

biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

Ana Raymundo from Merida Yucatán, Mexico, to be Speaker at May Meeting

The title of Ana Raymundo's presentation will be **Monitoring the Effect of Coastal Development on Avian Migration Stopover Habitat in Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, Quintana Roo, Mexico.**

Ana attended the Universidad Autonoma de Yucatan, where she earned her B.S in Biology. Prior to coming to UT, Ana worked as a field technician in projects assessing biodiversity in biosphere reserves in the Yucatan State and here in Tennessee she has worked with Golden-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo and Black-throated Blue Warbler. She is studying under Dr. David Buehler and her M.S research is investigating and monitoring the effect of coastal development on avian migration stopover habitat in Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, Quintana Roo, Mexico.

The Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve is one of the most important IBA's in the Peninsula; however, the reserve is under a constant pressure for tourist development. As a consequence, the habitat could be fragmented with serious consequences in the ecosystem and especially for bird populations that use the zone during migration.

Therefore, the effects of development on bird populations have not been well documented. This information is necessary as a basis for developing a strategy for sustainable development practices for the Mexican government that will incorporate habitat conservation.

This program will be presented on Wednesday, May 6, at 7 p.m. in Room 117 of the UT Veterinary Building.

DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP YOUR PARKING PASS!

KTOS FIELD TRIPS FOR MAY 2009

Saturday, May 23, 6:00 p.m.

Field trip to Chota Waterfowl Refuge, Monroe County for Chuck-will's-widow, Whip-poor-will, owls...

Leader: David Trently (Home 865-531-1473, Work 865-974-8528 or 8664, NatureTours@avianpursuits.com)

(Please contact field trip leader before the trip. Changes in time and meeting place may be made after conferring with potential participants.)

Meet at the Stokely Building, 320 North Cedar Bluff, in west Knoxville before 6 p.m. for carpooling the approximately one hour drive to Chota. We'll spend the last of daylight looking for birds around the Refuge (Bald Eagle, N Bobwhite, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Yellow Warbler, Orchard Oriole). Before dusk (sunset is at 8:40), we will be in place to see the Chuck-will's-widows that hunt at the end of the road. We may hear Whip-poor-wills across the river, Eastern Screech-Owls along the road and maybe an American Woodcock or other owls.

Expect to return to Knoxville after 10:30.

Saturday, May 30, 2009, 8 a.m.

Cerulean Warbler Research Areas - Campbell County, TN Caryville

Leader: Wayne H. Schacher

Following his KTOS presentation last month, Than Boves has agreed to meet and guide another KTOS field trip to his Cerulean

Warbler field research areas in Royal Blue WMA in Campbell County. Last year we saw several active Cerulean nests, additional warbler species and Than discussed the different forest treatments that his research is evaluating as Cerulean habitats. We're scheduled to meet Than at 8 a.m. at the Shoney's/BP at the Caryville Exit off of I-75 North. We'll carpool from there to ascend Caryville Mountain to the research areas. Anyone that can bring a 4-wheel drive vehicle will be most appreciated.

Directions: I-75 North to Exit 134/Caryville/Lafollette; turn left off the exit ramp, travel back over I-75, circle right past the interstate southbound entry ramp and Shoney's/BP is immediately on your left.

Saturday, May 2, 7 – 10:30 a.m.

ORNL Bird Walk

These approximate two-mile walks will cover level dirt roads. Jim Evans, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency on-site manager, will conduct the walks, which are each limited to 25 participants. The group will meet at 7 a.m. at Oak Ridge Associated Universities' Scarboro Operations site, located at the intersection of Bethel Valley and Scarboro roads. Participants should wear layers of clothing, sturdy shoes; bring a container of water and bug spray. Children are allowed, although the invasive plants program has a child age limit of no younger than 10. Pets are not permitted. Reservations are necessary and may be made in advance by noon the preceding Thursday by contacting Lana McDonald at 865-574-7323 (mcdonaldlk@ornl.gov)

"Birds fly over the rainbow, Why then - oh, why can't I? If happy little bluebirds fly beyond the rainbow why, oh why, can't I"

- Lyman Frank Baum quote

2009 SLATE OF OFFICERS

The following were nominated for local and state officers for 2009. President: - Mark Armstrong; Vice President - Billie Cantwell; Secretary - Kathy Bivens; Treasurer - Marie Oakes; and State Directors - Jean Alexander and Chris Welsh.

The new slate of officer candidates will be voted on at the May meeting.

Respectfully, David Johnson, Chairman



Presidential Perch

By Mark Campen

The Perch will return next month.

Seven Islands Banding Update

Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge continues to be an interesting place to bird and band. Since MAPS ended in early August 2008 we have conducted 16 banding sessions through the end of April 2009. Each banding session usually lasts 3-4 hours. Our approach to banding was a bit different this season and we have changed locations much more often just to see what areas birds are utilizing. We have banded at the MAPS site then moved to the pond and wetland area in September through October. We then we moved back to the MAPS site for 3 sessions in early November. Starting in January we moved to the end of the road to what we are calling the peninsula site and in March we moved back to the pond site. Our biggest day through the whole period was on January 11 when we banded 66 birds plus 4 recaptures.

Throughout this entire period we have banded 468 birds with 72 recaptures of previously banded birds and a total of 36 species. The top ten bird species that we have banded are Swamp Sparrow 80, Song Sparrow 78, Indigo Bunting 58, American Goldfinch 54, Field Sparrow 47, Common Yellowthroat 25, Northern Mockingbird 17, Northern Cardinal 11, White-throated Sparrow 10 and White-crowned Sparrow 9. The other species that we have banded are Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Downy Woodpecker, Traill's Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Tennessee Warbler, Palm Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush, Yellow-breasted Chat, Eastern Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Blue Grosbeak and Red-winged Blackbird.

I want to thank all the many volunteers that rose early and got out into the cold to help with this banding project. Because of their energy and interest we have been able to expand from MAPS into a year round banding effort. It would not have been possible without their dedication. I would also like to thank Knoxville TOS for their financial support of the project that started as MAPS and found it self growing. ~ Mark

KTOS FINANCIAL REPORT CALENDAR YEAR 2009

	March	March	YTD
Income:			
Dues	\$ 56.00	\$ 424.00	\$1,445.00
Shade Grown Coffee	\$ 0.00	198.00	398.50
Interest	22.47	19.38	85.89
Silent Auction	0.00	0.00	0.00
Owen Memorial		20.00	20.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	\$ 78.48	\$ 661.38	\$1,949.39
Expenses:			
Newsletter	\$ 73.20	\$ 73.20	\$ 221.10
Supplies	0.00	44.74	44.74
Shade Grown Coffee	107.17	142.46	338.61
Member Dues to TOS	18.00	793.00	2,212.00
Misc.(NSF Returned)	0.00	0.00	-10.00
Total Expenses	\$ 198.37	\$1,053.40	\$2,806.45
Other:			
J. B. Owen Award	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Total other	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

Account Balances:

KTOS Checking & Savings	\$ 2,898.60	\$ 3,039.94
J. B. Owen Memorial	\$ 7,334.78	\$ 7,313.34

Memberships	114	113
Paid 2009 Memberships	114	113

New Members

Bruce Watson & Carol Iddins

Saturday, May 9th, 2009 - North American Migration Count

Have a fun day counting birds for the International Migratory Bird Day. Remember that for this count, every county is a count area. Typically in the Knoxville area, Knox County gets poor coverage as our normal counters are off to their own county. So if you want to help out in Knox County it will be much appreciated. Keep the normal count statistics like always. These include miles and hours by vehicle, foot, and any owling. Other stats requested are the number of birding parties, weather temps and conditions, start and end times for your count, names of all participants, etc. Feeder watchers are accepted and encouraged. Just keep these hours separate from normal birding hours.

Send your results to your county compiler or to me at aves7000@bellsouth.net or by regular mail at 282 Hackworth Lane, Clinton, TN 37716. If you have any questions about your data, send them to me by email, mail, or call at 865-435-4547. Above all, enjoy yourself and please be safe. Your help is always appreciated. ~ Ron Hoff

J.B. OWEN MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT
ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2008-2009

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 2008-2009.

Award History - 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 for support of graduate research on the reproductive success and natal dispersal of American Kestrels.
- 2004: Samuel Dement, David Vogt, and Keith Hobson 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*.
- 2007: Keith Watson for support of the project on *Breeding Bird Survey of Soak Ash and Cattail Wetland Habitats in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee*.

New Projects Funded

Than Boves of the University of Tennessee Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries received a 2008 Owen Award of \$500 for support of his project on *Relationships between Cerulean Warblers, Timber Harvest, and Ornamentation*. Mark Armstrong of the Knoxville Bird Club received a 2008 Owen Award of \$418 for support of *The MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity Station) at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge*.

Project Progress

2004 Owen Award winner Samuel Dement reports the following progress on *Stable-isotope feather analysis and foreign band encounter comparisons of wintering American Kestrels in similar habitats west and east of the Southern Appalachians*: "Looks like our manuscript will be accepted to *Journal of Raptor Research* (special edition on Am kestrel). Realistically I think I can prepare a presentation for fall 2009 but would prefer to coordinate with the TOS. I will let you know when we receive the final galley proofs/publication date and then I can proceed with arrangements."

2007 Owen Award winner Keith Watson reports the following progress for the project on *Breeding Bird Survey of Soak Ash and Cattail Wetland Habitats in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee*: "The field work is completed for the project and I am in the process of writing the report ... Conducting the project was certainly a rewarding field experience in the Smokies and hopefully the results of the study will be helpful to the Great Smoky Mountains. Thanks again for being such strong supporters of the park and ornithological field work there."

At the April 2009 meeting of KTOS, 2008 Owen Award winner Than Boves presented "Cerulean Colors: A study of the relationships among plumage, quality, and habitat."

Financial Summary

As anticipated in last year's annual report, interest earnings fell (by \$74.55) compared to last year. With renewal of certificates of deposit at even lower interest rates, interest earnings in 2009-2010 will be lower. Therefore, donations and other contributions will be increasingly important to the financial health of the Endowment. Nonetheless, the performance and safety of the Endowment's certificates of deposits compare favorably with other investments. Aside from declining interest rates, the principal amount in the Endowment has not been affected by downturns in the economy. [In the past year, the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) has fallen 36 percent. Since the creation of the Endowment in late 2001, the DJIA has fallen 22 percent.]

Over the short history of the Owen Awards, a cumulative total of \$3,833.00 has been awarded to promote the welfare and conservation of birds in Tennessee. The Year-end Fund Balance has grown from \$4,388.47 in 2002 to \$7,334.78 in 2009.

J.B. Owen Memorial Endowment

Financial Summary

Fund Balance (April 30, 2008)	\$7,382.14
KTOS Donation	418.00
Other Contributions	187.00
Interest	265.64
Distributions	<u>(918.00)</u>
Fund Balance (April 30, 2009)	\$7,334.78
Operating Expenses (paid from the treasury of KTOS as part of KTOS general business	3.10

Other Accomplishments

The J.B. Owen Endowment Committee maintained a Memory Book to archive records of Endowment-related activities.

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

UPCOMING FUND RAISER

On Saturday evening, July 11, we are planning a Silent Auction to be held at Ijams Nature Center. Bob Sargent will be our guest speaker. Bob and his wife, Martha, are founders and directors of The Hummer/Bird Study Group, Inc., a 2000 plus member non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of hummingbirds and other Neo-tropical migrant birds. They have been involved in organized birding for 26 years and have been bird banders for over 20 years. The Sargents are authors of the highly successful book *Ruby-throated Hummingbird* published by Stackpole Books.

This is going to be a fun evening with a hummingbird banding demonstration, a Silent Auction, and Bob's entertaining and enlightening presentation on hummingbirds. You won't want to miss this event.

We will need items for the Silent Auction. Do you have books, photographs or prints that you would be willing to donate? Do you know of a business that might provide an item for the auction? Auction items can be brought to the June meeting.

Additional information will be provided in the June newsletter, but mark your calendars now for July 11.

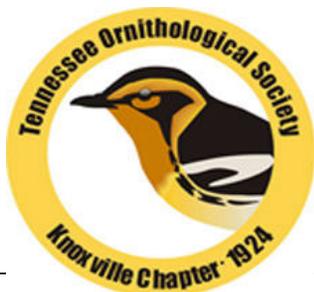
Contact any officer for further information.

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 June issue is Saturday, May 23.

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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FIRST ANNUAL SEVEN ISLANDS BIOBLITZ

The results of the Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge BioBlitz are being posted on the following website: <http://avianpursuits.com/tmp/BioBlitz.html>.

Full results may not be included yet, as data is continuing to come in from the many Blitzers who participated. Some highlights include first Knox County records for 3 butterflies and 1 dragonfly, plus Butternut trees, Bald Eagle, Barn Owl, Prothonotary Warbler and a Kingsnake.



Wayne Schacher speaking to the group before the start of the Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge BioBlitz, April 17, 2009.

Photo by David Trently

THANK YOU!

On behalf of the Seven Islands Foundation, we would like to express great appreciation to all the members of the Knoxville Chapter, TOS who participated in the inaugural Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge BioBlitz and helped make it such a productive field session, an enjoyable event, and a wonderful success. We look forward to similar events in the future.

Wayne H. Schacher and David Trently

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