



through the biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

45



Jim Giocomo to speak on his bird banding research at November 1 meeting

The November KTOS meeting will be Wednesday, November 1 at 7 p.m. in Room 117, UT College of Veterinary Medicine. Our program will feature Dr. Jim Giocomo, presenting research updates on Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge bird banding, including the Saw-whet Owl project, and UT Campus bird monitoring with a slide show.

- Mark Campen, VP and program coordinator

 MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November field trips

Saturday, November 11, 9 AM

Kingston Steam Plant

Leader: **David Trently**, dtrently@utk.edu;
531-1473 home; 974-8664 work

Meet at the Stokely Building at 320 N. Cedar Bluff Road in west Knoxville at 9 a.m. We'll be at the steam plant soon after 9:30 and be there until at least noon.

This is a good time of year for different kinds of ducks, Snow Goose, Sora, Dunlin, Vesper Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird—and it's the time of year a Snow Bunting showed up in 2000.

Sunday, November 19, 8 AM - Noon

Victor Ashe Park

Leader: **Janet McKnight**;
(865) 856-2229; (865) 271-8337

Janet discovered this park as part of her area for the Christmas Bird Count. She did almost the entire count that day within this park, and there was so much bird activity she could hardly keep up with it all. The park is fairly new, and she thinks it is an untapped resource for good Knoxville birding. The park is surrounded by development and the concentration of birds is obvious. Janet wanted to lead a field trip here to help introduce Knoxville area birders to this great winter birding spot.

- David Trently, Interim Field Trip Coordinator

"the songbird's song / it stops what I am doing / at the sink"

- Haiku by Chigetsu

Letters from Eden By Janet Lee McKnight

Yes, I know the author of this book and happen to think that she is an amazing and wonderful person. And yes, we call each other friend and she thinks I'm pretty neat too. And yes, I probably love this book even more because of these things. But aside from all of that, *Letters From Eden* is inarguably a lovely book to wrap your hands and eyes around.

Julie's writing caught my attention years ago. She writes autobiographically about her life and land, and every precious creature she comes across. I noticed that she and I love the same things, think a lot alike, and do a lot alike. I began to look for her stories when I got my *Bird Watchers Digest* in the mail. And then I noticed bird paintings with her name on them, and was stunned that this one woman could possess more than one amazing talent. So I sat down one day and wrote a "fan" letter to her, sincerely expressing how much I enjoy her work. She wrote me back, and a friendship was born. So here am I, shamelessly and passionately promoting my friend's new book; she deserves it. *Letters from Eden* is a collection of Julie's essays, field

sketches and watercolors. The cover of the book is beyond beautiful, with a portrait of Paul the savannah sparrow flying to freedom after Julie rescued him from a Kroger (see story in book, "Catching Paul"). I hope people judge this book by its cover. *Letters form Eden* is a pure pleasure to read, and any nature lover and/or birder on your Christmas list will enjoy it immensely. The book is in all the book stores in the nature section, near Jane Goodall's new book, *Harvest For Hope*. I highly recommend this book also, but that is another book review. Speaking of Jane Goodall, my hero of all heroes, she thinks Julie's book is awesome too. On the dust jacket you will find her words, " 'With her beautiful prose and exquisite paintings, Julie Zickefoose has created an enchanting book. It will capture the hearts of all who love nature and will awaken curiosity and wonder in city dwellers. Keep *Letters From Eden* by your bed and provide a copy for your guests. It's a perfect gift for young and old alike.' - Jane Goodall, Ph.D., DBE, founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and a UN Messenger of Peace."

I couldn't have said it better myself!

OF NOTE!

Newsletter editor needed

Where does the time go? It's been almost five years since I became the editor of this newsletter editor, but the December issue will be my last.

The newsletter is an important communication tool of the club, so don't let its circulation be disrupted. KTOS needs one of its members to volunteer to be the next editor. If you are interested contact me or any of the officers listed on the back. - *Lyn*

Coffee sales important! Buy some.

Since I took over the coffee sales the number of bags ordered each month has been small. Since Vienna Coffee Company hand roasts each order for us, I do not know if it will be economically viable for them to continue at this rate. I urge you to make KTOS your coffee source. All of our coffee is fair trade, organic and shade grown. It's good for the club but more importantly, it's good for migrating birds.- *David Johnson*

Editor's note: Sun-grown coffee production has resulted in major habitat change for migratory birds in the past two decades. Of the permanent cropland planted in coffee, the amount under modern, reduced-shade coffee systems ranges from 17% in Mexico to 40% in Costa Rica and 69% in Colombia. As for the overall avifauna, studies in Colombia and Mexico found 94-97% fewer bird species in sun-grown coffee than in shade-grown coffee. - Smithsonian website

KTOS Financial Report • November 2006

Compiled by Marie Oakes, Treasurer

	October	September	YTD
Income:			
. Dues	\$154.00	\$56.00	\$210.00
. TOS Fall Meeting Registrations	\$85.00	\$0.00	\$85.00
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$197.00	\$92.00	\$866.26
. Interest	\$24.94	\$22.98	\$47.92
. Owen Memorial	\$0.00	\$19.90	\$69.90
. Other Memorials	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$575.00</u>
Total Income	\$460.94	\$190.88	\$1,854.08
Expenses:			
. Newsletter	\$181.00	\$67.66	\$635.60
. Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$31.92
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$124.49	\$0.00	\$704.72
. Member Dues to TOS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,570.00
. Miscellaneous	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$106.50</u>
Total Expenses	\$305.49	\$67.66	\$4,048.74
Other:			
. J.B. Owen Award	\$665.00	\$0.00	\$665.00
. Scout Project	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$400.00
. Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>
Total Other	\$665.00	\$0.00	\$1,165.00
Account Balances			
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$3,609.91	\$3,877.67	
. J.B. Owen Memorial	\$6,878.02	\$7,119.81	
Memberships	141	141	

The Big Sit 2006 *By Janet Lee McKnight*

This year's Big Sit was Sunday, October 8. I arrived at Louisville Point Park at 6 a.m. to find the gate locked. This team captain had not done her homework. Any owls I may have heard went unheard, and the gate was finally opened at 7:30.

Tom Howe soon came along to help me out with warm bran muffins and his awesome birding skills. We had an exciting first hour, racking up the species that came our way. Then Tom had to leave.

I watched his van drive away, and saw a bird coming in on the left. I got on it. Falcon. Too big to be kestrel. It banked my way and I saw very dark lines coming down the face. It flushed a pine tree full of birds as it landed, its face showing above the foliage. I watched it a second longer and decided I needed my scope. In the time it took me to grab my scope and aim it at the tree the PEREGRINE FALCON was gone!

I checked my books, but what else could it have been? I cursed the fast flying devil, "Why couldn't you have come by five minutes earlier for Tom, no one is going to believe me!"

Such is the excitement of the Big Sit...you never know what will come your way if you will just stay still in one place and wait for it. The Bird Nerds (Dan and Laurie Mooney, over 60 species) creamed The Lone Tuftmouse and her team mates (47 species). But they did not get a PEREGRINE FALCON. Take that Bird Nerds.

Next year I will have to find a new spot, one with more scrub/shrub for greater sparrow potential. Obvious misses were scrub/shrub lovers such as

brown thrasher and Maniacal Mike Nelson. If we were going for numbers, we would have won with more palm warblers than you could bob a tail at. And of course, the brown-headed nuthatches were a constant presence with their squeaky-toy calls and sweet, pinchable faces...good thing I couldn't reach them.

Thanks so much to everyone who came by my circle to help, and thanks for all the food!

Species: brown-headed nuthatch, pied-billed grebe, eastern bluebird, mourning dove, American crow, Philadelphia vireo, blue jay, ring-billed gull, house finch, tree swallow, Canada goose, Cooper's hawk, black-crowned night heron, red-tailed hawk, European starling, black vulture, mallard, American goldfinch, red-bellied woodpecker, black-throated green warbler, great blue heron, yellow-bellied sapsucker, northern mockingbird, song sparrow, Carolina wren, Tennessee warbler, Northern flicker, red-shouldered hawk, belted kingfisher, northern parula, chimney swift, flycatcher species, yellow-rumped warbler, great egret, palm warbler, tufted titmouse, northern cardinal, downy woodpecker, double-crested cormorant, mute swan, osprey, wood duck, sharp-shinned hawk, peregrine falcon, killdeer, pileated woodpecker, eastern phoebe, white-throated sparrow, turkey vulture

Team members: Tom Howe, The Trently's, Rasmus Larson, Carole Gobert, Nathan Cope, Marian Fitzgerald, Tony King, Denise Nauman, Kathy Bivens, Lyn Bales

Needed: Whooping Crane pen cleaners

On Thursday, October 5, Operation Migration's Class of 2006 left Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin. If all goes well, they'll pass through the Tennessee Valley in mid-November.

While in this part of our state the 18 young cranes will spend time on the ground in a temporary pen at Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge in Meigs County. But before that happens the pen will have to be prepared and all trash—broken bottles, aluminum cans and spent shotgun shells—will be removed from the enclosure's

interior. (These items are usually buried in the mud along the water's shoreline.)

As of this writing, the pen has not been set up but it will be a few weeks before the cranes arrive. The clean-up usually occurs on a weekend in early November.

If you would like to help with this conservation effort contact: Lyn Bales at (865) 577-4717, ext. 19, or e-mail him at: lynbales@comcast.net

Editor's Note: *We need your help.*

Operation Migration needs your financial support!

Operation Migration (OM) also needs your donations. OM is a non-profit that must raise money to complete this year's training. As of this point, they are half-way through the process of reestablishing an eastern migratory flock of whooping cranes. It's an incredible, unprecedented undertaking, but it's costly.

To donate, go to OM's web-site: operationmigration.org

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 December issue is **November 26**. 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](http://www.tnbirds.org)



PRESIDENT.....Dan Mooney
3505 Holston Hills Road
Knoxville, TN 37914 (865) 789-0806
birds@birdnerds.com

VICE-PRESIDENT.....Mark Campen
1309 Adair Drive
Knoxville, TN 37918 (865) 414-5593
mark@tnike.com

TREASURER.....Marie Oakes
18 Rockingham Lane
Oak Ridge, TN 37830 (865) 483-9287
marieoakes@msn.com

SECRETARY.....Kathy Bivens
114 Boulder Street
Maryville, TN 37804 (865) 983-7349
volkathy@yahoo.com

EDITOR.....Stephen Lyn Bales
1801 Kemper Lane
Knoxville, TN 37920
(865) 577-6978
lynbales@comcast.net

EDITOR (Distribution)...Patty Ford
5525 Lonas Drive
Knoxville, TN 37909-3248
(865) 584-8473
pattyford@comcast.net



Presidential Perch - By Dan Mooney

A few things that I would like to share with you this month: I have enjoyed the privilege of birding vicariously with Howard Chitwood recently. Howard shared his field notebooks from Mossy Creek with me so I could enter his data into eBird. His notebooks contained records of 116 species in 167 trips to Mossy Creek over a 10-year period. I have birded Mossy Creek a few times so I am familiar with the habitat and trails. While entering the data, it felt like I was there with Howard and I really enjoyed getting to see all those birds without leaving my desk! Thanks again Howard!

There is an article in the latest issue of *BirdWatcher's Digest* about the virtues of drinking shade grown coffee. The article entitled, "Saving Birds Cup by Cup," not only points out the value of shade coffee plantations to neotropical migrants, but also how to find and recognize bird friendly coffee on the store shelf. KTOS members have a convenient way to purchase, bird friendly, fair trade, shade grown coffee at each club meeting! You can help save some habitat by drinking shade grown coffee.

For those of you who have not heard, Laurie and I have agreed to sell our home. There was somebody who just seemed to want it more than we do. It has been an ideal place for us the last 14 years. I doubt we will ever find another place to live that is as birdy as Marble Ridge. Unfortunately Marble Ridge isn't the same today, and will be changing more in the near future. Development has started on the south end of the ridge and we expect it to continue north in rapid fashion. We don't have solid plans for our immediate future. If you know of any great deals, especially south of I-10 between Biloxi and Corpus Christi, please let us know.

2007 KTOS membership dues

KTOS Treasurer Marie Oakes is now accepting membership dues for 2007. For additional information, see "KTOS Membership" at top left of this page.

through the *biKNOXulars*

(USPS 697-010)

Published monthly, except January, July and August by the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, 5525 Lonas Rd., D-11, Knoxville, TN 37909.

Subscription Price \$8.00. Periodical Postage paid at Knoxville, TN 37901.

POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to:

through the *biKNOXulars*, 5525 Lonas Rd., D-11, Knoxville, TN 37909.