

VOLUME 26 • NUMBER 4

MAY 2003

through the biKNOXulars

Newsletter of the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

It's Election Day at the next KTOS meeting Wednesday, May 7

It's time to vote for the next KTOS chapter officers. We'll do so at the May 7 meeting. We'll also take a vote on whether or not to change the meeting time from 7:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

So if you want your vote counted on this issue, come to the meeting!

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),

at UT Vet School on Center Drive off Neyland Drive. Come join us, contact an officer if you need directions.

Here's the list of candidates:

- President: Charlie Muise
- Vice President: Tracey Everson
- Treasurer: Jerry Hadder
- Secretary: Don Vowell

📅 MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May KTOS Field Trips

See page 2 for complete details.

Thursdays, May 1 & 8, 8 AM

Sharps Ridge, Knoxville

Saturday, May 10, 7 AM

Cross Mountain, Caryville

Sunday, May 18, 8 AM

Williams Creek, Knoxville



📅 MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2003 TOS Spring Meeting Field Trips

See page 2 for complete details.

Saturday, May 3, 7 AM

Trip #1: Sharps Ridge, Knoxville

Trip #2: Cove Lake and Cross Mountain, Caryville

Trip #3: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Sunday, May 4, 7 AM

Trip #4: Kingston Steam Plant and Gallaher Bridge Swamp, Kingston

Trip #5: Rankin Bottoms WMA, White Pine

Trip #6: Sharps Ridge, Knoxville

Trip #7: Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge, Knoxville

"The chickadee and nuthatch are more inspiring society than statesmen and philosophers."

- Henry David Thoreau, essay "A Winter Walk"



2003 TOS Spring Meeting Field Trips

Field Trip Schedule for the Tennessee Ornithological Society Spring Meeting - May 3 & 4, 2003

Note: All trips will depart from the Episcopal School of Knoxville parking lot promptly at 7:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

Saturday, May 3, 7 AM

Trip #1: Sharps Ridge, Knoxville, TN

Leaders: **Chuck Nicholson** and **David Trently**
Spring migrants are the objects of this trip. Orioles, Grosbeaks, warblers and other spring migrants are expected.

Trip #2: Cove Lake State Park and Cross Mountain, Caryville, TN.

Leaders: **Nell Moore** and **Tony Headrick**
Locally breeding warblers are expected including Swainsons, Prothonotary, Cerulean and Chestnut Sided as well as many other warblers, orioles, tanagers, flycatchers and spring migrants.

Trip #3: Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Leaders: **Chris Welsh** and **Harold Howell**
High altitude species are the object of this field trip. Birds may include Red Crossbills, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Ruffed Grouse, Pine Siskin, Canada and Black-throated Blue Warblers.

Saturday, May 4, 7 AM

Trip #4: Kingston Steam Plant and Gallaher Bridge Swamp, Kingston, TN

Leaders: **Wes James** and **Dev Joslin**

This trip will cover swamp, pond and field habitat. Expected birds include Red-headed Woodpecker, Prothonotary Warbler, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Grasshopper Sparrow, shorebirds, waterfowl and other sparrows.

Trip #5: Rankin Bottoms WMA, White Pine, TN

Leaders: **Dean Edwards**, **Chris Welsh**, **Michael Sledjeski**, and **Leslie Gibbens**

This trip will feature a land tour plus a canoe/kayak trip for a limited number of participants. The exact program will depend on the water level in Douglas Lake. Expected birds include a heron and cormorant rookery, Warbling Vireos, Prothonotary Warblers, Willow Flycatchers and shorebirds IF the water level is low enough.

Trip #6: Sharps Ridge, Knoxville, TN

Leaders: **Chuck Nicholson** and **David Trently**
Spring migrants are the objects of this trip. Orioles, Grosbeaks, warblers and other migrants are expected.

Trip #7: Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge, Knoxville, TN

Leaders: **Jim Giocomo** and **Harold Howell**
This trip will feature a bird banding demonstration. Seven Islands includes riparian, wooded and open field habitat.

TOS May Birding Field Trips

Thursdays, May 1 & 8, 8 AM

Sharps Ridge, Knoxville, TN

Leader: **Tony Headrick** (687-9956). Meet at the ranger's house at 8:00 a.m. The walk will be along the road in Sharp's Ridge Memorial Park. Spring migrants are the object of this field trip. Orioles, grosbeaks warblers and other spring migrants are expected.

Saturday, May 10, 8 AM

Cross Mountain, Caryville, TN.

Leader: **Tony Headrick** (Phone 687-9956)
Meet at Ingles parking lot at I-75 and Emory Road at 7:00 AM for car pooling to the site. Target birds are warblers, tanagers, orioles, grosbeaks and others. Bring insect repellent, lunch and a drink.
Be prepared for possible muddy conditions.

Sunday, May 18, 8 AM

Williams Creek, Knoxville

Leader: **Mark Campen** (Phone: 865.523.3800, e-mail: mark@tnike.com)

Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the large parking lot at the UT Agriculture Campus, on the corner of Neyland Drive and Center Avenue, for car pooling to Birdsong Street off Riverside Drive.

We will go from field habitat to the (surprisingly) moderately wooded golf course (under construction) to a heavily wooded stretch of urban forest and varying habitats all along the beautiful Williams Creek. The distance is approximately a mile and a half each way. Depending on weather, some areas may be moist or muddy.

MEMBERS OF KNOXVILLE CHAPTER OF TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, 2002-2003*Last name, first names (as of April 4, 2003):*

Alley, John T. and June	Hartigan, Paul
Armstrong, Marcus W.	Hassil, Madeleine
Baker, Carolyn P.	Haynes, Dianna
Bales, Stephen Lyn	Headrick, Tony, Dawn and Lee
Baylor, Lelia B.	Henry, Kim and Steve
Beintema, Jane	Hoff, Audrey
Benard, JoAnne	Hoff, Ron and Myers, Dollyann
Bills, Frank and Bostic, Sharon	Howe, Thomas
Blane, Dianne	Howell, David
Borden, Sandra E.	Howell, Harold and Harriet
Boys, Ruth	Howie, John and Carol
Brumett, Palmira and Fitzgerald, James	Hoyle, Susan
Buehler, David	Ihle, Elisabeth
Burkhart, John M. and Powers, Laura B.	Jamerson, Reece D.
Burkhart, Patrick and Fae	James, Wesley K. and Norma
Burns, John and Nancy	Johnson, David and Alexander, Jean
Campbell, Jim and Betty Reid	Jones, Andrew
Chitwood, Howard	Joslin, Dev and Harriet
Clebsch, Edward and Meredith	Kaserman, Alice M.
Clendenen, Steve and Gail	Keebler, Joel
Collier, Clay and Laura	Keenum, Amy
Collier, Robert and Louise	Kennerly, John
Collins, Don and Cathy	King, Tony and Linda
Cottrell, Otey and Ines	Koella, Jon A.
Cox, Harold and June	Kolak, Alvin and Sandra
Crowe, C. Randall	Krauss, Stephen
Cutsinger, Ken	Lacy, Beth
Davis, Marcia	Lambdin, Gerald and Debra
Davis, Richard	Lammers, Carol E.
Day, Norman and Cindy	Leith, Donald G. and Kathleen M.
Dean, James M, and Laura M.	Leki, Ilona
Denton, Roseanna	Levy, Henri and Bettie
Dubke, Ken	Long, Patricia
Edwards, K. Dean and Hensley	Long, Pennie and John
Everson, Tracey L.	Loveday, Robert & Leigh
Fegarido, Carol and Charles	Manous, Edward L.
Finney, Barbara	Mason, James and Bettie
Fisher, Frank and Jacqueline	Massey, Judy F.
Fitzgerald, Thomas E and Marian	McGown, George and Maryrose
Foster, Grace K.	McKnight, Janet and Timothy
French, Elizabeth	McLean, Donald
French, Mary Laura	McNutt, William and Alison
French, Susan	Milligan, Brenda
Gammage, Richard B.	Mooney, Daniel and Laurie
Gilmer, Brice and Beverly	Moore, Nell and Jimi
Gobert, Carole P.	Morgan, Rhea
Gray, Claude and Barbara	Muise, Charlie
Gurd, Dave	Murphy, Clarence and Dreda
Hadder, Jerry and Oakes, Marie	Newman, H. Bruce and Betty
Halko, Lovina	Nicholson, Charles P.
Harb, Jim	Overton, Holly
Harmon, Patricia L.	Owen, Frances

Patterson, Patricia A.
Pearl, Laurie S.
Perry, Alfred M. , Jr.
Perry, Sandy and Wolford, Herbie
Petrey, Karen
Plummer, Justin
Quinter, Curt and Elaine
Robbins, G. D.
Rountree, Robert and Barbara
Roy, Kelly W.
Rozek, John
Rudolph, Martha
Satterfield, Stephen and Rebecca
Saunders, Paul J.
Schaff, Frank
Schilling, Elizabeth
Scott, Robert and Julia
Sharp, Boyd and Mary Jane
Sheliga, Sharon
Siegrist, Wesley and Rachelle
Simms, Sarah Beth Stanford
Sledjeski, Michael Sylva and Gibbens, Leslie
Smith, Johneta L.
Snow, Tim and Angela
Snyder, Dee
Snyder, Susan
Spiegel, Harriette L.
Steffy, Robert and Diane
Sullivan, William and Mary
Tallent, Ann
Tankersley, Roger and Christine
Tanner, Nancy
Tate, Virginia B.
Taylor, Vickie
Thompson, Robert L. and Frances
Tipton, Samuel R.
Torbett, Alice and David
Trently, David and Mia
Trice, Mary
Uziel, Mayo and Mary
Verhulst, David C. and Karen
Von Gruenigen, Rodney and Phyllis
Vornehm, Richard and Marita
Vowell, Donald K. and Tabor, Mary Alice
Walker, Craig
Welch, June D.
Welsh, Christopher and Deborah
Wilson, Eileen P.
Wilson, Jane
Wilson, Kay
Wong, Elizabeth Mei
Woody, Alice and Gary
Wright, Will and Betty
Yares, Jerry and Rhea
Zaslow, Alan



Presidential Perch

This will be my last Presidential Perch. I'm glad KTOS still exists after my two years as president—I must have done some things right! A couple of the things I'm most pleased that our chapter has accomplished are the hosting of two state TOS meetings and the first J.B. Owen Memorial award to help conserve land.

Assuming the nominees win the May election (has it always been unanimous?? :-), I am confident we have excellent officers in place for the next term.

Lots of good things have been discussed for KTOS to work on over the next year and we can look forward to plenty of exciting birding field trips. I intend to keep leading a few, including some out of state (maybe to South Carolina's coast, southern Illinois for Greater Prairie-Chicken?). Look for announcements in this newsletter!

By the time you read this newsletter, our Spring Meeting may be over. I hope it proved to be as successful as it was building up to be! VERY BIG THANKS to the many people who helped in organizing it. You played important roles in planning and running this meeting—and I'm sure you're glad it's over! I hope all our members attended at least part of it.

Now...get out there and do some birding. It's time for point counts, Breeding Bird Surveys...and just to have fun.

Library acknowledges new book additions

The Knox County Public Library Board and Staff acknowledge with grateful appreciation the generosity of the Knoxville Bird Club in presenting these gifts to the Library.

- In memory of Louise Fuller:
A FIELD GUIDE TO WARBLERS OF NORTH AMERICA (PETERSON)

By Jon Dunn

- In memory of Don DeFoe:
A FIELD GUIDE TO HAWKS IN NORTH AMERICA (PETERSON)

By William S. Clark

- In memory of Winnifred Brown:
A FIELD GUIDE TO HUMMINGBIRDS (PETERSON)

By Sheri L. Williamson

	April	March	YTD
Income:			
. Dues	\$276.00	\$538.00	\$1,410.00
. Mugs	\$26.50	\$0.00	\$72.00
. Interest	\$41.63	\$0.00	\$41.63
. Misc Donation	\$0.00	\$7.50	\$7.50
. Spring Meeting	\$1,581.00	\$396.00	\$1,977.00
. Owen Memorial	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$62.00
. Fuller Memorial	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$30.00</u>	<u>\$70.00</u>
Total Income	\$1,925.13	\$971.50	\$3,640.13
Expenses:			
. Newsletter	\$100.00	\$274.00	\$444.30
. Supplies	\$0.00	\$70.78	\$75.85
. Member Dues to TOS	\$1,196.00	\$0.00	\$1,196.00
. Spring Meeting Expense	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$400.00</u>	<u>\$400.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$1,296.00	\$744.78	\$2,116.15
Other:			
. Foothills Conservancy	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
. Friends of UT Gardens	\$60.00	\$0.00	\$60.00
. Memorial Books	<u>\$90.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$90.00</u>
Total Other	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
Account Balances			
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$5,924.54	\$5,477.75	
. J.B.Owen Memorial	\$4,405.76	\$4,373.42*	
Memberships			
	160	154	

*Correction of March Financial Report

KTOS Financial Report • May 03



Cheap spring entertainment

If you have or know someone with chickens, try this for fun.

Where the hens sleep you should find piles of contour feathers, the kind from the body that are about two inches in length and have a lot of fluff at the base of the shaft. Gather a big bag of these feathers and a lawn chair. Go to a place where you know there to be barn and/or tree swallows. Spread the feathers on the grass before your lawn chair and sit back.

Tree and barn swallows find these feathers irresistible. The swallows will come in impressive numbers and swoop down very close to a human observer for their coveted nest liners.

Watching the swallows' aerial antics in this way is a springtime treat I look forward to every year. Give it a go, and let me know if you get your jollies as easily as I do!

- Janet McKnight

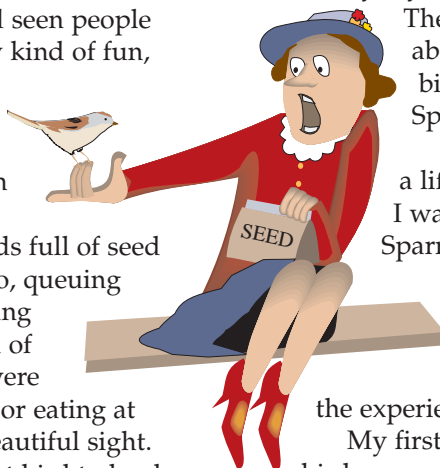
An unexpected life-bird moment and then some

On March 1 of this year, I was in Rochester, NY visiting a very dear friend. I resigned myself to no birding on this trip, since my binoculars were away in repair land, but my friend took me to a park—Mendon Park—where she had seen people hand-feeding birds. Sounded like my kind of fun, and sure enough, people were hand feeding birds as they have on this particular path for 30 years.

It was a wide, snow covered path through a corridor of trees, and folks were lined up with outstretched hands full of seed offerings. The birds were lined up too, queuing up to take their gifts. This hand feeding has been going on for so long that all of the area birds are habituated. They were so unafraid, either landing on hands or eating at your feet; it was such an amazing, beautiful sight.

When I held up my hand, the first bird to land on me was a White-breasted Nuthatch, and the Black-capped Chickadees never stopped coming. Feeding on the ground were White-throated Sparrows, Dark-eyed

Juncos, cardinals and bunches of squirrels. And then came a bird that I instantly knew was a new one for me. I got that instant rise of excitement that comes when I lay my eyes on a species for the very first time.



The bird was close enough that I was able to recognize it without my binoculars. It was an American Tree Sparrow, number 201 on my life list.

As I was reveling in the joy that only a life-bird can bring, it got even better, I was soon seeing American Tree Sparrows all around me, 32 at my highest count and they were all nearly close enough to touch. They were absolutely beautiful. I didn't expect a life-bird on this trip, which made the experience all the more special.

My first American Tree Sparrows were a life-bird moment that will bring me forever joy in the remembering.

-Janet McKnight



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.

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For a color version of this newsletter go to "local chapters" at
TOS HOME PAGE: [HTTP://WWW.TNBIRDS.ORG](http://www.tnbirds.org)

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