

biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

November's Program Will Be a Presentation by Bob Steffy on Birds of Ecuador

Birds of Ecuador

In June of 2008, David Trently, of Avian Pursuits Nature Tours, organized a trip to the highlands of north-central Ecuador. Eight members from the Knoxville and Chattanooga Chapters of TOS participated. Most of the time was spent within a few miles of the equator on the western slope of the Andes. The group birded as high as 14,300 feet above sea level and in the lowlands at about 2,000 feet. They observed at least 260 species of birds, including three Andean Condors, hummingbirds of all sizes and colors, trogons, flowerpiercers, toucans, tanagers and many other of the beautiful tropical birds.

At the November 4th meeting of KTOS, Bob Steffy will lead a discussion of the Ecuador trip and show pictures of many of the birds the group observed.

The meeting will be Wednesday, November 4th, at 7 p.m. in Room 117 of the UT Veterinary Building.

****PARKING REMINDER****

Remember to park ONLY in Lot 66 behind the vet school. Parking in the staff lot along the street MAY RESULT in your vehicle being subject to a fine. Passes are no longer required.

KTOS FIELD TRIPS FOR NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 1, 8:30 a.m.

Tommy Schumpert Park in north Knox Co.
Leader: David Trently (Home 865-531-1473, Work 865-974-8664, NatureTours@avianpursuits.com)

This is a new park in Knox County and may never have been birded. Expect to find typical birds of woodland areas - but who knows what else might be found there!? There are a lot of parks scattered throughout Knox County and most of us never think of birding at these places. This field trip will continue what former KTOS president Mark Campen was doing by leading groups to some of these parks. We will explore by walking trails, mostly fairly level, and woodland edges. We should be finished before noon. Meet at the park at 6400 Fountain Park Rd at 8:30 a.m. For directions, see: http://www.avianpursuits.com/November_1_field_trip

Saturday, November 21, 8:30 a.m.

Cove Lake State Park (Campbell County)
Leader: Robin Barrow
(braveladyrobin@gmail.com, 865-297-2572)

To carpool, meet at the Starbucks on Merchant Dr. at 8:00, or else meet us at the park parking lot by the swings just past the tennis courts. We will look for migrants on water and in the trees. Please bring your scope if you have one. There may be swampy ground, so bring your boots. We should finish by noon. The trip will be canceled if the weather is bad.

Sunday, November 22, 8:30 a.m.

Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge
Leader: David Trently (Home 865-531-1473, Work 865-974-8664, NatureTours@avianpursuits.com)

Meet at the main parking area of the Refuge. We'll begin by walking along the paved road for about a half mile. Then we will turn onto Steamboat Island Trail which heads to the newly-named Wayne's Pond. We'll continue along the river until we decide to cut across a field and begin the walk back to the cars. Hoped for sightings include: Northern Bobwhite; Bald Eagle; Northern Harrier; American Pipit; Savannah, Fox, Vesper & White-crowned Sparrows (and hopefully some other rarer sparrows). Bring a snack and something to drink. For directions, see <http://tnbirds.org/birdfinding/SevenIslands.htm>

****ANNUAL DUES****

It is time for annual dues payments. Our annual payment to TOS is due December 31, so please make your payment promptly. Membership dues are \$26 for an individual, \$30 for a family and \$13 for a student. You can either pay Marie or Jean Alexander at the November and December meetings or you can mail your check to Marie Oakes, 18 Rockingham Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

Also, when you pay your dues this year, please include your address, phone number and e-mail address so Marie can update her files to enable us to have your most current information.

KTOS FINANCIAL REPORT CALENDAR YEAR 2009

WAYNE'S POND

	Oct	Sept	YTD
Income:			
Dues	\$ 34.00	\$ 116.00	\$1,753.00
Shade Grown Coffee	0.00	117.50	869.75
Interest	13.00	19.25	193.21
Owen Memorial	17.00	0.00	0.00
Misc. (Inc. Hummer Event)	0.00	1,375.08	37.00
Total Income	\$ 64.25	\$1,627.83	\$1,425.08
Expenses:			
Newsletter	\$ 69.60	\$ 72.75	\$ 659.85
Supplies	8.29	0.00	111.58
Shade Grown Coffee	0.00	63.54	748.60
Member Dues to TOS	0.00	0.00	2,256.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	90.00
Total Expenses	\$ 77.89	\$136.29	\$3,866.03
Other:			
J.B. Owen Award	\$ 0.00	\$600.00	\$ 600.00
Total other	0.00	\$600.00	\$ 600.00

Account Balances

KTOS Checking & Savings	\$ 4,045.34	\$ 4,08.55
J.B. Owen Memorial	\$ 6,857.11	\$ 6,827.54

Memberships	124	123
Paid 2010 Memberships	10	8

New Members:

Linda Naser

Bird Banding at Seven Island Wildlife Refuge

You are invited to come and watch the bird banding station at Seven Islands W.R. We will be banding on Nov. 1, 15, 29 and Dec. 13. It's a great place to see some sparrows up close. We caught Vesper, Swamp, Song and Field Sparrows along with Palm Warbles last session. We should be seeing Fox Sparrows, Magnolia Warblers and other migration birds along with our non- migratory birds.

We will be banding on top of the hill near the pond. It's a great place to see Kestrel, hawks, Bald Eagles and many more birds. We start at sunrise and band until 11:00. For a great Sunday out, come visit, hike, and bird watch or just be one with nature.

If you have any questions, call Billie Cantwell @ 212-9797.



Wayne Schacher and Linda Claussen
Photo by Richard Secrist

If you've ever been to Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge, you may know of the man-made pond along Steamboat Island Trail. This is the pond near where Bald Eagles nested a few years ago - the first nest in Knox County in many years. Since the pond was created, the diversity and amount of wildlife at the Refuge has increased, and it's always an area with a lot of bird activity. On Wednesday, October 21, at the Mayors' Luncheon for the Parks, held at the new Tommy Schumpert Park, KTOS member Wayne Schacher was honored by having that pond, which he was instrumental in having created, named after him. From now on it will be known as Wayne's Pond.

Most, if not all, of the habitat management work that has been accomplished at Seven Islands has been the responsibility of Wayne - both in the planning and the actual physical work to make it happen. We all owe Wayne our great appreciation for what he has done at Seven Islands, and he is well-deserving of the honor of having the wetland named after him.

The plaque presented to Wayne reads: "At the north end of the Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge near where Knox County's first bald eagle in living memory was hatched, there is a small serene pond, conceived by Wayne Schacher as part of his superb master plan for the refuge. In appreciation of his vision, masterful planning, determination and hard work with marvelous results, the Knox County Parks and Recreation Department, Legacy Parks Foundation, and the Seven Islands Foundation have in his honor named this pond Wayne's Pond"

David Trently
Avian Pursuits Nature Tours
...come see the real world!
Knoxville, TN
<http://avianpursuits.com/>

TOS FALL MEETING

The Tennessee Ornithological Society will hold the 2009 fall meeting in Columbia, Tennessee, on November 6-8. The Mayfield-Gray Chapter along with the Buffalo River Chapter will host the event. Planned events include the annual symposium, a board of directors meeting, and field trips.

Lodging

A block of rooms is being held at the Richland Inn at 2405 Pulaski Hwy, Columbia. This is at the intersection of Hwy 50 and Hwy 31 in Columbia. Phone numbers for reservations are as follows: (931) 381-4500 or 1-800-828-4832. Reservations can be made at anytime. Cost per room is \$75.00, which includes tax.

For more information on the meeting, contact Tommy Edwards at Tommy.Edwards@tn.gov.



Presidential Perch
Mark Armstrong

Fall is a great time of year to get out and bird and witness the mass movement of millions of small birds. All these birds are heading south to warmer climates anywhere from the southern US to southern South America. Even though I have read numerous articles about how they navigate, put on weight and fly for hours sometimes days without stopping it is still an amazing spectacle.

I've been very fortunate to be able to help Bob and Martha Sargent with their banding operation at Ft. Morgan, AL in the spring and fall since 2003. Ft. Morgan is a narrow spit of land at the entrance to Mobile Bay so it is the last piece of land birds will see if they are heading out over the Gulf of Mexico. West of Ft. Morgan is Dauphin Island which probably better known as a birding destination. This year I was there from October 8th through the 15th, and in that time we banded 500 birds. While it may sound like a lot of birds it was really quite slow with about 70 birds banded each day. When everything comes together, we have seen hundreds of birds in the woods and banded 1500 birds in a day. The weather was pretty miserable for several of the days with high humidity and high temperatures and never the sweep of a cold front to move birds south.

The birds were always interesting with many Magnolia Warblers banded and closely followed by American Redstarts. The last day I was there we had a huge movement of Broad-winged Hawks heading west that Bob estimated at several thousand. We also banded our first ever Western Tanager; and while birding on the old air strip, we saw a Western Kingbird and four Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. A couple days earlier, we had a Magnificent Frigatebird over Mobile Bay.

Everyone is invited to come to the banding station and see what we are getting in our nets. The birding is interesting even if the banding is slow. The dates are always posted on the HBSG web site. Worth the trip at any time is the chance to hear Bob Sargent talk about bird migration and the importance of Ft. Morgan as a stopover site for migrant species. He is always informative and inspirational with 20+ years of banding experience at Ft. Morgan.

Mark



Birders on Sharp's Ridge - April 2009

Photo by David Trently

KTOS will hold a litter pick-up clean-up on Sharp's Ridge on Saturday morning, November 14, beginning at 9 o'clock.

Trash bags will be available, and we hope to be finished by noon.

Please put this date on your calendar, and come help.

KTOS MEMBERSHIP

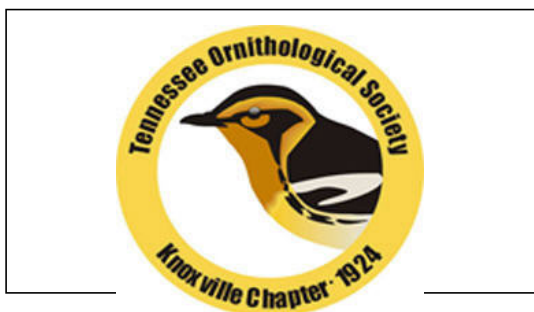
Join or renew your membership in KTOS by mailing your annual dues

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 Dec issue is Friday, Nov 20

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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REMEMBER OUR CONTRIBUTORS WHEN YOU SHOP!

Please remember the businesses that made donations to our silent auction back in June. When buying gifts or for your own needs visit any one of the following businesses:

Wild Birds, Prism Pool and Spa, Pope's Garden Center, Out of Eden, Tractor Supply of Maryville and Blount Farmers Co-op. Visit Mayo Garden Center, Agri Feed and Pet Supply, Pizzazz Hair Salon or New Horizon Wellness Center. Take a trip to the zoo or give as a gift tickets to the zoo. How about lunch/dinner at the Silver Spoon? If Nikon equipment is on you list, contact Ken Worthington. You can reach him by calling Wild Birds.

When you stop by, tell them you are there to thank them for supporting the KTOS auction held in the spring.

Now I have a confession to make. I had been saving the donation list until I had room to print the names in the newsletter; and I've put the list in a safe place....so safe that I could not find it this weekend. My sincere thanks to Jean Alexander and Billie Cantwell for helping me put together the above contributors list.

~Ginger