He carried his childhood like a hurt warm bird held to his middle-aged breast."

"The Age of Happy Problems" essays by Herbert Gold (Born in 1924)

Not bad for 'not a birding trip' - By Janet McKnight

My husband and I surprised our boys Devon and Rowan with their first airplane ride and a trip to Disney in October (made possible by \$50 Independence Air tickets).

I decided that this was definitely not a birding trip, since I wanted to focus on being a family. So the binoculars were not in hand. But trying to not bird in Florida is like trying to not eat at Cracker Barrel. The naked birding (no binoculars) began. First, there were the Sandhill Cranes casually feeding in the median on the four-lane, as if the cars weren't there! And next came a life bird...Tim had to pull over when I found four Wood Storks feeding in a roadside ditch. They were just feet from our car, their bills partially open near their feet, paddling in the mud to disturb a morsel of creature.



It was delightful to watch the birds so close and for the boys to see them so well.

I knew I would have fun in the Magic Kingdom, but I did not know that I would have fun birding! Habituated, up-close and exciting birds surrounded me. I saw species at extremely close range that I rarely get to see, such as Great Egret, Cattle Egret, White Ibis, Little Blue Heron, Boat-tailed Grackle and Eurasian-collared Dove.

I was the only patron who did not mind the standing in line because my eyes and ears were feasted. Birding is such an amazing diversion, and so enhances my life. The birds at Disney have no fear and require no binoculars.

Sorry Mickey, you've been shown up.

 MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March field trips *(Continued from page 1)*

flights. Bring a flashlight and dress for muddy conditions.

Sunday, March 13, 8 AM

Cove Lake State Park, Caryville, TN

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 AM, or at the Cove Lake State Park restaurant parking lot at 8:30 AM. We will explore around Cove Lake first, then walk some of the trails. Target birds are waterfowl and other early migrants. Bring something to drink and be prepared for muddy conditions.

Please note that there is a \$3 fee for parking in the park. Lunch at the park restaurant is a good idea if we have time.

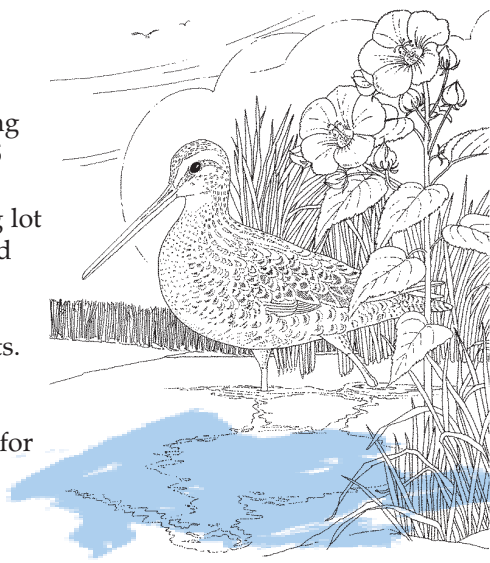
Saturday, March 19, 9 AM to Noon

Sharps Ridge, Knoxville, TN

Leader: Mark Campen (865-414-5593 w;
865-406-6377 h; campen@tnike.com)

KTOS has adopted Sharps Ridge as a place about

which we care deeply. We will hold the first of a series of scheduled cleanup operations this spring from 9 AM to noon. Our objective in addition to removing trash will be to remove as many of the invasive species of plants as possible. The result will be more open viewing and easier bird sighting. Please come out and help us maintain the area the way we wish to see it.



Saturday, March 26, 8 AM

Hastie Park, Knoxville, TN

Leader: Mark Campen
(865-414-5593 w; 865-406-6377 h;
campen@tnike.com)

This trip will be the second of a series of trips to some small areas around Knoxville that have not been on our traditional list of birding areas. Since the areas are small, participants will be limited to a maximum of seven for each trip. We will have several trips, so that all who wish to go can be accommodated. Please call Mark at the numbers above to sign up

for the trip. These trips will involve easy walks along gravel paths and some woodland walking. Meet at the large parking lot just off Neyland Drive and Joe Johnson Drive for carpooling.

- Best regards, Harold Howell, Field Trip Coordinator

SIWR: Improving habitat diversity and enhancing quality - Part Two

By Wayne H. Schacher • whschacher@natreserv.com

Author's note: This is part two in the fifth in a series of newsletter articles on Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge (SIWR) in Knox County. The Knoxville Chapter of Tennessee Ornithological Society has actively supported the concept and development of SIWR, and its membership is providing invaluable information on avian fauna usage of the Refuge, and other technical assistance. The partnership with KTOS at SIWR is most gratefully appreciated.

A second area of wetland enhancement will take place in and around the upland pond. The shallow, 1.5-acre pond is partially wooded, but lacks desirable habitat strata in some shoreline areas, and in emergent, submersed, and floating aquatic zones. Buttonbush has been planted along the shoreline, with native, herbaceous species in the remaining zones to take place in the near future. The pond will be maintained without a fishery to encourage its use as a breeding pond by amphibian species. With increased diversity of habitat provided by woody and herbaceous plantings, increased usage by all the vertebrate classes along with multitude of invertebrates, is anticipated. A future amenity at the pond site is a boardwalk along a section of shoreline, with extension over the pond.

A final area of habitat enhancement includes those more specialized or targeted in purpose. At several locations on the SIWR, food plots have been established. Annual grain food plots of corn, browntop millet, black-oil sunflowers, and reseeded soybeans with sorghum are planted or managed to provide supplemental forage for a variety of vertebrate species. At other locations, mixtures of perennial wildflowers

provide both aesthetic values to the landscape, cover diversity and seed for forage.

The unoccupied structures (barns, silo) on the Refuge already provide roosting, loafing, foraging and nesting areas for a variety of avian, reptile and mammalian species. To further diversify these habitats, two common barn-owl nesting structures (provided through TWRA) were installed in hopes of attracting nesting pairs. Elsewhere on the Refuge, artificial nesting structures have been placed to offset the lack of natural cavities. Twenty-four wood duck nesting structures, also provided through TWRA, have been placed along the river and on the shoreline of the pond. Not yet used by wood ducks, the structures are readily used by raccoons, eastern screech owls, southern flying squirrels, gray squirrels, opossums and (unfortunately) European starlings. Other structures that have been placed on SIWR include the purple martin nesting structures (provided through KTOS) that were immediately colonized, an osprey nesting platform from TVA, and a pair of vertical, peaked, bat-roosting structures received from TWRA.

Continuing placement and monitoring of an increased variety of nesting or roosting structures on the Refuge will provide habitat elements presently limiting for other targeted groups of animal species. As with many facets of the Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge project, ongoing efforts to diversify and enhance habitat quality will continue to provide natural resource benefits far into the future.

(Next Article – the Partners and their contributions toward the success of the Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge project.)

 MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Memphis chapter hosts TOS Spring Meeting • April 29-May 1

The Memphis Chapter extends its invitation to all TOS members across the state to attend the TOS Spring Meeting, to be held April 29, 30 and May 1, 2005. Not only will we be celebrating 75 years of the Memphis Chapter, but also 90 years of the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

Our speaker will be well-known birder and author Paul Baicich. A former member of the board of the American Birding Association, Mr. Baicich edited 14 ABA Birding Guides and co-wrote *A Guide to Nests, Eggs, and Nestlings of North American Birds* (1997).

Field trips Saturday will include the best birding locales in Shelby County; namely, Shelby Farms, Shelby Forest, and the Ensley "pits." Expect many

shorebirds including nesting Black-necked Stilts at Ensley. Shelby Forest should be productive for woodland species including Mississippi Kites, Fish Crows, and both Cerulean and Swainson's Warblers. Shelby Farms, located very close to the inn, offers varied habitat. Bobolinks and Lincoln's Sparrows are quite likely there. Painted Bunting is possible at both Shelby Farms and at Ensley.

Sunday will provide an opportunity to check these areas again depending on interest or in case of unusual finds.

For information about lodging and registration go online to: <http://www.tnbirds.org/events.htm>

2004 Knox County Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, 2 January 2005 • Dean Edwards, compiler

A record 96 species were found on count day plus another four during count week to put the count at 100 species during the count period for the first time ever.

We added Northern Waterthrush to the count. An American Black Duck X Mallard hybrid was also reported for the first time on this count. 156 species have been recorded in the history of the Knoxville CBC. Other good birds included Merlin (3rd time on count), Gray Catbird (CW, 5th time on count), and Lapland Longspur (CW, 2nd time on count).

We set record high-counts for 13 species including Ring-necked Duck, Wild Turkey, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Cooper's Hawk, Eastern Phoebe, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Northern Mockingbird, Field Sparrow and Northern Cardinal (1008 almost doubles the previous high of 583).

Big misses include Rufous Hummingbird (missed for first time in 6 years), Great Egret (2nd miss since 1990), Northern Bobwhite (only found 2 times last 13 years), Lesser Scaup, Rusty Blackbird and Pine Siskin.

Date: Sunday, 2 Jan 2005

Weather: Low: 45F High: 58F

AM: scattered showers, mostly cloudy

PM: mostly cloudy

Precip: 0.02" rain **Winds:** W, calm

Notes: all water open, no snow cover

Parties: 22-23 (includes 1 FW party and four that also did owling) **Observers:** 44 (includes one FW)

Notes on parties: includes one party, one observer that only did feeder watching and 4 parties that also did nocturnal birding. See below for names.

Species: 96 + 4 CW **Individuals:** 20,246

Birds per party hour: 133

Party hours and miles:

By foot: 86.72 hrs and 68.4 miles

By car: 54.55 hrs and 535.2 miles

Owling: 4.67 hrs and 12.5 miles

Feederwatching: 6.7 hrs

TOTAL: 152.63 hrs and 616.1 miles

(includes owling and FW)

Times covered:

00:00 - 00:30, 05:55 - 18:15, 22:30 - 23:00

Species: 849 Canada Goose, 4 Wood Duck, 52 Gadwall, 6 American Wigeon, 3 American Black Duck, 467 Mallard, 1 Am. Black Duck X Mallard hybrid, 8 Northern Shoveler, 13 Green-winged Teal, 2 Canvasback, 3 Redhead, 131 Ring-

necked Duck, -CW- Bufflehead, 2 Common Goldeneye, 16 Hooded Merganser, 1 Ruddy Duck, 26 Wild Turkey, 22 Pied-billed Grebe, 5 Horned Grebe, 79 Double-crested Cormorant, 180 Great Blue Heron, 13 Black-crowned Night-Heron, 28 Black Vulture, 79 Turkey Vulture, 1 Bald Eagle (adult), 1 Northern Harrier, 8 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 15 Cooper's Hawk, 2 Accipiter sp., 14 Red-shouldered Hawk, 51 Red-tailed Hawk, 10 American Kestrel, 1 Merlin, 108 American Coot, 5 Sandhill Crane, 141 Killdeer, 8 Wilson's Snipe, 156 Bonaparte's Gull, 2321 Ring-billed Gull, 3 Herring Gull, 747 Rock Pigeon, 986 Mourning Dove, 12 Eastern Screech-Owl, 6 Great Horned Owl, 1 Barred Owl, 41 Belted Kingfisher, -CW- Red-headed Woodpecker, 130 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 38 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 131 Downy Woodpecker, 15 Hairy Woodpecker, 93 "Yellow-shafted" Northern Flicker, 20 Pileated Woodpecker, 19 Eastern Phoebe, 1 Loggerhead Shrike, 485 Blue Jay, 1064 American Crow, 1 Horned Lark, 602 Carolina Chickadee, 370 Tufted Titmouse, 3 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 61 White-breasted Nuthatch, 16 Brown-headed Nuthatch, 6 Brown Creeper, 467 Carolina Wren, 1 House Wren, 20 Winter Wren, 56 Golden-crowned Kinglet, 39 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 316 Eastern Bluebird, 22 Hermit Thrush, 1392 American Robin, -CW- Gray Catbird, 388 Northern Mockingbird, 15 Brown Thrasher, 3234 European Starling, 27 American Pipit, 26 Cedar Waxwing, 124 "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler, 4 Pine Warbler, 11 Palm Warbler, 1 Northern Waterthrush, 199 Eastern Towhee, 118 Chipping Sparrow, 481 Field Sparrow, 60 Savannah Sparrow, 4 "Red" Fox Sparrow, 586 Song Sparrow, 85 Swamp Sparrow, 823 White-throated Sparrow, 12 White-crowned Sparrow, 120 "Slate-colored" Dark-eyed Junco, -CW- Lapland Longspur, 1008 Northern Cardinal, 31 Red-winged Blackbird, 75 Eastern Meadowlark, 1 Common Grackle, 14 Brown-headed Cowbird, 5 blackbird sp., 6 Purple Finch, 290 House Finch, 377 American Goldfinch, 125 House Sparrow

Observers: Jean Alexander, Mark Armstrong, Lyn Bales, Frank Bills, Sharon Bostick, Mark Campen, Jessica Chandler, Raven Chandler, Ed Clebsch, Meredith Clebsch, Gail Clendenen, Steve Clendenen, Marcia Davis, Dean Edwards (compiler), Chris Foell, Patty Ford, Carole Gobert, Paul Hartigan, Kim Henry, Ron Hoff, Tom Howe, David Howell, Susan Hoyle, Jim Human, Wes James, David Johnson, Kristine Johnson, Tony King, Ed Manous, Janet McKnight, Dan Mooney, Laurie Mooney, Charlie Muise, Dollyann Myers, Charles Nicholson, Joseph Pyle, Michael Ryon, Kelly Roy, Martha Rudolph, Boyd Sharp, David Trently, June Welch, Chris Welsh, Corwin Witt



Presidential Perch

- By Charlie Muise

Hi Folks. We have two big events planned for the Dogwood Arts Festival. On Friday, April 22 we are happy to host Sam and Mary Ann Venable at Ijams Nature Center. Sam and Mary Ann will talk about gardening and attracting birds to your home. We will conduct a silent auction, which will benefit both Ijams and the JB Owen Memorial Fund. If you have items to donate, please contact Kathy Bivens or Lyn Bales as soon as possible.

On Saturday, April 23 we will have our annual Sharps Ridge public bird walks. Come see the clean-up work that Mark Campen has lead many members in! This site is one of the best spring migration spots in East Tennessee. We will have several walk leaders.

Both events are free and open to the public. We hope they will be well advertised because part of our goal is to increase awareness of our organization and perhaps gain some new members.

There is some talk of a possible dues increase at the state TOS level, and also at the chapter level. The Executive Committee of KTOS has been talking about ways we can avoid this, or reduce it. But we're also facing yet another postage increase. And there is some extra cost associated with our greatly improved newsletter. At the request of the Executive Committee, Lyn is now looking at an article's length with a more

critical eye and is having to cut more. But we don't want him to stop the work he has done bringing you great articles such as the recent series by Wayne Schacher. One thing you can do to help us with this is to get your newsletter online from the state website, and request to be taken off our mailing list. You can check the state website every month about 3-4 days before each meeting. Try it once or twice to see how it works, before requesting no more paper copies. Remember, this is also good for the environment!

Our chapter has a healthy bank account, and we are not in danger. However, we are spending more than we take in from dues, which cannot go on forever. Thanks to hard work by Treasurer Marie Oakes (with help from her husband and past treasurer Jerry Hadder) we have everything well organized, and we know exactly where we stand. Some things, such as coffee sales and money earned at state meetings, have helped us balance the books. If you have any questions or comments, please contact a member of the Executive Committee.

Meanwhile the state finance committee has been conducting very similar meetings, led by our chapter's Ron Hoff and state Treasurer Mac McWhirter. For more details or to make comments contact one of them.

Thanks to Chuck Nicholson for his work as state Webmaster. One way our chapter benefits is that we have received three new members in the last two months via the internet.



OF NOTE!

KTOS Financial Report • March 2005

Compiled by Marie Oakes, Treasurer

	February	January	YTD
Income:			
. Dues	\$538.00	\$286.00	\$824.00
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$142.00	\$148.00	\$290.00
. Interest	\$0.00	\$62.54	\$62.54
. Dividend	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Spring Meeting	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Owen Memorial	\$71.00	\$0.00	\$71.00
. Miscellaneous	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Income	\$751.00	\$496.54	\$1,247.54
Expenses:			
. Newsletter	\$67.50	\$0.00	\$67.50
. Supplies	\$0.00	\$18.00	\$18.00
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$100.13	\$0.00	\$100.13
. Member Dues to TOS	\$0.00	\$886.00	\$886.00
. Miscellaneous	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$167.63	\$904.00	\$1,071.63
Account Balances			
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$3,511.79	\$2,999.42	
. J.B. Owen Memorial	\$6,550.80	\$6,479.80	
Memberships	158	154	

Paid Memberships to Date = 99

Welcome New Members Randy and Jane Wolfe, Allison Bassett, Gary Loucks, R.B. and Pat Braid, Jr.

Silent Auction items needed

On Friday, April 22, KTOS will host a program with speakers Sam and Mary Ann Venable as part of the Dogwood Arts Festival. Items are needed for a silent auction fundraiser to be held in conjunction with the event. Contact Kathy Bivens or Lyn Bales (contact info on back page) for more details.

March 2 program *(Continued from page 1)*

can we learn about the conservation of declining bird species when we assimilate all of that? How can we achieve such a task and what benefits might we derive from such an exercise? What role will KTOS' president Charlie Muise play in this integration? Roedel hopes to answer those questions March 2 at 7 p.m. See you then in Room 117 (across the hall from Pendergrass Library) at the UT Veterinary building on Neyland Drive. - Tracey Muise, program coordinator

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 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.

DEADLINE for April issue is **March 26**. Due to cost and space restrictions, please limit your articles to **600 or 700 words**.

For a color version of this or past issues go to "local chapters/Knoxville" starting at the TOS Home Page:

HTTP://www.tnbirds.org



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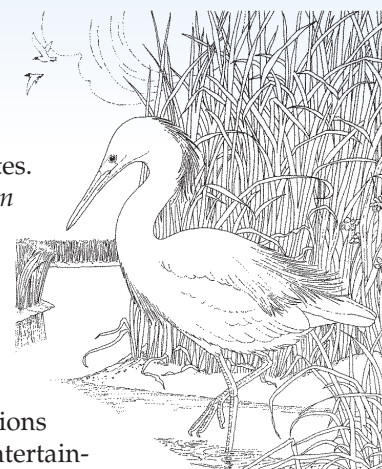
The Great Florida Birding Trail -By Kay Wilson

Perhaps I am behind the times, but I just recently discovered the Great Florida Birding Trail of which two sections (east and west) are now complete. Excellent free guides are available for the asking at Visitors' Centers, etc. to help you zero in on the best sites. My source material now includes: *It's more than just Birding—Florida's Space Coast*, *Birding Florida—A Guide to Florida's Top Birding Spots* and *The GFBT—East Section Commemorative Guide*. The last one provides lots of great detail and maps with sites grouped in clusters for easy planning.

Using these guides I ended up at two locations where the birds provided some unexpected entertainment. At Kelly Park (Merritt Island) I came within 30 feet of a wood stork who did not object to my presence. Then I noticed that it was cozying up to two men who were fishing nearby. Of course! The Wood Stork was awaiting his dinner which was graciously provided when the men threw him one, two, three and a fourth fish for good measure. It took some work to get those fish stuffed in and swallowed. A Great Blue Heron stopped by and got a couple of freebies too.

Next stop was Kennedy Point Park just outside Titusville. Nothing unusual here until I checked the masts of some sailboats docked nearby. What was that big brown thing perched atop a mast? Nothing less than a Great Horned Owl sitting quietly and scanning the water with each turn of his head for something to come his way. We waited and watched, but did not see him fly off into action.

Every Thursday, Saturday and Sunday morning Merritt Island NWR offers free birding field trips led by Refuge volunteers during peak birding season. For more information check www.floridabirdingtrail.com.



through the biKNOXulars

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