



Pine siskin at local feeder

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Discover Birds: Binoculars Vote

The Discover Birds program is in its 3rd year. We have reached over 1000 kids and are doing our second and third programs for some schools! We are in need of more binoculars as we only have 6 pairs that have been donated to the program thus far. Eagle Optics has a program where you buy three or more you get the same amount free. These are binoculars that are made especially for kids. They are 6.5x32. At the last meeting Susie Kaplar made a motion that the club buy 6 Kingbird binoculars and it was seconded by Patty Ford. The quote I received from eagle Optics is for \$577.35 which includes shipping. We will vote on this at the March meeting.

Welcome New Members

Please welcome the following new members: Stuart, Normandy, Evan, and Justin Aga; Ann Farrar; and Jerry and Billie Knight.

March Meeting: Why is the chick-a-dee call of parids so complex?

Please join us on **Wednesday, March 4, 2015** for a presentation entitled "Why is the chick-a-dee call of parids so complex?" by Dr. Todd Freeberg, of the UT Psychology Department.



Dr. Todd Freeberg

Freeberg heads up the Comparative Communication Lab, where students conduct experiments related to avian vocal communication. Current projects seek to understand the factors driving communicative complexity, the links between social networks in parid flocks and the vocal signals used by flock members, individual responses to novel stimuli, and prey species responses to variation in predators and variation in predator behavior.

For information about UTK's Comparative Communication Lab, please see web.utk.edu/~tfreeber/default. The meeting begins at **6:45 p.m.** in Room 118 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. For directions, please visit the meetings page on the KTOS website at: www.tnbirds.org/chapters/knoxvill/KTOS_Meetings.html

Want to learn more about KnoxvilleTOS?

There will be a slideshow explaining how to join, use, and contribute to the KnoxvilleTOS Yahoo! site at the next meeting. Learn how to send and receive e-mails, read the newsletter, and find out what events are happening.

It is easy, and we will have some handouts to help those who need an extra hand. We can make this a great resource for KTOS and it is a great tool to keep the communication up to date.



Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca*); Whitby, Ontario, Canada, 2005
November

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Pileated Woodpecker
Photography by John O'Barr
www.cityofknoxville.org

Presidential Perch

Hello Everyone,

I am hoping you have enjoyed the snowy February. A lot of birds visited feeders during the cold weather. Some folks reported high numbers of Fox Sparrows, Hermit Thrushes, and Pine Siskins. March is now upon us, and hopefully the waterfowl numbers will improve on area lakes. We have several field trips this month, including opening day of Kyker Bottoms. Please get out and take advantage of these great birding experiences. As most of us know April is right around the corner, and that means Spring Migration! I look forward to the arrival of the warblers and other spring birds. So keep warm, and look up. Great birding is just around the corner.

I would like to personally welcome all of the new members to KTOS. We have seen a lot of people joining, and it is very exciting. We are currently working on some new ideas for the club and welcome any ideas people have. Please come to the planning meetings to express any thoughts you have.

Hope everyone has a wonderful March!

John O'Barr

Get Out and Get Birding! March/April Field Trips

Kyker Bottoms Refuge

Sunday, March 1, 2015 @ 7:15 a.m.

Leader: Tom Howe, blountbirder@nxs.net,
(865) 407-9620

We will meet at 7:15 a.m. at the paved parking lot by the "old" observation platform on Big Gully Road. Early migrants, late winter sparrows, waterfowl, wrens, and rails may be some of birds that could be seen on this field trip. It may be possible that the fields may be wet, so please wear appropriate clothes. We will meet at 7:15 a.m. For directions, please see www.tnbirds.org/birdfinding/KykerBottoms.htm.

Forks of the River WMA

Sunday, March 8, 2015 @ 8:00 a.m.

Leader: Jay Sturner, 244-7819

Cades Cove

Saturday, March 14, 2015 @ 8:00 a.m.

Leader: Warren Bielenberg, Birdglass44@aol.com,
681-7884

Meet at the campground at 8:00 a.m.

Maryville Greenway

Saturday, March 28, 2014 @ 8:00 a.m.

Leader: Tom Howe, blountbirder@nxs.net,
(865) 407-9620

We will meet behind the Blount County Library (508 N. Cusick St., Maryville, Tenn.) at the foot bridge and explore the waterways and trails for spring arrivals. Beginners are welcome.

Sharp's Ridge Clean-up

Saturday, April 4, 2015 @ 9:00 a.m.

(Rain date: Sunday, April 5, 2015 @ 9:00 a.m.)

Leader: Tony King, (865) 988-6172

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the J. B. Owen overlook. For site information and directions, visit www.cityofknoxville.org/parks/sharpsridge.asp. You are welcome to come early and get in some extra birding time before the clean-up begins!

Bring your gloves and come help clean-up up one of our favorite birding spots. If you want to remove some of the invasive exotic plants, bring appropriate tools.

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

**2014 — 2015
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