



Recipient of the 2013 J. B. Owen Award

The J.B. Owen Memorial Fund was established in 2002 to honor the memory of J.B. Owen (1916 – 2001), longtime Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS) member and columnist known to thousands in East Tennessee through his columns in Knoxville newspapers. Since its inception the Fund has made annual awards supporting projects that promote the welfare and conservation of birds in Tennessee. This year two recipients will receive an award. The first was presented to the Clinch River Raptor Center at the October meeting of KTOS. On hand to accept were Katie Cottrell and Kathy Strunk who explained to the club that the Center, located at Clinton Middle School, has two major goals: (1) the rehabilitation of injured raptors and (2) education of the public, especially the student volunteers, concerning the important role of these avian predators in maintaining a natural balance. The Center operates strictly on donations and will use the Award to purchase mice for the injured birds.



David Johnson presenting J. B. Owen Award to Katie Cottrell and Kathy Strunk from the Clinch River Raptor Center.

May 2014 KTOS France Tour

Southern France is rich in tradition and culture dating back to the times before Christ and the Roman Empire. Birding in this region is no less rich. With the Pyrenees harboring rocky, scree slopes, pine woodland and stunning granite cliffs, it gives us the chance for several highland species and a good chance to see one of the few breeding places for Lammergeier or Bearded Vulture in Europe. The woodlands lower down are also filled with classic species from literature like Common Blackbird, Common Chiffchaff, Blue Tit, Common Cuckoo, and many more. The open fields are home to Sky Lark, Common Nightingale, that sing all night, Corn Buntings and at night it is the hunting ground for Eurasian Nightjar and Tawny Owl. The Mediterranean ocean is close and gives us the chance for some more open, rocky habitat where we found Little Bustard, Red-legged Partridge, Eurasian Hoopoe, Ortolan Bunting and several pipits last time. The vineyards we'll visit date back to the time of the Romans and the rock walls are home to Woodchat Shrike, Wood Lark, and Eurasian Bee-eaters. We will visit the ancient walled city of Carcassonne, some Roman vineyards, a 15th century cathedral and village plus an 8th century abbey. We have a few places left for this tour so please join us for our May 20th KTOS France charity tour as proceeds from this tour will benefit the KTOS. For more details visit <http://birdingcotours.co.za/tour/france-ktos-charity-tour-wings-and-wine-of-the-midi-pyrennes-laungedoc-rousillon?type=country&where=France>

November Meeting

Please join us at our November 6th meeting at 6:45 p.m. for a presentation by Dr. Dave Unger, an Associate Professor at Maryville College. Dave teaches various classes in biology, wildlife, and ornithology. However, as many people know from his very popular presentations at the Hummingbird Festival, Dave really focuses on the "wonder and complexity of all living things." Come enjoy what is sure to be a fascinating and entertaining program about the natural world! This meeting will be held in Room 118 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.



Presidential Perch

During the 2012-2013 school year the Discover Birds Program visited three schools in Knox and Sevier Counties, giving books to 22 classrooms and reaching 394 students. The program consisted of an slide show of introduction to birds, a show and tell of birding treasures, bird walks with spotting scopes and each child received a Discover Birds Activity Book. Each time we visit schools, we leave excited about the students' response. Sarah Green, at Sevierville Primary School, described the program as "changing lives" because of the enthusiasm of teachers and students that continued for weeks after Discover Birds volunteers visited. We are looking for new ways to identify interested teachers and schools for our Discover Birds Program visits in the 2013-2014 school year. If you know teachers who would be interested (2nd or 3rd grade) or administrators who could help with this selection, let me know. Also, if you would like to join us as a volunteer with this rewarding program, we welcome you and any ideas you may have. With Christmas around the corner, the Discover Birds Activity Book also makes great birthday or Christmas gifts for a child.

Tennessee Wild Side aired their program on the "Wonder of Hummingbirds" festival in October. If you missed the TV show you can catch the video on their [website](#). It's great that the festival is still getting attention!

With Seven Islands becoming the state's first birding park, there is a lot of excitement and concern. We have been in contact with Broch Hill, Deputy Commissioner, Bureau of Parks and Conservation.

Billie Cantwell

Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge Becomes Tennessee's First State Birding Park

At the Legacy Parks Foundation's annual fund raising luncheon held at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge, Governor Bill Haslam announced Seven Islands will become the 56th state park in Tennessee and the first of a series of state birding parks to be established across the state. "We see this as the flagship of a statewide birding tour." The park's new name will be "Seven Islands State Birding Park."

Encompassing more than 410 acres on the Kelly Bend Peninsula of the French Broad River in southeast Knox County, this diverse riparian and open grassland habitat is planted with native grasses, wildflowers, and shrubby fruit-bearing plants and trees that provide food and refuge to more than 150 species of birds and other wildlife. Prior to his retirement from that position, KTOS member, Wayne Schacher, was the manager of the refuge for eleven years and was present to hear the announcement.

The news is of particular interest to KTOS member, Mark Armstrong, and his banding team. Bird banding studies have been conducted on the refuge since 2004 and for the past seven years, Mark, who was also present at the luncheon, has been the Master Bander at the helm of the bird research. Mark's banding team has banded over 3,500 birds on the refuge and discovered interesting information about species longevity and site fidelity. KTOS Member, Vickie Henderson, painted an original watercolor of a "Common Yellowthroat at Seven Islands" to commemorate this event for the Legacy Parks Foundation. This watercolor is shown on page 4 of this newsletter.

Get Out and Get Birding! October Fieldtrips

Cove Lake State Park

Saturday, November 9 @ 8:30 a.m.

**Leader: Tom Howe, (865) 748-9610,
thowe@lillyco.com**

Meet at Cove Lake at 8:30 a.m. or contact me if you wish to carpool. We should see some waterfowl, woodpeckers, raptors and sparrows. Cove Lake is always a good area for surprises, too.

Victor Ashe Park

Thursday, November 14 @ 9 a.m.

Leader: Tony King, (865) 988-6172

We will meet in the parking lot at Victor Ashe Park (4901 Bradshaw Rd., Knoxville, Tenn.). The park is about 120 acres and is mostly level with open, mowed fields and some rougher, brushy fields, woodland edges, and woodlands.

Sharp's Ridge Memorial Park

Saturday, November 16 @ 9:00 a.m.

Join us for our annual fall clean-up day at Sharp's Ridge Memorial Park. KTOS formally adopted the park in 2004 as a litter-free area. Meet at the overlook at 9:00 a.m., and bring gloves and water. The clean-up will last about two hours. Come early and stay late for some birding. In case of rain, the clean-up will be held on Sunday, November 23 @ 9:00 a.m.

Discover Birds Activity Book Available on TOS Website

Vickie Henderson, vickielee13@gmail.com

The Discover Birds Activity Book is now available as a free download on a new page featured on [Tennessee Ornithological Society's website](#). Chuck Nicholson has created an "education" link in the sidebar of the website home page. This link takes you to a new educational resources page that gives information about the Discover Birds Program and makes the entire activity book available to download or print. Additionally, a new link, labeled "education," appears in the sidebar of the KTOS website home page. This link will also take you to the TOS Discover Birds page.

Cyndi Routledge initially suggested making the book available online as a resource for home-school educators and we realized that free online availability is another good way to ensure that more children are introduced to birds. The web page visitor may choose to print the entire book or select individual activities and topics in the individual pages section. The individual page listing provides parents and teachers the opportunity to select the activity that best suits the age level and curriculum needs of their students.

A special thank you to Chuck Nicholson for creating this new page and to Melinda Fawver for her assistance with updating some of the pages for online publication. We're excited to make the book available to the public in this new way!

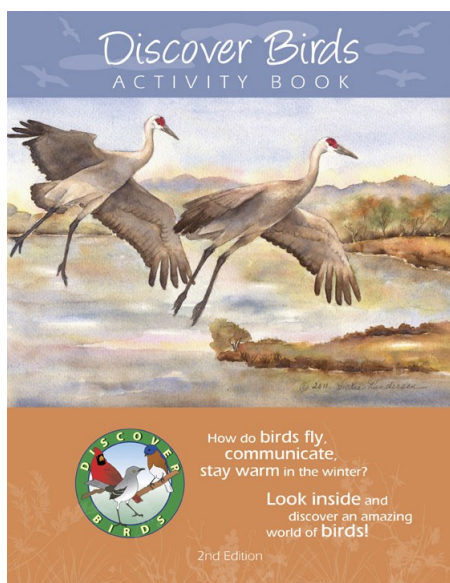
The activity book is also available on the [Tennessee Watchable Wildlife Website](#). Special appreciation goes to Scott Somershoe for giving the book this broader visibility. Additionally, NIMBioS (National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis) has published two of the book's activities on their website as [educational modules](#). We thank Kelly Sturner, NIMBioS Education and Outreach Coordinator, and Chris Welsh, NIMBioS Deputy Director, for giving the book this worldwide visibility to the science and math research and education communities.

Printed books are available by contacting Cyndi Routledge at (931) 648-0911 or by email: routledges@bellsouth.net.

The KTOS Discover Birds Program is currently working on the school visit schedule for 2013-2014. If you know of 2nd and 3rd grade teachers or school administrators who may be interested in learning more about the program or if you would like to join us as a volunteer, contact Billie Cantwell at (865) 567-4273 or by email: bfcantwell@gmail.com.

Sevierville Primary School teacher, Sarah Green, described her students' new enthusiasm for birds a month after our visit. "I still have students stop me in the hall and tell me that they have put a bird feeder up for the first time, or they have seen a bird that you all introduced them to. You've changed lives, and I thank you for that...."

Join us in this exceptionally rewarding program! Also, watch for my Discover Birds article in the upcoming Jan/Feb 2014 issue of the [Tennessee Conservationist Magazine](#). The article features TOS, the Discover Birds Activity Book and the KTOS Discover Birds Program!



Cover of the Discover Birds Activity Book



Oliver Lang helps a student find a bird in the spotting scope.

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

**2013 — 2014
Chapter Officers**

President

Billie Cantwell
(865) 567-4273
bfcantwell@gmail.com

Vice President

Patty Ford
(865) 719-8383
pattyford.ford@gmail.com

Treasurer

Carole Gobert
(865) 254-8841
cpgobert@hotmail.com

Secretary

Karen Wilkerson
(865) 406-8506
karenlwik@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Michael Plaster
(865) 694-4814
KTOS.Editor@gmail.com

Field Trip Coordinator

Tom Howe
(865) 983-8198
blountbirder@yahoo.com

State Directors, 2012 – 2014

Jean Alexander
Harold Howell
David Johnson

State Directors, 2013 – 2015

Michael Plaster
Chris Welsh

through the biKNOXulars
725 Mountain Pass Lane
Knoxville, TN 37923

Published monthly, except January, July, and August by
the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological
Society, 725 Mountain Pass Lane, Knoxville, TN 37923
Subscription price: \$8.00.

Dues Reminder

As we reminded you last month, it is about that time again: dues time. You can renew at the November meeting or by mailing your payment to Carole Gobert, 1304 Barcelona Dr., Knoxville, TN 37923. For those new members who joined at or after the Hummingbird Festival in July, your dues were for 2014, so you do not need to pay again until next fall.

KTOS 2014 dues are \$26 (individual), \$30 (family), \$38 (sustaining), \$13 (student), \$8 (TOS life members). TOS life membership is \$450. A KTOS membership form is available at <http://tinyurl.com/9gjss2f>.



"Common Yellowthroat at Seven Islands" by
Vickie Henderson.