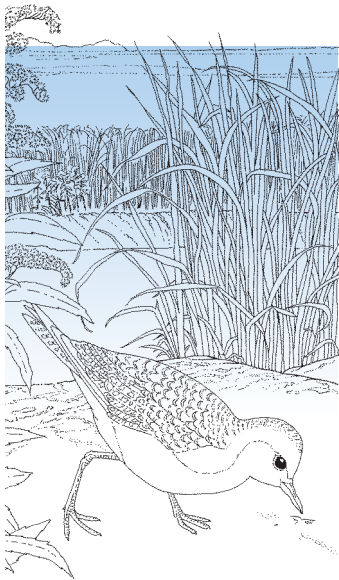


through the biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

'Shorebirds of Tennessee' is topic of May 3 program



Wednesday, May 3, Roger Tankersley will present "Shorebirds in Tennessee." Tankersley currently works as Senior Scientist at TVA, focusing on the impacts of environmental change to wildlife habitats. He earned a master's and PhD from UT in Geography studying black bears and forest migrants' stopovers in the southeast. Tankersley says that his two-year old son Calvin keeps himself and his wife, Christine, busier than anything else.

During his presentation Tankersley will discuss the research conducted to evaluate the impact of TVA's late summer reservoir drawdowns on shorebird migration. Interior shorebird migration often relies on ephemeral habitats such as these; however, the relationship between drawdown, mudflat exposure and habitat availability are poorly understood. TVA developed a system utilizing airborne Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) system and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to create digital models of mudflat habitat at Rankin Bottoms Wildlife Management Area. Using historic reservoir data, TVA modeled stopover habitat availability over the past 30 years under three different management regimes. They combined this model with a chronology of shorebird migration in the Tennessee Valley to examine how stopover availability has changed for shorebirds during fall migration. Now TVA has a spatiotemporal model to help them understand the impacts that reservoir management has on migrating shorebirds. This information will contribute to TVA's management recommendations and environmental decision-making.

Come learn more about this technique TVA has developed to make informed decisions about the impact of reservoir management on shorebird migration. See you Wednesday at 7 p.m., Room 117 of the UT Vet building.

Kid Friendly Rating: ★★ (Out of four) - Tracey Muise, VP and program coordinator

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May Field trips

See page 2 for details.

Thursdays, May 4 and 11; 8 AM
Sharp's Ridge, Knox County

Sunday, May 7, 8 AM
Field trip to East Lakeshore Trail

Saturday, May 13
International Migratory Bird Day

Sunday, May 14, 8:30 AM
Rankin Bottoms

Saturday, May 20
Field trip to Seven Islands WMA

"He rocks in the tree-top all a day long, Hoppin' and a-boppin' and a-singin' the song, All the little birds on J-Bird Street, Love to hear the robin goin' tweet tweet tweet. Rockin' robin. Rockin' robin. Oh rockin' robin well you really gonna rock tonight."

- Bobby Day, "Rockin' Robin," Class Records, Number Two Hit, August 1958.

May field trips *(Continued from page 1)*

Thursdays, May 4 and 11; 8 AM

Sharp's Ridge, Knox County

Leader: **Tony Headrick, David Trently** or **Dan Mooney**
Meet at the ranger's house at 8 a.m. The walk will be along the road in Sharp's Ridge Memorial Park. Spring migrants are the objects of these trips. Orioles, grosbeaks, tanagers, warblers and other migrants are expected.

Sunday, May 7, 8 AM

Field trip to East Lakeshore Trail

Leader: **Tony King** 988-6172

Meet at the lower overlook below Fort Loudon Dam. From there the group will drive to the trailhead. There is a good chance of seeing Loggerhead Shrike on the way to the trailhead. The section of the trail to be explored is a one way, 4-mile walk. Some vehicles will be left at the destination end to shuttle people back to their cars. We expect to woodland birds as well as waterfowl. Bring water and a snack.

Saturday, May 13

International Migratory Bird Day Count

Compiler: **Ron Hoff**. Please turn in locations birded, miles traveled by car and foot, hours birding, hours owling and number in your party. Send your info to Ron at: aves7000@bellsouth.net

Sunday, May 14, 8:30 AM

Rankin Bottoms

Leader: **Michael Sledjeski** (423) 487-3161

Canoe trip with Rick Knight and Don Miller. Expect to see, *e.g.*, wood duck, great egret, Baltimore oriole, warbling vireo, prothonotary warbler and assorted shorebirds. Less common species for this date include black-necked stilt, snowy egret, little blue heron, *et al.* We'll experience the backwaters and willow thickets of this haven for waterbirds, a newly-designed Tennessee IBA. Meet at the coal tipple at 8:30 a.m. Contact Michael Sledjeski: (423) 487-3161 or mtnsgloa@msn.com beforehand to reserve canoe space. An afternoon outing at 2:30 p.m. may be scheduled if necessary.

Saturday, May 20, 8 AM

Field trip to Seven Islands WMA

Leader: **David Trently** 974-8664 dtrently@utk.edu

Meet at the Comcast parking lot on Asheville Highway just north of I-40 at 8:00 a.m. or at Seven Islands parking lot at 8:15 a.m. Seven Islands is primarily a grassland habitat. The days list will likely include common yellowthroat, yellow-breasted chat, willow flycatcher, summer tanager, orchard oriole, grasshopper sparrow, field sparrow, song sparrow, indigo bunting and blue grosbeak. Other possibilities include bald eagle, prothonotary warbler and Baltimore oriole. If the weather is decent, fifty plus species are reasonable to expect.

- Dan Mooney



Presidential Perch

- By Charlie Muise

The J.B. Owen Committee continues to do a great job. Please see the update elsewhere in this newsletter. And please, consider donating money to the fund. It is designed to help with education, research or conservation efforts that will help the birds of Tennessee. The more the fund grows, the more we can help. Personally, I hope this fund will grow to the point where it awards a thousand dollars each year. But the fund would have to grow substantially to reach that goal. You may also consider donating to the state Conservation and Research Fund, which in recent years has funded the new bird banding station at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge and helped with projects in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

As long as I've been a member of KTOS, we have been financially sound, which has allowed us to enjoy a good newsletter, and help with educational and conservation programs in the area. We couldn't do this without hard work from Marie Oakes and Jerry Hadder—our current and past treasurers, who have helped each other in that role for several years. State

TOS treasurer Mac McWhirter has commented to me more than once that KTOS keeps on top of memberships better than any other chapter.

At the April meeting we closed nominations for officers, TOS Directors and Executive Committee members. Elections occur during the May 3 meeting. Those elected will take over during the June picnic, which will again be at Ijams Nature Center. While the change of president and vice president will make it appear like there is a major shift, many of the people who have worked hard for KTOS for several years remain as involved as ever. Jean Alexander, David Johnson, David Trently, Marie Oakes, Jerry Hadder and Laurie and Dan Mooney have all been driving forces in our club as long as I've lived in Tennessee, and will continue to be. And we ALL vote for Lyn Bales as editor for life! I encourage folks who have not been active to step up and help these leaders. As much as they have accomplished, they could do even more with help from you.

Sixth graders from three area schools are participating in the KTOS-sponsored "Cats Indoors!" poster

(Continued on page 3)

I N M E M O R I A M

Paul Sevier Pardue

May 10, 1917 - March 28, 2006

"Paul Pardue showed me my first prothonotary warbler," says Jim Campbell. "It was around 1963. At the time he lived on the Holston River and he took me and a friend out on a boat to see it. Paul was a really, really great guy."

For the second month in a row, KTOS mourns the passing of another longtime member. Paul S. Pardue died on Tuesday, March 28. An avid outdoorsman and life member of TOS, Paul remained active throughout his life, climbing Mt. LeConte at age 80.

Paul joined KTOS in 1953 and was elected chapter president two years later, serving two terms in 1956-57.

At the TOS Annual Meeting held May 1-3, 1959, Paul was elected state president and served for two years: 1960-61. A note in the TOS newsletter at the time read, "The election of Paul Pardue as president was outstanding. Paul is active in the affairs of the Knoxville chapter. He is an excellent bird student. His keen attitude and interest in the affairs of the society should figure greatly in adding new life to T.O.S. Give him your support."

In May 1960, the Forty-first Annual Meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society (WOS) was held in Gatlinburg. The meeting was sponsored by KTOS and Paul served as co-chairman of the organizing committee. A total of 332 people attended the meeting. On Friday morning, May 9, Pardue, as TOS state president, welcomed the visiting WOS members.

In the late 1980s, Paul helped with the Breeding Bird Atlas project that counted birds during nesting season across the state. The six year effort that began in 1986 culminated with mapping the distribution of every bird species that nests in Tennessee.

A note in J.B. Owen's *Our First 70 Years*, states that the first documented bald eagle nest appeared in East

Tennessee on Tellico Lake in March 1991, and that Paul Pardue photographed the eagles at their nest.

In November 1996, an Allen's Hummingbird turned up at Pardue's house and many area birders made a trip there to see it. One of the things that Jim Campbell recalls about the hummingbird discovery was that it coincided with a local visit by Vice President Al Gore. "We were at Paul's looking at the Allen's. He had moved to a home near where Little River joins the Tennessee near the airport. A big plane took off and slowly turned overhead. We all looked at it with our binoculars and realized it was the vice president leaving after his visit."

Sometimes it's odd what events we associate with people. The vice president had nothing to do with the Allen's Hummingbird or with Pardue, but it's these genial recollections that keep the departed alive in our minds; in this, their spirit lives on. Just one random moment, yet, over the course of a lifetime, it's the little things that define our lives.

Birding means a lot of things to a lot of people. For many, it's the avocation's ability to bring people together, creating friendships and rewarding associations. When two birders meet, they always have something to talk about. Isn't it funny that feathered, non-human creatures can somehow elevate our own humanity? And what can be more human than mourning the loss of one of our own? A great lover of birds has died, and we're all saddened by his death.

Pardue will always be remembered for his warmth and friendliness. He will be sadly missed by his family and all those that knew him.

- Lyn Bales

Presidential Perch *(Continued from page 2)*

contest. Winners will be decided soon. KTOS will give gift certificates, worth thirty dollars each, to the top three artists.

I hope that the Knoxville Chapter has a strong showing at the upcoming TOS Spring meeting. It will be May 5-7 at the Steeplechase Inn in Brentwood (Nashville), which is located at 5581 Franklin Pike Circle, off I-65 at Exit 74-A.

This winter Bill Smith, who manages Kyker Bottoms Wildlife Management Area in Blount County, reported several sightings of Barn Owls. Jean and

David quickly organized some folks to donate materials and build roost and nest boxes to Bill's specifications. Last week I was thrilled when I noticed an owl in one of those boxes! With the Purple Martins that moved into a box that Mark Campen moved to Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge, a Bluebird box trail that Janet McKnight maintains at Wood Thrush Ridge, and many assorted boxes the club has funded at Seven Islands, our club has helped to house a lot of birds. And of course, we all get to benefit by seeing these birds in predictable places.

J. B. Owen Memorial Endowment Annual Report 2005-06

- May 1, 2006

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. The Endowment provides funds for projects that promote the welfare and conservation of birds in Tennessee. This annual report summarizes projects funded, the KTOS contribution, operating expenses, and other pertinent information as to the status of the Endowment and its administration during 2005-2006.

New Project Funded

KTOS selected Ijams Nature Center of Knoxville to receive the 2005 J.B. Owen Award of \$500 for support of the Center's outreach programs which promote conservation of birds in Tennessee. Ijams is using the Owen Award to purchase high-quality cases for transportation of its Barred Owl and Red-tailed Hawk for educational programs at schools and other off-site groups. In his progress update, Lyn Bales reports that Ijams is acclimatizing the Barred Owl to its recently delivered transportation case.

Continuing Project

The 2004 J.B. Owen Award of \$500 is supporting 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. Project leader Samuel deMent of Greenwood, SC, reports the following progress: "From December 2005 through February 2006 (our wintering period) we banded 20 American Kestrels in South Carolina and 15 in Tennessee. Retrices will be forwarded to Saskatoon, SK, to Dr. Keith Hobson for stable isotope analysis. The sample size is now adequate, and the previous wintering period retrices are being studied. Some deuterium enriched retrices have been identified within the sampling, indicating a migrating proportion. The data will be correlated with the locations and statistically analyzed."

Financial Summary

As interest rates have risen, we have taken advantage of options to increase the yield of certificates of deposit. Compared to last year, interest has increased 59 percent.

KTOS Financial Report • May 2006

Compiled by Marie Oakes, Treasurer

	April	March	YTD
Income:			
. Dues	\$52.00	\$630.00	\$966.00
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$58.00	\$125.00	\$326.00
. Interest	\$24.55	\$19.36	\$65.09
. Owen Memorial	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25.00
. Other Memorials	\$375.00	\$25.00	\$500.00
Total Income	\$509.55	\$799.36	\$1,882.09
Expenses:			
. Newsletter	\$67.66	\$63.00	\$175.61
. Supplies	\$0.00	\$17.78	\$17.78
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$0.00	\$106.90	\$377.52
. Member Dues to TOS	\$0.00	\$428.00	\$2,366.00
. Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$67.66	\$615.68	\$2,936.91
Other:			
. J.B. Owen Award	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Total Other	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Account Balances			
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$4,461.75	\$4,042.65	
. J.B. Owen Memorial	\$6,963.70	\$6,940.91	
Memberships	136	135	

J.B. Owen Memorial Endowment Financial Summary	
Fund Balance (May 1, 2005)	\$6,587.52
KTOS Silent Auction	\$537.40
Other Contributions	\$107.60
Interest	\$231.18
Distributions	\$500.00
Fund Balance (April 30, 2006)	\$6,963.70
Operating Expenses (paid from the treasury of KTOS as part of the general business of KTOS)	\$23.12

Other Accomplishments

The J.B. Owen Endowment Committee maintained a Memory Book to archive records of Fund-related activities. The Committee solicited research proposals from fifteen institutions of higher learning in Tennessee. James Giocomo, in cooperation with Charlie Muise, submitted a research proposal for Northern Saw-Whet Owl monitoring in Knox County, Tennessee.

- Submitted by J.B. Owen Endowment Committee
Marie Oakes, Chairman, Jean Alexander, Jerry Hadder,
David Johnson, Bob Steffy, Diane Steffy

Vulture Food *By Janet McKnight*

I set off at a brisk pace down the country road in my effort to stay out of plus-sized clothing. Walking is my exercise of choice, and I live in a rural town with lovely roads that see little traffic. I enjoyed the scenery and entertained myself with birding by ear as I walked. The ditches were strewn with trash and I wondered who is capable of spoiling the landscape with such thoughtlessness. I made a mental note to bring a garbage bag next time. Then I saw what looked like a mound of tin foil in the ditch ahead. I have found some very bizarre things on these roadsides, and this silver stuff got my curiosity. Upon closer inspection, it was a load of spareribs. No kidding. Someone had lost a load of ribs on their way to the barbecue. Or perhaps the ribs were deliberately dumped, who knows. Total mystery. Each slab of ribs was packed in heavy plastic, and then wrapped in foil. I instantly thought of the critters the ribs could feed, and did not like the thought of shredded plastic and foil as the animals tried to get to the meat. I returned with my truck and loaded nearly 30 packages of ribs. There was vulture food under all that plastic and foil, and I meant to serve it to them.

When I got home I began slicing open each package of ribs and dumping them in a big wheelbarrow. It took a lawn and leaf-sized garbage bag to hold all of the packaging, and the wheelbarrow was brimming with stinking slabs of ribs. I could barely lift the handles and start rolling, the load was so heavy. The blood was sloshing around and the smell was wafting up. It was really gross; if I weren't already a vegetarian this experience would probably have booted ribs off of my menu forever. I rolled the ribs far out in one of my fields and dumped them. I could not wait to see what would happen next.

I got back to the house and looked at the rib pile through my binoculars, and my efforts were instantly

rewarded. A Red-Tailed Hawk had already found my offering and was standing on top of the pile filling his crop. The ribs were soon inspected by some American Crows, and then came a Black Vulture. The vulture did not descend on the ribs and start eating as I thought, but landed in a nearby tree and stared at the rib pile. Perhaps the lack of fur threw him off? A few more vultures soon joined the first, but they did not eat. Hmmmm, very interesting.

The next day I examined the rib pile and saw that some nocturnal critters had helped themselves. There was a shift in the pile, lots of tooth and claw marks, and a slab or two had been carried off. Surely the vultures would be here today to finish off the pile, or so I thought. I reluctantly left for work, regretting that I would miss the show. When I got back home at the end of the day, the pile was still there. Come on vultures, eat up! I did this for you! I was perplexed, but continued to enjoy watching the pile shift and move and slowly feed the critters that I had wanted it to. It was very gratifying. Putrid, but gratifying.

Eleven days after I had dumped the ribs, I came home from work and walked out into the field to check out the rib pile. It was completely gone. There was not a trace that it had even been there. Every spec of flesh and bone had vanished. The vulture show had finally happened that day, and I missed it. I suppose that the vultures were waiting for just the right level of decomposition in order to get all those bones down their gullets. I marveled at how the vultures had cleaned up the rotten rib pile so thoroughly. Animals die every day all around us, and we are not wading through carcasses because of detritus feeders such as vultures; what a vital, priceless role these amazing animals play. I appreciate vultures so much, and I am so glad to have found a way to thank them with a meal, just by going along and burning off some meals of my own.

OF NOTE!

Election of 2007 club officers

The Nominating Committee of KTOS nominated the following individuals for state and local offices for 2007: TOS State Directors: Ron Hoff, Dollyann Myers and Charlie Muise; KTOS Officers: President - Dan Mooney, Vice President - Mark Campen, Secretary - Kathy Bivens, Treasurer - Marie Oakes; KTOS Executive Committee Members at Large: Jean Alexander and Tony King.

Boyd Sharp: Hope for a speedy recovery!

Our thoughts and prayers go out to longtime KTOSer and former chapter president Boyd Sharp, who is back home recovering from recent surgery.

Welcome New KTOS Member: Ed LeGrand

KTOS calendar of events available online:

www.tnbirds.org/chapters/knoxvill/Calendar/KTOSCAL.htm

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 a Life membership with TOS is \$450 with an annual fee of \$8 to the local chapter.

DEADLINE for June issue is **May 27**. 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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International Migratory Bird Day is Saturday, May 13

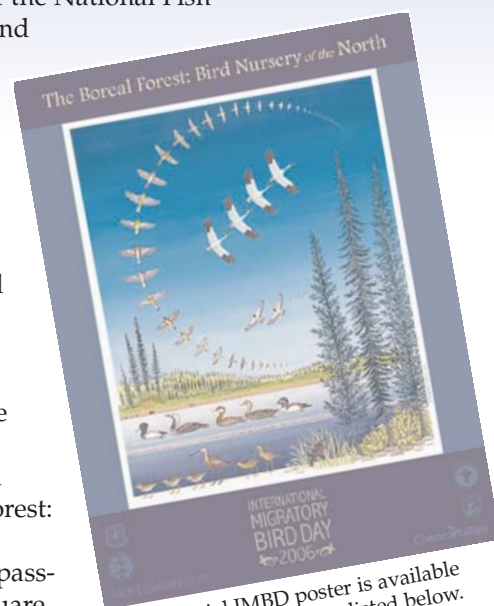
International Migratory Bird Day was created in 1993 by visionaries at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Now under the direction of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, IMBD continues to focus attention on one of the most important and spectacular events in the life of a migratory bird—its journey between its summer and winter homes.

Each year, IMBD coordinators and sponsors work to select a theme that meets diverse criteria to reach the varied audiences that celebrate IMBD. The theme must be current, conservation-based, positive, tangible, engaging and educational. Once chosen, it becomes the focus of education materials and the art that is featured on the annual t-shirt and poster. The 2006 theme is "The Boreal Forest: Bird Nursery of the Americas."

North America's boreal forest encompasses about 1.5 billion acres (5.9 million square kilometers) and stretches from Alaska to Newfoundland. The region includes one of the world's largest intact forests dotted with lakes, rivers and wetlands. More extensive than the Brazilian Amazon, the Boreal offers refuge to grizzly bear, caribou, wolverine, gray wolf and a variety of other resident wildlife.

There are many ways to honor the spirit of IMBD. Locally you can take part in a bird count coordinated by Ron Hoff. Just find a spot and count birds all or part of the day. (See page 2).

For more information go to: www.birdday.org



The official IMBD poster is available online at the website listed below.
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