



## Discover Birds Program: Sevierville Primary School

On April 12, 2013, the KTOS Discover Birds Program delivered Discover Birds Activity Books to thirteen classes of second graders at Sevierville Primary School. Along with free books sponsored by KTOS club members and a welcome packet for each teacher, the volunteers guided 215 second graders through the Discover Birds Program.

Billie Cantwell coordinated the program with second grade teacher, Sarah Green, the 2012 Tennessee Environmental Education Association's "Teacher of the Year" for the eastern region.

Students rotated through a three-part experience that included a slide presentation, hands-on bird treasure program, and a bird walk. Billie Cantwell's slide presentation gave student's an idea of the variety of colors, sizes, shapes, feet, and beaks that birds can have, as well as, a variety of nests and eggs. Paula Schneeberger showed her collection of bird related items for an up-close viewing and including bird talons, owl pellets, and nests. Chris Welsh, Oliver Lang, Doug Schneeberger, and Tony King provided viewing scopes and guided small groups of students on bird walks around the school grounds.

The children received bird ID pages to help with bird recognition, learned to spot birds and view them through a scope, identified bird songs by finding the bird and listening, and even spotted an American Robin's nest with an incubating female to view through the scope. The school yard bordered a creek and had many nest boxes erected in open areas. Tree Swallows, Eastern Bluebirds, Mourning Doves, House Finches, American Robins and Brown-headed Cowbirds were among the many birds readily viewed and discussed.

To top off our fun interactions with students and teachers, Ms. Green gave us exciting feedback about the Discover Birds Program and activity books.

"THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!! Our students and teachers can talk about nothing else! What an inspiration you all were to us to be more aware and careful about our bird population. You have left a lasting impression on our students as well as our teachers. We all learned so much and will continue to learn from the beautiful materials that you so graciously left with us. Vickie, I did not realize until after you left that your book was so incredible! What amazing illustrations! Some of our students that may not be the star students in math and reading have found an outlet for their artistic talent and now want to make their own books! Thank you so much. Everyone that you brought with you educated us and shared with all of us their passion for birds and wildlife. We will never be the same. Please come visit us again to remind us how very important your work is. Thank you for inspiring another generation of environmentalists!" Sarah Green

To become a Discover Birds volunteer, sponsor a classroom, or learn about bringing this program to a school in your community contact Billie Cantwell at [bfcantwell@gmail.com](mailto:bfcantwell@gmail.com) or (865) 567-4273.



Students at Sevierville Primary School

Common Yellowthroat.  
Source: Wikimedia Commons



## Presidential Perch

It has been an exciting April for KTOS (although as I write this it is only mid-April). Thanks to Wayne Waters—we made the Knoxville News Sentinel on April 7, 2013 and, as a result, I have received calls and e-mails from people interested in learning more about the KTOS! Hopefully we will have more new members soon.

On April 12, 2013 KTOS members traveled to Sevierville Primary school to present "Discover Birds" to 13 classes of second graders. Thank you to members who sponsored the books for all the kids and a big thank you to those who also donated their time - Doug and Paula Schneeberger, Chris Welsh, Oliver Lang, Tony King, Denise Newman, and Vickie Henderson. It was awesome to walk around and see the excitement on the children's' faces when they saw a bird, had a story to tell about a birding experience, or when they could identify the bird they were seeing! They were little sponges listening to every word. We all left with a smile and a warm glow in our hearts.

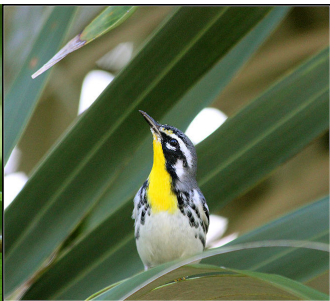
The weather is finally warming (actually hot) and the spring migrants are arriving. Everyone at my house (Colin's parents and Colin) have seen a hummingbird but not me! I did wake to my favorite bird song on April 11—the wood thrush! The prettiest sound on earth. Our screech owls are playing musical boxes and bluebirds, titmice, wrens and chickadees all have eggs.

Our next big event after the spring meeting (which will be over by the time you read this) is the Hummingbird Festival which promises to be a wonderful day of many activities, such as hummingbird banding, speakers, live bird shows, gardening plants, food, arts, and crafts. Please keep the data of the festival open, August 24, 2013!

Our dear friend Nancy Tanner has moved to Homewood Residence at Deane Hill assisted living (401 Catherine McAuley Way, Knoxville, TN 37919 ). Please send her a card or if you're in the area, pay her a visit. I am sure she would appreciate it.

Now is the time to get out and go BIRDING!

*Billie Cantwell*



Scarlet Tanager and Yellow-throated Warbler, common spring migrants.  
Source: Wikimedia Commons

# Get Out and Get Birding! May Fieldtrips

**Last Weekday Bird Walk along Sharp's Ridge  
Thursday: May 2 @ 8:00 a.m.  
Leader: Tony Headrick, (865) 621-9836**

Meet at the ranger's house at 8:00 a.m. For site information and directions, visit:  
<http://www.cityofknoxville.org/parks/sharpsridge.asp>.

This will be the last of the weekday Sharp's Ridge Memorial Park bird walk for this spring. Spring migrants will be the focus, with orioles, grosbeaks, warblers, and others expected. If you are new to birding or to KTOS field trips, this is a great way to get started. It's also a great way to brush up on your spring warbler songs and IDs if you're more experienced.

**Frozen Head State Park  
Sunday May 5 @ 7:30 a.m.  
Leader: Chuck & Lola Estes, (865) 207-0143 or  
(865) 482-7374, [chucklola@bellsouth.net](mailto:chucklola@bellsouth.net)**

Meet at the Visitor Center at 7:30 am. We will be taking a 3-4 mile moderate hike to the upper elevations with a goal of seeing breeding Cerulean Warblers along with many others on the way including Redstarts, Yellow-throated, Black-throated Green, and Hooded Warblers.

**Schoolhouse Gap Trail, Great Smoky Mountains  
National Park  
Saturday, May 11, 2013  
Leader: Tom Howe 748-9610, [thowe@lillyco.com](mailto:thowe@lillyco.com)**

Meet at Kroger on Alcoa Hwy in Alcoa at 7:30 a.m. We will hike the Schoolhouse Gap Trail looking for Swainson's Warbler. Two miles of easy to moderate hiking. Bring snacks and water. Other potential birds will include Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Hooded, and Worm-eating Warblers, Acadian Flycatcher and much more. Should be done around 1:00 p.m.

**Brian Hann's Farm/Bike Trails  
Thursday, May 16 @ 9:00 a.m.  
Leader: Tony King, (865) 988-6172**

Meet at Ijam's Nature Center parking lot at 9:00 a.m. and drive to Karen Fletcher's home. For directions to Ijams, see <http://ijams.org/find-ijams/directions/>.

This is the site we first explored October, 2012. The area consists of several farms that connect forming 300 acres including Karen's. The land contains cedar thickets, old growth trees, meadows, creeks, springs, caves, and sinkholes with lots of undergrowth. Come out and see what breeds and migrates through this area.

# **J.B. OWEN MEMORIAL FUND**

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2012—2013**

The purpose of the J.B. Owen Memorial Fund 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 Fund provides money for projects that promote the welfare and conservation of birds in Tennessee. This annual report summarizes projects funded, contributions of members of the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society (KTOS), operating expenses, and other pertinent information as to the status of the Fund and its administration during 2012-2013.

### **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.
- 2008: Than Boves for support of the project on *Relationships between Cerulean Warblers, Timber Harvest, and Ornamentation*. Mark Armstrong for support of *The MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity Station) at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge*.
- 2009: Than Boves for support of the project on *Relationships between Cerulean Warblers, Timber Harvest, and Ornamentation*. Jessica Owens for support of her project on *"Chick-a-dee" calling behavior of tufted titmice (Baeolophus bicolor): A test of the effects of habitat structure and body condition*.
- 2010: Foothills Land Conservancy of Maryville, Tennessee, for support of the Conservancy's important mission to protect and preserve the natural landscape of East Tennessee which has significant benefits for the conservation of birds in Tennessee.
- 2011: Than Boves for stable isotope analysis on feathers collected over the past three years from Cerulean Warblers during his research on this species in the Appalachian Mountains. Evan Searfoss to complete the construction of an observation tower at Kyker Bottoms Refuge in Blount County.

### **New Projects Funded**

Tiffany Beachy, Citizen Science Coordinator at the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, received the 2012 J.B. Owen Memorial Fund Award of \$500.00 in support of her project *Investigating Potential Impacts of Hemlock Decline on Stream-Side Birds in the Walker Valley*. The project focuses on two species that breed along streams in the Walker Valley: Acadian Flycatchers and Louisiana Waterthrushes.

### **Project Progress**

2012 Owen Award winner Tiffany Beachy reports: "With the funds from the J.B. Owen award and an additional grant from the Great Smoky Mountains Conservation Association, I was able to hire Lee Bryant, a recent graduate of Rhodes College in Memphis and a native of Powell, Tenn., to work as our Louisiana Waterthrush Field Biologist and Educator. She started on March 18 and has hit the ground running! We heard and saw our first Louisiana Waterthrushes of the year on the 18th - their arrival was perfectly timed for Lee's first day! We found an old nest from last year, which helps us to narrow our search efforts for this year. Soon the waterthrush will begin to establish territories, and we'll be there to re-sight color-banded individuals from last year, perform foraging and fecal splay surveys, and target band individuals. We have several educational programs planned, where we will teach

# **J.B. OWEN MEMORIAL FUND**

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2012—2013**

### **May 1, 2013 (continued)**

#### **Project Progress (continued)**

participants about Louisiana Waterthrushes and their relationship to the stream ecosystem through hands-on citizen science activities.”

2008, 2009 and 2011 Owen Award winner Than Boves is in the process of analyzing preliminary results on the Cerulean Warbler tail feathers that he has received back from the stable isotope lab at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center in Washington, D.C.

#### **Committee Membership**

Four long-time Committee members resigned during the year: Marie Oakes, Jerry Hadder, Robert Steffy and Diane Steffy and three new members joined the Committee: June Welch, Lola Estes and Chuck Estes.

#### **Financial Summary**

Interest earnings again fell (from \$94.03 last year to \$81.05). The Fund's CDs are currently earning less than 1 per cent. KTOS contributed \$700.00 to the Fund in 2012, members donated \$130.00 and the Fund's balance grew to \$9,148.55.

<b>J.B. Owen Memorial Fund Financial Summary</b>	
Fund Balance (April 30, 2012)	\$8,737.50
Donations	\$830.00
Interest	\$81.05
Distributions	(\$500.00)
Fund Balance (April 30, 2013)	\$9,148.55

#### **Other Accomplishments**

The J.B. Owen Memorial Fund Committee maintained a Memory Book to archive records of Fund-related activities. Submitted by J.B. Owen Memorial Fund Committee, Carole Gobert, Chairperson; Jean Alexander; Chuck Estes; Lola Estes; David Johnson; June Welch.

## **Upcoming Vote**

It is anticipated that a motion will be made and passed for KTOS to spend up to \$2200 to purchase t-shirts and hats for future KTOS Hummingbird Festivals. Because of the amount of the expenditure, a second vote will be needed and will be taken at the June meeting. Additional details will be provided at the May and June KTOS meetings.

## **J.B. Owen Committee**

Since the establishment of the J.B. Owen Award in 2002, Jerry Hadder, Marie Oakes, Bob and Diane Steffy have faithfully served on the J.B. Owen Committee. They have tendered their resignations. We would like to thank them for their dedication and years of service. June Welch and Lola and Chuck Estes have been nominated and elected by the Officers of KTOS to the J.B. Owen Committee.

## Report Peregrine Falcon Sightings during Breeding Season

The Peregrine Falcon is widely celebrated for its incredible high speed stoops while hunting prey in flight. Today the species is also highly known for its recovery after populations in North America plummeted with the widespread use of DDT from 1945 through the sixties. The species had completely disappeared from the eastern United States by the early 1940's. Following the banning of DDT, intense reintroduction efforts helped restore the species population, and the Peregrine Falcon is now considered to have recovered with an estimated 2000-3000 breeding pairs in the USA, Canada, and Mexico in 2012.

In 1997, Tennessee received the first reports of peregrine re-nesting in the state, after an absence of fifty years. An active peregrine eyrie was discovered in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and another active nest sight was reported on the historic railroad bridge near Chattanooga. Since that time only one additional active eyrie has been confirmed. Of these three sites, only one is still active.

In the early twentieth century, prior to the species' disappearance, Tennessee had 25 confirmed peregrine eyries. In 2012, fifteen years after the first re-nesting occurred, there was only one confirmed active peregrine eyrie in Tennessee. Bordering states give the following reports of active eyries: Virginia, 23 in 2010; North Carolina, 10 in 2010; Kentucky, 12 in 2012.

Peregrine breeding activity in Tennessee begins in early April and lasts through August. TOS members who are back country hikers are encouraged to watch for and report peregrine activity in remote areas. Please e-mail or call your reports to: Paul Super, biologist for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park [[paul\\_super@nps.gov](mailto:paul_super@nps.gov); (828) 926-6251] and Scott Somershoe, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) ornithologist [[Scott.Somershoe@tn.gov](mailto:Scott.Somershoe@tn.gov); (616) 781-6653]. You also may contact me with questions and please copy me on your sightings correspondence [[vickielee13@gmail.com](mailto:vickielee13@gmail.com); (865) 661-1925].

Watch for my article on "The Peregrine Falcon in Tennessee" in the July/August issue of the Tennessee Conservationist Magazine published by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation ([http://www.tn.gov/environment/tn\\_consrv/](http://www.tn.gov/environment/tn_consrv/)). The article summarizes the history of the peregrine in Tennessee and includes historic photographs.

*Vickie Henderson*



Peregrine Falcon. Source: Wikimedia Commons

## North American Migration Count

Each May, birders take part in the spring North American Migration Count (NAMC) to count birds in the field and create a snapshot of migration across the continent. This day coincides with International Migratory Bird Day on Saturday, May 11, 2013. You can participate by taking part in counts organized in Anderson, Blount, and Loudon counties or by counting in your own county if you live elsewhere.

For contact info of each county compiler, see below. The county compilers can also answer questions about the count, give you a designated area to cover, or get you connected to a group that's already going out.

### **Anderson County & all non-organized counties:**

Ron Hoff  
282 Hackworth Lane, Clinton, TN 37716  
(865) 435-4547  
[rondolly@esper.com](mailto:rondolly@esper.com)

### **Blount County:**

Jean Alexander and David Johnson  
(865) 977-0052  
[jjadmj@yahoo.com](mailto:jjadmj@yahoo.com)

### **Loudon County:**

Tony King  
(865) 988-6172  
[tonytheking1027@aol.com](mailto:tonytheking1027@aol.com)

You will need to submit the following data to the compiler after the count: checklist with the tally for each species identified; miles covered and hours spent counting (including stop and; start times) by car, by foot, owling, and by other means (boat, etc.); hours spent watching feeders (if any); weather data and temperatures; number of birding parties; number of participants, their names, and their contact info; location(s) where you counted; documentation of any rare species, including written details; and photos (if possible), and anything else about the count; that is significant like extraordinary weather, etc.

**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, or TOS life membership for \$450 with \$8 annual fee to Chapter.



[www.tnbirds.org/KTOS.html](http://www.tnbirds.org/KTOS.html)

**2012 — 2013  
Chapter Officers**

*President*

Billie Cantwell  
(865) 212-9797 or 567-4273  
[bfcantwell@gmail.com](mailto:bfcantwell@gmail.com)

*Vice President*

Patty Ford  
(865) 719-8383  
[pattyford@pfordonline.com](mailto:pattyford@pfordonline.com)

*Treasurer*

Carole Gobert  
(865) 254-8841  
[cpgobert@hotmail.com](mailto:cpgobert@hotmail.com)

*Secretary*

Melinda Fawver  
(865) 310-1979  
[mindyfawver@gmail.com](mailto:mindyfawver@gmail.com)

*Newsletter Editor*

Michael Plaster  
(865) 694-4814  
[KTOS.Editor@gmail.com](mailto:KTOS.Editor@gmail.com)

*Newsletter Editor – Distribution*

Robin Barrow  
(865) 297-2572  
[braveladyrobin@gmail.com](mailto:braveladyrobin@gmail.com)

*Field Trip Coordinator*

Tom Howe  
(865) 983-8198  
[blountbirder@yahoo.com](mailto:blountbirder@yahoo.com)

*State Directors, 2012 – 2014*

Jean Alexander  
Harold Howell  
David Johnson

*State Directors, 2011 – 2013*

Mark Armstrong  
Chris Welsh

*through the biKNOXulars*  
5425 Yosemite Trail  
Knoxville, TN 37909

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID, KNOXVILLE, TN 37901  
*through the biKNOXulars* (USPS 697-010) .  
Published monthly, except January, July, and August  
by the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, 5425 Yosemite Trail, Knoxville, TN 37909  
Subscription price: \$8.00.

## **Officer Elections**

The nominating committee puts forth the following names for officers of KTOS for the 2013 – 2014 calendar year: President - Billie Cantwell; Vice-President - Patty Ford; Treasurer - Carole Gobert; Secretary - Karen Wilkinson; and State Directors for 2013-2015: Chris Welsh and Michael Plaster. Elections will be held at the meeting on Wednesday, May 1, 2013.

## **May Program: Tennessee Bobwhites**

Join us on Wednesday, May 1, 2013 at 6:45 p.m. for a presentation by Roger Applegate, a Wildlife Population Biologist with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency about the decline in Northern Bobwhite populations in Tennessee, the likely reasons for the decline, and what TWRA has up its sleeve to stop this decline. Please join us for what is sure to be a very interesting discussion about one of our favorite birds! This meeting will be held in Room 118 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. For directions, please visit the meetings page on KTOS' website at [www.tnbirds.org/chapters/knoxvill/KTOS\\_Meetings.html](http://www.tnbirds.org/chapters/knoxvill/KTOS_Meetings.html).