



KNOXVILLE CHAPTER OF THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A Good DUCKumentary

Now showing on Netflix and pbs.org is *Ducks: An Original DUCKumentary*. This 53-minute episode of PBS's "Nature" series won the 2013 Emmy for Outstanding Nature Programming, and it well deserved it. You'll get a kick out of identifying ducks from around the world, and you're sure to appreciate the footage of fledgling Wood Ducks leaping from their 70-foot high nest. Mating behaviors, migration, and molting are all covered. The show is organized around the life cycle of the Wood Duck; predation is mentioned, but thankfully not shown. At least 14 other species of dabblers and divers are also included.

Help Needed for Discover Birds

We will present our Discover Birds program to First Lutheran School on **April 29, 2014 @ 1:30 p.m.** We will need 2-3 people to help with the outside bird watching part of the program.

Please contact Billie Cantwell if you can help, BFCANTWELL@gmail.com.

Officer Elections

The nominating committee puts forth the following names for officers of KTOS for the 2014 – 2015 calendar year: President - John O'Barr; Vice-President - Open; Treasurer - Carole Gobert; Secretary - Karen Wilkinson; and State Directors for 2014 – 2016: Jean Alexander, Harold Howell, and David Johnson. Elections will be held at the meeting on **May 7, 2014 @ 6:45 p.m.**

May Program: What's new at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge?

Come join us for the latest news on **May 7, 2014 @ 6:45 p.m.** Brock Hill, Deputy Commissioner of Parks and Conservation with the Tenn. Department of Environment & Conservation, will present plans for the new Seven Islands State Birding Park, along with filling us in about other Birding Trails in Tennessee. A native of Crossville and a retired mayor of Cumberland County, Deputy Commissioner Hill currently oversees 54 State Parks, 85 State Natural Areas, Recreation Education Services, and the Division of Archaeology.

The 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.

Get Out and Get Birding! May Field Trips

**Last Weekday Bird Walk along Sharp's Ridge
Thursday, May 1 @ 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Tony Headrick, (865) 621-9836 and/or
Tony King (865) 988-6172**

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

This weekday bird walk will be held along the road in Sharp's Ridge Memorial Park. 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 is also a great way to brush up on your spring warbler songs if you are more experienced.

— Continued on Page 2 —



Presidential Perch

As my term as President is coming to an end, I would like to share some of my thoughts and memories with you. First let me say thank you for allowing me this opportunity. I have benefited much from the club. I have had the opportunity to meet and get to know some amazing people who have been so gracious in sharing information, time, knowledge and friendship! You are what makes this club a great organization. I want to see the club continue to grow and become more active and, in my opinion, the only way this can happen is if we continue to get new members and get more people involved in projects. So I am asking, even if you feel you aren't the best birder (I kept that secret for quite a while), there is so much you can offer or do. It's great when you are involved in a project like Discover Birds and see the wonder and excitement on little kids' faces. It makes your heart swell with pride and joy! So don't deny yourself that pleasure.

Believe me when I say that when I started as Vice-President I had no idea what I was doing. But I learned quickly because there was always members there to help and guide me. Jean Alexander and David Johnson have been such a guiding light. Patty Ford and Vickie Henderson jumped right in and have been a great resource always giving me support and advice. Paula Schneeberger came in as a new member and has done a wonderful job for the Discover Birds. Tom Howe gave us his expertise when we needed his help. And, when things needed to be done, you were always there. We should be proud of ourselves for creating a successful hummingbird festival! Discover Birds is KTOS! We really rock that project! I am sure in the future a KTOS member will say "I remember when KTOS came to my school and presented the Discover Birds program!"

So don't be afraid to get outside of your comfort zone. Come out and play with KTOS, meet a great group of people, have a great time and create some memories that will last a life time!

Billie Cantwell

Welcome New Members

Please welcome the following new members: Kathleen Arendt, Susan & Gary Baumgardner, Bruce Carroll, Trey & Christy Coleman, Justine Cucchiara, Phyllis & John Eldridge, Timothy McGrath & Carmen Esparza, Jeff & Peggy Harmann, Kirk Huffstater, Paul James, Sue Anne Jenkerson, Patrick Rakes & Nanci Jackson, Bill Keeler, Tony & Mary Lester, John & Teresa O'Barr, Lisa Perkey, John & Nancy Ray, Carolyn & Phil Snow, Bill Wiffen, and Quinton Wright & family.

Get Out and Get Birding! May Field Trips (cont.)

Brian Hann's Farm/Bike Trails
Thursday, May 15 @ 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/>.

Cove Lake and Cross Mountain, Caryville, Tenn.
Saturday, May 17, 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Tom Howe (865) 748-9610,
thowe@lillyco.com

Target Birds will include resident Warblers (Swainsons, Kentucky, Prothonotary, Cerulean, Golden-winged, Blue-winged, and Chestnut-sided) as well as Orioles, Tanagers, Flycatchers and spring migrants. Details of this part of the day will be decided by those participating. Be sure to bring water and a snack. Meet at the restrooms near the playground at Cove Lake State Park. After a couple of hours we will head up to Cross Mountain.

Cades Cove Loop Road Bicycle Trip
Saturday, May 24, 7:30 a.m.
Leader: Tom Howe (865) 748-9610,
thowe@lillyco.com

Come explore Cades Cove by bicycle. The cove road is closed to cars until 10:00 a.m. during which we should have time to reach potential Henslow's Sparrow habitat as you approach Cooper Road. This 11 mile loop will involve some strenuous biking. We should bring at least one scope which I can carry in a backpack. I recommend you bring your lunch.

Cherohala Skyway
Sunday, May 25, 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Mike Nelson, madbirder@surfbirder.com

The group will meet at the Hardee's in Tellico Plains (127 Bank St., Tellico Plains, Tenn.) at 7:45 a.m. The group will head to the Cherohala Skyway that bridges Tennessee and North Carolina. We will begin the drive up by checking the pull-offs along the way for breeding migrants. Once past the 5,000-foot elevation mark, the group will come to Hooper Bald and check for Northern Bobwhite, Least Flycatcher, Gray Catbird, Blue-headed Vireo, and Hairy Woodpecker. At Huckleberry Knob, we will walk the bald looking for breeding Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Hermit Thrush. On the way back down, we will stop in some rhododendron forests to check for Hooded and Black-throated Blue Warbler.

This is an all-day field trip, and the group should arrive back around 5:00 p.m. Bring a packed lunch as we will stop for a picnic-style lunch.

**J.B. OWEN MEMORIAL FUND
ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2013-2014
May 1, 2014**

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 2013-2014.

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.
- 2012: Tiffany Beachy, for support of her project *Investigating Potential Impacts of Hemlock Decline on Stream-Side Birds in the Walker Valley*.

New Projects Funded

The Tennessee Izaak Walton League was awarded \$350 to assist in its efforts in conserving east Tennessee's natural resources with a special focus on maintaining wetlands in such places as Turkey Creek in west Knox County. The Clinch River Raptor Center was awarded \$350 for its work in rehabilitating injured raptors.

Project Progress

2013 Owen Award winner Clinch River Raptor Center used the funds to purchase mice to feed recovering raptors. Katie Cottrell reports that they took in a clutch of three nestling Barn Owls in October that had to stay through the winter. The owls consumed 300 grams of mice daily. Plans are to release them within the week.

2013 Owen Award winner Tennessee Izaak Walton League will be using their award for "continued maintenance, replacement and upkeep of new and existing bird nest boxes, hummingbird feeders and bird/wildlife habitats at Turkey Creek Wetland Natural Area Park." More time and attention will be devoted to this in the next few weeks this spring.

**J.B. OWEN MEMORIAL FUND
ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2013-2014
(cont.)**

2012 Owen Award winner Tiffany Beachy reports: "This year, we have added a component that makes the project much stronger. In order to answer our research question, we decided to branch out and study birds outside of Walker Valley. Most of the hemlock-dominated forest around Tremont has been treated with Imidicloprid pesticide, so we have more healthy trees and might not be able to truly see the impact that hemlock decline is having on our waterthrush. So now we are comparing Louisiana waterthrush territory size and density, nesting success, and foraging behavior between treated and untreated sites. I have two technicians this year, and they are busy finding color-banded males and mapping territories. So far we have re-sighted six of our color-banded birds throughout Walker Valley"

Steve Latta and Bob Mulvihill, two Pennsylvania researchers "will put geolocators on fifteen of our territorial males as part of a larger study they are conducting across the breeding range of the Louisiana Waterthrush. This will enable us to learn more about their individual migration routes, where they spend the winter, timing of migration, etc."

"Because Acadian Flycatchers arrive much later in the breeding season, we are only able to focus on Louisiana Waterthrushes at this time. Our hope is to focus on the waterthrushes for at least five years, and then spend the next several years focusing on Acadian Flycatchers."

2008, 2009, and 2011 Owen Award winner Than Boves reports that "the first set of feathers (of known recaptured birds) [received back from the stable isotope lab at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center in Washington, D.C.] has been analyzed by the mass spectroscopy, and the data seems a little strange. The isotopic signatures do not seem to line up in a logical geographic manner, so there is reason to believe that this technique will not work well for Ceruleans. I am not giving up quite yet; I am having a scientist that specializes in stable isotopes look at it now (has had the data for the past 3 months!) and will see what he says."

Financial Summary

Interest earnings again fell (from \$81.05 last year to \$49.50). The Fund's CDs are currently earning less than 1 percent. KTOS did not make a contribution to the Fund in 2013; members donated \$173.00 and the Fund's balance decreased to \$8,671.05.

J.B. Owen Memorial Fund Financial Summary	
Fund Balance (April 30, 2013)	\$9,148.55
Donations	\$173.00
Interest	\$49.50
Distributions	(\$700.00)
Fund Balance (April 30, 2014)	\$8,671.05

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; and June Welch.

2014 TOS Annual State Meeting Chattanooga, May 2-4, 2014

The TOS Annual Meeting will be held in Chattanooga on May 2-4, 2014. Registration will be Friday, May 2, from 6 to 9 p.m. EDT, at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 3710 Modern Industries Parkway, Chattanooga, TN 37409 (Exit #174 on I-24, near the foot of Lookout Mountain). Registration fees are \$15.00 per person.

A discounted rate of \$89.95 plus tax for a King or Double Queen accommodation will be offered until April 1, 2014, as long as the rooms are available. The hotel provides a free 6 a.m. hot breakfast buffet. We know this is a busy weekend in Chattanooga, so book early. Call the hotel at (423) 424-0125 and ask for the "TOS Chattanooga Chapter" rate.

Saturday evening will feature a two-hour cruise on the Tennessee Aquarium's River Gorge Explorer, a water-jet propelled, hydrofoil-assisted vessel which will transit at high speed to reach a viewing area and then cruise at lower speed for birding and observation. The cruise will be interpreted by John Dever, Lead Interpreter, and Kevin Calhoun, the Tennessee Aquarium's Assistant Curator of Forests. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served during the low-speed observation time. The cost is \$39.00 per person.

The Saturday and Sunday morning field trips will leave from the Holiday Inn Express. We'll go to some of our favorite birding sites: The Chattanooga Nature Center and Arboretum, The Craven's House on Lookout Mountain, Standifer Gap Marsh, and others. The Saturday afternoon business meeting and general meeting will be held at the Country Inns & Suites located across from the Holiday Inn Express.

For more information, email Gary Lanham, CTOS Treasurer, at GLANHAM@epbf.com.

Send registration and cruise payments to CTOS:

2014 TOS Annual Meeting Registration Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

TOS Chapter: _____ Office held? _____

\$ _____ for _____ Registrations at \$15.00 each.

\$ _____ for _____ Cruise reservations at \$39.00 each.

\$ _____ Total enclosed. Make check payable to CTOS.

Mail registration form and check to:

Gary Lanham CTOS
21 Cool Springs Road
Signal Mountain, TN 37377

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

**2013 — 2014
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State Directors, 2012 – 2014

Jean Alexander
Harold Howell
David Johnson

State Directors, 2013 – 2015

Michael Plaster
Chris Welsh

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POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to: *through the biKNOXulars*, 725 Mountain Pass, Knoxville, TN 37923

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 10, 2014. You can participate by taking part in counts organized in 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.

Blount County, Jean Alexander, (865) 977-0052, jjadmi@yahoo.com

Loudon County, Tony King, (865) 988-6172

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.