



Newsletter of the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FALL MEETING NOVEMBER 2-4, 2001

AGENDA

Friday, November 2

Special pre-meeting afternoon cook-out and field trip at Yuchi Wildlife Refuge in Rhea County

11:30 a.m. - Meet at the visitor's overlook parking area on the west side of Watts Bar dam. If you take Hwy 68 from I-75, this parking area will be the first one on your right after you cross the dam. We'll caravan to the refuge from there. **12:00 noon** - Lunch provided at Yuchi by TWRA. **1:00 p.m.** - Short TWRA Program on Yuchi Refuge management, access, etc. **1:45 p.m.** - Birding Field Trip. Participants can leave any time after lunch that they wish. This will provide plenty of time to get to the TOS registration by 6:30 p.m. and potluck supper that will follow.

6:30 p.m. - Registration, Potluck Dinner, and Reception at the Days Inn, Alcoa Hwy. Food provided by KTOS members. Sign up for field trips. Begin bidding on items in the silent auction (see below).

7:30 p.m. Informal slide presentation by members. Bring a few of your favorites and share them.

Saturday, November 3

7:15 a.m. - Field Trips to Townsend and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Kyker Bottoms Wildlife Refuge, and other locations.

2:00 p.m. - Paper Session - A series of presentations on recently completed and ongoing studies of Tennessee birds. The paper session is being coordinated by Dr. David Buehler of the University of Tennessee. Board of Directors Meeting - begins 15 minutes after the paper session.

7:30 p.m. Evening program. Birds of the Dominican Republic, presented by Eladio Fernandez. Completion of silent auction, door prizes, field trip compilation.

Sunday, November 4

7:15 a.m. - Field Trips to Kingston Steam Plant etc

SILENT AUCTION

KTOS will be holding a silent auction of bird-related items. Proceeds from this auction will go to the J.B. Owen Memorial Fund as well as the Foothills Land Conservancy, which is trying to purchase land adjacent to the Foothills Wildlife Management Area in Blount County. Feel free to bring items to donate to this auction (e.g., books, magazines, bird feeders, houses, binoculars). Bidding will begin Friday evening and close Saturday evening.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips will depart Saturday and Sunday mornings at 7:15.

Saturday: Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Leader: Charlie Muise (cmmbirds@yahoo.com). This trip will likely concentrate on areas in Cades Cove. Some of the birds possible include: Red-shouldered Hawk, Wild Turkey, Eastern Phoebe, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Blue-headed Vireo, Pine Warbler, sparrows, Pine Siskin, Red Crossbill. Black Bear is a possibility.

Saturday: Kyker Bottoms and Chota Waterfowl Refuge.

Leader: Chuck Nicholson (cpnichol@bellsouth.net). You will overlook some of the wetlands at Kyker Bottoms where a good number of waterfowl is possible. Sparrows should be plentiful here, including White-crowned. Raptors are often seen over the fields. Loggerhead Shrike and Red-headed Woodpeckers are possible. The Toqua beach boat ramp on Tellico Lake is a potential stop, where Fox Sparrow is often found. Chota Waterfowl Refuge should have a few ducks, plus grebes and loons. Bald Eagle is often seen here, and we'll stop and view an eagle nest enroute to the refuge.

Sunday: Kingston Steam Plant. Leader: Chris Welsh

(cwelsh@utk.edu). This trip was planned partly because it will be on the way home for most Middle and West Tennessee birders. Of course, this can be one of the best birding sites in the Knoxville area. Sometimes hundreds of ducks are seen here, along with a few late shorebirds. Sparrows can be plentiful, including Vesper Sparrow. The marshes may hold a Sora or Rusty Blackbirds. Bald Eagle is possible, as are Snow Geese.

***If there is interest, there may be a trip to the high elevations of the Smokies. Leader: David Trently (dtrently@utk.edu). Traffic may be a problem getting out of the Park after the trip, especially if the weather is nice and there are still lots of colorful leaves on the trees. We will be looking for Ruffed Grouse, Common Raven, Pine Siskin, Red Crossbill, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Black-capped Chickadee, and more.

REGISTRATION

Registration is \$5.00 per person. Please make checks payable to Knoxville TOS and mail them to Bob Steffy, 7619 Charlton Road, Knoxville, TN 37920, (865) 579-3674, robertsteffy@aol.com

November Meeting: Wednesday, Nov 7th 7:30 - Room 117, UT Vet School

Charlie Muise will present slides from his trip to Idaho this past June, on which he helped with Burrowing Owl research. He'll discuss issues including Owl habitat; use of agricultural lands; human and other pressures; and population censusing. He will also explain some of the interesting research being done, involving creating artificial burrows, banding, and behavioral experiments. Though the talk will be on scientific ideas, it is aimed at a wide audience.

Presidential Perch

The first state meeting the Knoxville Chapter has hosted in several years is here. By the time you read this, all the details should be finalized. Your assistance is needed to help make this an excellent weekend, so come on out and join us! Here are some notes of interest for the various activities.

- * If you did not previously state that you would be attending the Friday afternoon Yuchi Wildlife Refuge event, you may still take part. Just show up!!
- * We could always use more food for Friday evening's pot luck. Bring it along when you come to register. Be sure you have a way to get your food containers home - we don't want more clean up to do, or to try to find lost owners.
- * We have a lot of really fine items for the silent auction. If you have anything you'd like to donate, bring it along on Friday or even Saturday. Ideally, you can bring them to the Day's Inn on Thursday night at 7:00, and then stick around to help set up tables, chairs, etc.
- * If you have some slides you'd like to share with birders from across the state, bring them! There will be a projector set up to show the slides during the evening.
- * We still need volunteers to lead and/or help with field trips. PLEASE let me know if you can help on Saturday or Sunday mornings.
- * After a lunch break Saturday, we will return for at least eight presentations about bird-related issues, running from 2:00 to before 5:00. You can sample some shade grown coffee following the session.
- * After a 15 minute break, a Board of Directors Meeting will be held. This is where we decide on business issues of TOS. Anyone may attend and contribute your thoughts on how you'd like to see TOS run.
- * After dinner, we will return for the Saturday evening program about the birds of the Dominican Republic, presented by Eladio Fernandez. Let's try to fill the room with KTOS members for this!

Also at this time, we will sort out your silent auction purchases and compile the day's bird list.

* Sunday will close with more field trips.

I hope to see a good number of Knoxville Chapter members. You don't have to come to every event, but stop in at least for some of the weekend. Maybe you'll get hooked on the activities of a TOS state meeting and find yourself ready to go to the next one!!!

-David Trently

*******EDITOR NEEDED*******

The time has come for me to "retire" from this position. **Unless we get a volunteer, DECEMBER WILL BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER!!**

TOS HOME PAGE: [HTTP://WWW.TNBIRDS.ORG](http://www.tnbirds.org)

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