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# biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

## DAVID STONE OF HONORS GOLF COURSE TO PRESENT MARCH PROGRAM

On March 5 at 7 o'clock in Room 117 of the UT Veterinary Building, David Stone, who is the Superintendent of the Honors Golf Course in Chattanooga, TN, will present a program on habitat creation at the golf course. David has worked to improve as well as create habitat for as many species as possible at the golf course.

His program will highlight pictures of birds, habitat types and nestlings that have benefited from his work.

Through the improvement of scrublands David has also increased the population of field sparrows at the course as well as other birds.

David was formerly the Superintendent at Holston Hills Golf Course and graduated from UT with a degree in agriculture. He is the vice-president of the Chattanooga chapter of TOS

DON'T FORGET TO PAY CLUB DUES IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO!

## Upcoming field trips and programs

### Field Trip Sunday, March 9, 2008

Fort Loudoun State Historic Area, Vonore

8:00 am till we're done Leader: Janet Lee McKnight

865-856-2229 865-271-8337 [Jlmcknight@bellsouth.net](mailto:Jlmcknight@bellsouth.net)

Ft. Loudoun SHA has always been one of my favorite birding places; there always seems to be so much activity here. We will meet in the fort parking lot and walk the old access road to a short loop hike (less than 2 miles) back to the lake. Common loon is common here, and I have seen bald eagle, and good numbers of the usual suspects such as dark-eyed juncos, white-throated sparrows, Carolina chickadees, etc. Purple finch, brown creeper, and winter wren is possible. If we get done at FLSHA and still feel like birding, the Sequoyah Birthplace Museum is right across the street, and is also very birdy.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend, so I can stay home if I have no participants. Trip will be canceled if there is heavy rain. Let's get out and bird together...it keeps our club together! Janet Lee

### GIRL SCOUT FIELD TRIP



We were visited in February by a Girl Scout Troop who were interested in learning more about birds. That night Jerry and Marie Oakes Hadder volunteered to lead a birding field trip designed especially for the Scouts and they have been in contact with the Scout leader since that time.

Some tentative dates have been mentioned, possibly in the month of April, and plans are moving forward.

Perhaps we need to do more things like this in order to help bring in younger persons to our great club. Do you have any suggestions? Do you know of other groups we could serve? Could you help with a project like this?

Please watch for further information on this Girl Scout Field Trip!

*"What is this feathered thing that lifts my heart to the heavens."* Jeff R. Wilson (Used with permission.)

(Jeff is an superb birder from Bartlette, TN, who often posts on TN-Bird and makes me wish the Memphis area was not all the way across the state from Morristown.)



## Presidential Perch

- By Mark Campen

### KTOS Presidential Perch March 2008

One morning I woke up and the moisture generated on the inside of the camper top had frozen overnight. A thin sheet of ice covered all sides. It was cold, and I didn't want to get out of the sleeping bag to trek into the swamp before sunrise for a bird that most people consider extinct. I want to believe that there is still hope for the "Lord God" bird, but hope is all I can bring back from my two week trip to South Carolina's Congaree National Park last month looking for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

I did learn a lot and really enjoyed the birdwatching, which I haven't been able to do near enough of in the past few months. There were more Barred Owls concentrated in this area than I've ever seen or heard. They were everywhere it seemed and their courtship calls could be heard throughout the day and night. There were a lot of woodpeckers too. All the usual suspects were very common. One morning I watched three Pileated Woodpeckers hammering away on one snag, all within a foot or two of each other. Other abundant, notable species included Blue-headed Vireo, Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Hermit Thrush and a ton of Winter Wrens. My two favorite sightings though happened during one of the morning's three-hour stationary watch sessions. A few hundred feet downstream of the creek I was sitting next to, I noticed a boil in the water as I was scanning through my binoculars. Shortly thereafter, two sleek heads popped up out of the water. Right away I knew they were otters. They swam upstream faster than I thought they would and before I knew it, they were warily crossing in front of me and the canoe I had pulled ashore, nares flaring.

Then a few minutes later I watched a couple ducks land on the same stretch of creek where the otters disappeared. I didn't have a good view as they landed in a flash, but I thought they were Wood Ducks. I was wrong. When they came into view from behind the cypress trees on the stream bank, I recognized them as male and female Hooded Mergansers. She, very alert, with her crest fully showing and he, relaxed and diving, with his crest tightly folded back. They are beautiful birds.

Although I didn't take as many pictures as I would like to have taken, I look forward to sharing photos and more stories about this trip with you all at a future meeting.

Please join us for the next meeting as we will be nominating officers, proposing a new general meeting day and discussing spring activities, including the Sharp's Ridge walks and clean up, the TOS meeting in Memphis and the Knox County spring count.

If you haven't paid your membership dues, please do so immediately. Next month, all unpaid members will be removed from the newsletter and membership list. Please contact me or Marie Oakes if not sure you have paid.

Lastly, we need more volunteers to lead field trips. This is an important part of our organization which provides an opportunity to get together, learn more about birds and have fun. You don't have to be a master birder to lead a field trip, just a desire to go birding with others and maybe share a favorite birding spot. Please see Kevin Przewrocki, our field trip coordinator, if you are interested. He will be actively soliciting field trip leaders in the months ahead. Bird On!

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### GOLDEN AGE MEMBERS

We have five members who have been members of KTOS for 50 or more years. Each of them has served this club faithfully and we would like to recognize them.

They are:

Nancy Tanner, member since 1940

Frances Owen, member since 1947

Elizabeth French, member since 1954

Johneta L. Smith, member since 1954 and

George W. and Maryrose McGown, who have been-members since 1958

## KTOS Financial Report - Calendar Year 2008

	February	January	YTD
Income:			
. Dues	\$ 894.00	\$ 180.00	\$ 1,074.00
. Shade Grown Coffee	77.00	64.00	141.00
. Interest	26.99	0.00	26.99
. Silent Auction	0.00	0.00	0.00
. Owen Memorial	0.00	0.00	0.00
. Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	\$ 997.99	\$ 244.00	\$ 1,241.99
Expenses:			
. Newsletter	\$ 144.76	\$ 0.00	\$ 144.76
. Supplies	27.10	0.00	27.10
. Shade Grown Coffee	97.15	66.84	163.99
. Member Dues to TOS	0.00	1,276.00	1,276.00
. Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expenses	\$ 269.01	\$ 1,342.84	\$ 1,611.85
Other:			
. J.B. Owen Award	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Total Other Account Balances	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$4,327.80		\$3,625.11
. J.B.Owen Memorial	\$7,328.18		\$7,301.89
Memberships	106	155	
Paid 2008 Memberships	106	65	

### J. B. OWEN MEMORIAL AWARD

The purpose of the J. B. Owen Memorial Endowment is to honor the memory of J. B. Owen, longtime TOS member known to thousands in East Tennessee through his columns in Knoxville newspapers. J. B. Owen was an active member of Knoxville Chapter from 1947 until his death in 2001. He was awarded the TOS Distinguished Service Award in 1990. The Endowment provides funds for the annual J. B. Owen Award, with expected value of \$250 to \$500 per year.

The J.B. Owen Award is open to anyone with a project that promotes the welfare and conservation of birds in Tennessee. Applicants are encouraged to submit:

- Cover letter with short project description and applicant contact information
- Resume
- Brief project proposal, of up to three pages, showing topic of the project, problem to be addressed, objectives, expected results and significance, deliverables (for example, written report, journal article, presentation), project location, and project schedule.

Each year, applications are due by May 1 and should be sent (preferably) by e-mail to [marieoakes@msn.com](mailto:marieoakes@msn.com) or mailed to Marie Oakes, 18 Rockingham Lane, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830. The J.B. Owen Endowment Committee of KTOS will evaluate applications and will typically announce the Award winner the following September.

### J. B. OWEN AWARD TO SUPPORT BREEDING BIRD SURVEY IN GREAT SMOKEY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

The Knoxville Bird Club has selected Keith Watson of the Southern Appalachian Bird Conservancy (Sevierville) to receive the 2007 J.B. Owen Award of \$500 for support of the *Breeding Bird Survey of Soak Ash and Cattail Wetland Habitats in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee*. The Park desires to obtain this breeding bird survey to assess occurrence and changes in breeding bird occupation and richness during wetland restoration programs. This need is in conjunction with the Park's implementation plan for invasive species removal at these sites and goals identified in the Avian Conservation Implementation Plan developed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with the Park. Objectives of this breeding bird survey include: providing a listing and relative abundance of breeding bird species occurring in each of these wetland areas; identifying breeding birds of special conservation concern to Park management and North American Bird Conservation Initiative partners; providing recommendations for future wetland restoration related to bird habitat conservation.

Keith Watson's project provides an outstanding opportunity to achieve the Owen Award goal of promoting the welfare and conservation of birds in Tennessee.

Previous Owen Award winners were:

- 2002: Foothills Land Conservancy of Maryville, Tennessee, for acquisition of wetlands in the area between the Yuchi and Hiwassee Island Refuges.
- 2003: Jennifer Powers, of East Tennessee State University, for support of graduate research on the reproductive success and natal dispersal of American Kestrels.
- 2004: Samuel deMent of Greenwood, SC, David Vogt of Chattanooga, and Keith Hobson of Saskatoon, SK Canada for support of the project on Stable-isotope feather analysis and foreign band encounter comparisons of wintering American Kestrels in similar habitats west and east of the Southern Appalachians.
- 2005: Lyn Bales for support of outreach programs at Ijams Nature Center of Knoxville.
- 2006: Jim Giocomo for support of the project on Northern Saw-whet Owl Monitoring in Knox County, Tennessee; and Mark Armstrong for support of The MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity Station) at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge.

The J.B. Owen Award is open to anyone with a project that promotes the welfare and conservation of birds in Tennessee. Information on applying for the Award can be found in this issue of the *Warbler* or at [www.tnbirds.org](http://www.tnbirds.org).

### 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 April issue is March 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"



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### RED STAR ALERT!

### LAST REMINDER ON MEMBERSHIP DUES!

Many of our members are in danger of being dropped from membership because annual dues have not been received. So we're giving everyone a final chance to continue uninterrupted in this great group of bird lovers before names are purged from our roll! If you receive a paper newsletter and there is a RED STAR on this renewal form, you have apparently forgotten to send us a check for renewal! Fill out this easy renewal form, write your check right now while it's fresh in your mind, mail it, and help us continue to support local habitat protection, bird appreciation, and public participation in bird watching!

WE THANK YOU! THE BIRDS WILL THANK YOU!

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INFORMATION:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

DUES: Individual \$26 , Family \$30 , Student \$13

Sustaining membership \$38 , Life membership TOS \$450  plus \$8 KTOS annually.

Mail to: Marie Oakes, 18 Rockingham Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

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