

# through the **biKNOXulars**

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

•1924-2004. *Celebrating 80 years!*•

## **Cumberland Mountains birds: Golden-winged Warbler is topic of October 6 meeting**

**O**n Wednesday, October 6, KTOS welcomes UT graduate student Lesley Bulluck. She will present: "Early Successional Bird Communities in the Cumberland Mountains Of Tennessee with an Emphasis on the Golden-Winged Warbler." Bulluck is entering her second year as a PhD student in Natural Resources.

Golden-winged Warblers are considered a species of concern by both the federal and state government. Over the past few decades their numbers have decreased dramatically. Scientists attribute Golden-winged decline to loss of habitat. In addition, competition and hybridization with Blue-winged Warblers may also play a role. Tennessee is near the southern limit of Golden-winged Warblers' breeding range. These warblers prefer shrubby, early-successional habitat. Like most warblers, their diet consists heavily of insects and spiders.

Bulluck's research focuses on the population dynamics of Golden-winged Warblers in the Cumberland Mountains. Much of her research consists of mist-netting the birds in late June and July along clear-cuts, utility rights-of-ways and reclaimed surface mines. In just 18 days this past summer, Bulluck and her crew banded over 800 individuals. During her presentation Bulluck will discuss Golden-winged breeding ecology and distribution. She will also share the preliminary results of her banding and research. See you on Wednesday, October 6 at 7 p.m. in Room 117 (across the hall from Pendergrass Library) of the UT veterinary building on Center Drive off Neyland Drive. If you need directions call an officer listed on the back of this newsletter.

- Tracey Muise, program coordinator

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### **October outings**

**Sunday, October 3, 3:00 PM**

*Norris Nature Walk. See page 2.*

**Friday, October 8 through Sunday, October 10**

*TOS Fall Meeting, Crossville, TN. See page 1.*

**Saturday, October 16, 7:00 AM**

*Kyker Bottoms WMA. See page 1.*

**Saturday, October 23, 9 AM**

*Sharps Ridge Clean-up. See page 2.*

**Sunday, October 24, 3:30 PM**

*Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge. See page 2.*

**Friday, October 8 through Sunday, October 10**

*TOS Fall Meeting, Crossville, TN*

See details on the TOS web site.

**Saturday, October 16, 7:00 AM**

*Kyker Bottoms Wildlife Management Area*

Leader: **Frank Bills** (531-8096)

Leave at 7:00 a.m. from the Stokley Building parking lot, 320 N. Cedar Bluff, Knoxville, or meet at approximately 7:45 a.m. at the Kyker Bottoms paved parking area. The target for this trip will be migrating waterfowl and sparrows. We could have some relatively rare sparrows since we have excellent sparrow habitat. Last year at about this time we had a Henslow's Sparrow. We should finish at Kyker

*(Continued on page 2)*

*"The poetry of earth is never dead: When all the birds are faint with the hot sun, And hide in cooling trees, a voice will run From hedge to hedge about the new-mown mead"*

- John Keats, (1795-1821) Sonnet, *On the Grasshopper and Cricket*

## October outings *(Continued from page 1)*

Bottoms around noon. At that time, if there is interest, we will make a lunch stop in Vonore then go on to the Chota wildlife refuge.

### **Saturday, October 23, 9 AM**

*Sharps Ridge/ J.B. Owen Overlook Cleanup*

Leader: **Mark Campen** (cell 865-414-5593)

We will hold one of two scheduled cleanup operations starting at 9 a.m. to whenever. We'll also dedicate our cleanup efforts by unveiling the signs the city has made for us. For those who can't make this date, a second cleanup will be made in November.

### **Sunday, October 24, 3:30 PM**

*Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge, Knox County.*

Leader: **David Trently** (dtrently@utk.edu; 974-8664 w; 531-1473 h)

Leave at 3:30 p.m. from the Comcast parking lot (formerly the K-Mart parking lot) on US Highway 11E, or meet at Seven Islands at approximately 4:00 p.m. Take the first exit from I-40 east of the junction of I-40 and I-640, turn left on US 11E and the lot is on the right at the top of the hill just before the construction for the Holston River bridge. There is excellent open field and riparian habitat, plus some wooded areas. We may see any normal resident bird, including raptors, sparrows and possible waterfowl along the river. We could also see some late migrants, also including sparrows. By going in the evening we hope to hear and possibly see some owls. We'll spend about three hours birding here covering some open fields and the wooded area on the hilltops. Bring something to

drink, and be prepared to tramp through the open fields. Come out and help us add to the species list we are growing for this area.

We are considering having a joint field trip between Knoxville and Chattanooga in November. The date I am considering is Nov. 20. It would be a hot-dog and fixin's trip to the wildlife refuge at Birchwood, like we did last year. Let me know what you think.

No outing is currently scheduled for the weekend of October 30 through October 31, 2004. Any change will be announced at the club meeting.

Good birding to all,

*-Harold Howell, Field Trip Coordinator*

## Norris Nature Walks

I will lead a nature walk with the theme Trees, Shrubs and Ecology in Norris, TN (north of Knoxville) on Sunday, October 3. The walk will start at 3 p.m. Meet at the Norris Dam off Route 441. We will try to identify what we can but we'll also try to interpret the ecology of the area. I know we'll see some American hazlenut (no nuts though), maybe pecan, river birch... Please let me know if you plan to attend through email. I hope to do a walk every Sunday through October and maybe into November.

*- Allan Trently (ajtcorax@hotmail.com)*



## September meeting included an "after-hours" tour of the zoo.

Our annual September pot-luck picnic was held at Tiger Tops, a section of the Knoxville Zoo. KTOS member and zoo employee, Mark Armstrong, gave us an "after hours" tour of the birds on exhibit, including the new aviary. Our thanks to Armstrong and the zoo's generosity for this wonderful opportunity.

# Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge

## The Early Successional Habitats Present

By Wayne H. Schacher • wwschacher@natreserv.com

*Author's note: This is the second in a series of newsletter articles on Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge in Knox County. The Knoxville Chapter of Tennessee Ornithological Society has actively supported the concept and development of SIWR, and its membership is providing invaluable information on avian fauna usage of the refuge, and other technical assistance. The partnership with KTOS at SIWR is most gratefully appreciated.*

**W**ith the completion of the Ecological Assessment for Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge (SIWR), 27 habitat types had been identified, and the botanical communities representative of these habitats were known. With the recent land use having been for hay production and pasture, it is no surprise that most of the Refuge, probably 325 acres, were in a variety of stages of early succession, dominated by herbaceous grass and forb (broad-leaf plants) species. Most all of the alluvial bottoms and the rolling uplands were within this category of succession.

The early successional habitats on SIWR ranged from recently cut hayfield, to standing grasses and forbs, to grass/forb combinations with a few woody stems beginning to show up, to "old field" areas where the woody stems are more abundant and up to an inch in diameter, and to areas where there is a strong transition from grass/forb composition to thickets of winged elm, honeylocust and red cedar with stem diameters 3-inches or greater. Left without disturbance, this progression would continue from woody thickets to woodlands.

This succession or habitat progression is completely natural and expected, and largely reflects the history of disturbance, or lack thereof, on the particular habitat patches. Those areas that had been hayed, burned, bush-hogged, cultivated or otherwise disturbed at given intervals would remain in or revert to earlier stages of succession. Those that had been 'neglect-

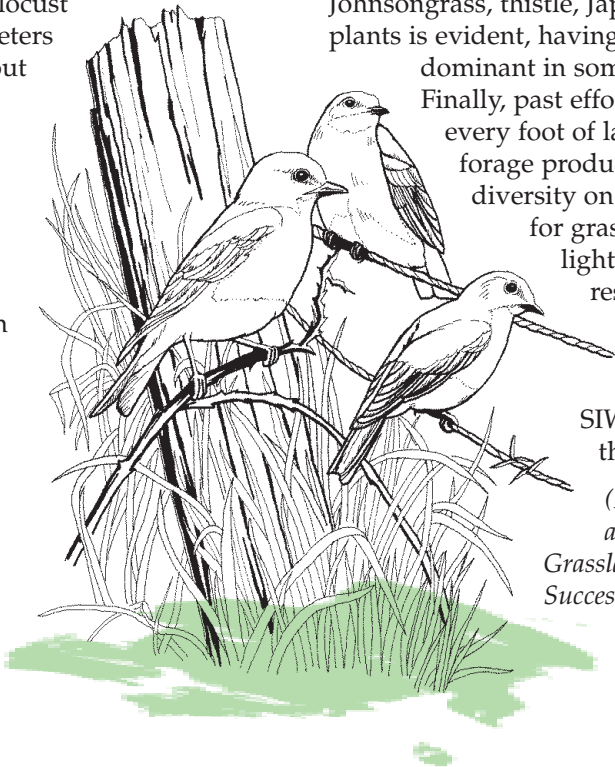
ed' for varying lengths of time would undergo continuing encroachment by woody shrub and tree species. Less abundant early successional habitats present on SIWR include small areas of wet meadow and other patches of wetland-type, plant communities.

The vision of Pete Claussen and the Seven Islands Foundation (SIF) is management of SIWR for increased habitat diversity, to the benefit of native botanical and zoological communities. An emphasis has been placed upon maintenance and management of the existing grassland-early successional habitats, which in turn will benefit grassland-dependent, bird species and other vertebrate and invertebrate members of those communities.

From early field investigations, three factors in the original land use on SIWR work against this vision, and limit SIWR's potential and native bio-diversity. First, the grasslands present on SIWR were dominated by fescue (*Festuca sp.*), a non-native, cool-season grass planted for forage and hay throughout Tennessee, but which grows in dense, continuous, sod mats and is the bane of many native grassland botanical and zoological species. Second, as with most any disturbed area, the presence of exotic-invasive species of woody (privet, multiflora rose, etc) and herbaceous/forb (burmudagrass, Nepal grass, Johnsongrass, thistle, Japanese honeysuckle, etc) plants is evident, having colonized or become dominant in some of the plant communities.

Finally, past efforts to take full advantage of every foot of land for cultivation, pasture or forage production has limited habitat diversity on SIWR. To realize SIF's vision for grassland habitat management in light of these three factors has resulted in adoption of both management strategies and formulation of a Lands Management Plan for SIWR to guide efforts toward these objectives.

*(Next Newsletter – The LMP and Strategy to Restore Native Grassland Species in the Early Successional Habitats on SIWR.)*



## 2004 Knox County Spring Bird Count *Dean Edwards, compiler*

**T**he Knox County Spring Count was held on Sunday, 25 April 2004. Twenty-seven observers in 13-14 parties found 130 species plus 2 during count week. Highlights of the count included several waders including a Snowy Egret at Turkey Creek, 4 Cattle Egrets on Melton Hill Lake and Great Egrets in two locations. Brown-headed Nuthatches were again found at two sites in Knox County and were seen bringing food to a nest at the UT Plant Science Farm. We were able to find 26 warbler species.

**Date:** Sunday, 25 April 2004

**Weather:** AM: Overcast, mostly cloudy;  
PM: 1/4" rain

**Temperature:** Low: 63°F, High: 82°F

**Wind:** SW 5-20 mph

### PARTY TOTAL

#### PARTY HOURS:

by foot 52.25, by car 18.00, by boat 3.75, owling 1.25,  
feeder watching 5.00 TOTAL: 80.25

#### PARTY MILES:

by foot 28.80, by car 238.50, by boat 8.00,  
owling 11.00, TOTAL: 286.30

**Start time:** 5:15

**End time:** 17:50

**SPECIES:** Canada Goose 309, Wood Duck 28, Mallard 34, Northern Bobwhite 14, Wild Turkey 7, Double-crested Cormorant 30, Great Blue Heron 99, Great Egret 2, Snowy Egret 1, Cattle Egret 4, Green Heron 9, Black-crowned Night-Heron 20, Black Vulture 25, Turkey Vulture 45, Osprey 12, Bald Eagle 2 (adult 0, immature 2), Northern Harrier 1, Cooper's Hawk 3, Red-shouldered Hawk 2, Broad-winged Hawk 5, Red-tailed Hawk 17, Buteo sp. 1, American Coot 1, Killdeer 18, Solitary Sandpiper 2, Spotted Sandpiper 2, Wilson's Snipe 5, shorebird sp. 1, Ring-billed Gull 15, Caspian Tern 1, Rock Pigeon 130, Mourning Dove 247, Yellow-billed Cuckoo 11, Eastern Screech-Owl 1, Great Horned Owl -CW-, Barred Owl 1, Chuck-will's-widow 1, Whip-poor-will -CW-, Chimney Swift 124, Ruby-throated Hummingbird 7, Belted Kingfisher 16, Red-bellied Woodpecker 67, Downy Woodpecker 27, Hairy Woodpecker 4, Northern Flicker (YS) 20, Pileated Woodpecker 2, Eastern Wood-Pewee 1, Eastern Phoebe 26, Great Crested Flycatcher 7, Eastern Kingbird 32, White-eyed

Vireo 17, Yellow-throated Vireo 4, Blue-headed Vireo 4, Red-eyed Vireo 94, Blue Jay 460, American Crow 160, Purple Martin 30, Tree Swallow 37, Northern Rough-winged Swallow 79, Bank Swallow 30, Cliff Swallow 31, Barn Swallow 109, Carolina Chickadee 113, Tufted Titmouse 112, White-breasted Nuthatch 4, Brown-headed Nuthatch 3, Carolina Wren 161, House Wren 3, Marsh Wren 2, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 20, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 81, Eastern Bluebird 89, Gray-cheeked Thrush 1, Swainson's Thrush 1, Wood Thrush 55, American Robin 285, Gray Catbird 18, Northern Mockingbird 130, Brown Thrasher 40, European Starling 601, American Pipit 5, Cedar Waxwing 27, Tennessee Warbler 3, Nashville Warbler 4, Northern Parula 2, Yellow Warbler 4, Chestnut-sided Warbler 6, Magnolia Warbler 2, Cape May Warbler 5, Black-throated Blue Warbler 1, "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler 159, Black-throated Green Warbler 8, Blackburnian Warbler 1, Yellow-throated Warbler 6, Pine Warbler 6, Prairie Warbler 19, Palm Warbler 62, Cerulean Warbler 2, Black-and-white Warbler 6, American Redstart 3, Worm-eating Warbler 3, Ovenbird 10, Northern Waterthrush 1, Louisiana Waterthrush 2, Kentucky Warbler 1, Common Yellowthroat 107, Hooded Warbler 11, Yellow-breasted Chat 13, Summer Tanager 10, Scarlet Tanager 39, Eastern Towhee 147, Chipping Sparrow 31, Field Sparrow 67, Savannah Sparrow 29, Grasshopper Sparrow 10, Song Sparrow 127, Swamp Sparrow 26, White-throated Sparrow 158, White-crowned Sparrow 30, Dark-eyed (SC) Junco 1, Northern Cardinal 392, Rose-breasted Grosbeak 17, Blue Grosbeak 8, Indigo Bunting 180, Bobolink 10, Red-winged Blackbird 233, Eastern Meadowlark 87, Common Grackle 339, Brown-headed Cowbird 116, Orchard Oriole 17, Baltimore Oriole 5, House Finch 36, American Goldfinch 178, House Sparrow 35

**Total individuals:** 7020

**Total species:** 130 + 2 CW

**Birds per party hour:** 87.48

**OBSERVERS:** 27 in 13-14 parties

Jean Alexander, Lyn Bales, Frank Bills, Kathy Bivens, Sharon Bostick, Mark Campen, Gail Clendenen, Steve Clendenen, Dean Edwards (compiler), Carole Gobert, Paul Hartigan, Tony Headrick, Ron Hoff, Susan Hoyle, Jim Human, Wes James, David Johnson, Kristine Johnson, Tony King, Ed Manous, Dan Mooney, Laurie Mooney, Dollyann Myers, Chuck Nicholson, Martha Rudolph, Boyd Sharp, June Welch

**Pileated woodpeckers** use their long tongues to gather up ants. The tongue has hundreds of fleshy "hooks" covered in sticky saliva. When it has several ants stuck to its tongue it swallows. In one study, a pileated woodpecker was found with 2,600 carpenter ants in its stomach.

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# **Bylaws of the Knoxville Chapter of Tennessee Ornithological Society**

## **Bylaw I - NAMES AND OBJECTIVES**

Sec. 1 Name: This organization shall be called the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

Sec. 2 Objectives: The objectives of this Chapter shall be to promote the study of birds in East Tennessee, to stand for the passage and enforcement of wise and judicious laws for bird protection, and to promote bird and bird habitat study and protection by any other means that may from time to time be deemed advisable.

Sec. 3 Organization: If these Bylaws in any way conflict with the constitution of the Tennessee Ornithological society, as adopted at any time, then the latter shall control.

## **Bylaw II - MEMBERS**

Sec. 1 Members: All persons in accord with the objectives of the organization shall be eligible for membership. The members shall control the organization through the election of officers and as otherwise provided through the Bylaws.

Sec. 2 Classification: The following constitute classes of membership.

- Individual
- Family
- Sustaining
- Life

Sec. 3 Fees: Membership fees for each of the classes of membership shall be determined by majority vote of the membership. Membership fees are collected on an annual basis with the membership year being the same as the calendar year.

## **Bylaw III - MEETINGS**

Sec. 1 General Meetings: Meetings of the general membership shall occur as frequently as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee and as published in the official newsletter or as otherwise provided in the Bylaws.

Sec. 2 Notice: Notice of meetings shall be effective when published in the official newsletter, including the online version. The notice shall give the date, time, and place of the meeting.

Sec. 3 Quorum: A quorum is necessary for the transaction of any business before the membership. Quorums shall be fifteen members.

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## **Bylaw IV - ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Sec. 1 Nominating Committee: Each February the president shall appoint three (3) members to serve on the nominating committee to prepare a slate of officers and state directors for the next term.

Sec. 2 Elections: The slate of proposed officers and state directors shall be submitted to the Chapter in April and elected in May. Any members may nominate another member from the floor provided previous consent from that member has been received.

## **Bylaw V - OFFICERS**

Sec. 1 Officers and Terms: The officers of this chapter shall consist of a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. Officers shall serve for one (1) year or until a successor is chosen. No person shall serve in more than one (1) office at a time. The officers shall be responsible to the members of the Chapter. The term for officers starts at the conclusion of the June meeting or picnic.

Sec. 2 Vacancies: Other than president, any vacancy due to circumstances other than regular term expiration a new officer shall be nominated by the president and elected by a majority vote of members at a general meeting. In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of the president, then the vice-president shall ascend to the presidency.

Sec. 3 Duties:

President: The president shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Chapter and Executive Committee. The president shall see that each incoming officer obtains from the predecessor all materials and instructions pertaining to the office. The president shall appoint the editor of the Chapter newsletter, the field trip chairperson, a conservation committee, a three member nominating committee, and standing or other committees as necessary.

Vice-President: The vice-president shall act as chairperson of the program committee. In the absence of a committee, the Vice-President shall organize programs. The vice-president shall act in the absence of the president. As the chairperson of the program committee, the Vice-President is responsible for advertising said programs via notifications in local papers, press releases, emails and through other means.

Secretary: The secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings, attend to official correspondence, prepare Chapter reports for the state periodical "the Warbler," and work to create an interest in the activities of the Chapter. The secretary shall maintain all official Chapter documents, including the Bylaws.

Treasurer: The treasurer shall receive and disburse funds; manage financial assets and financial reporting; and maintain membership roles for the organization. At the end of each calendar year, the treasurer shall provide an annual financial status report for publication in the Chapter's newsletter.

The treasurer shall act as chairperson of the Financial Committee and of the J.B. Owen Endowment Committee.

The treasurer and president shall be authorized to sign checks. The treasurer shall obtain either the written approval or the co-signature of the president for any check in excess of \$ 200.00.

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## **Bylaw VI - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Sec. 1 Organization: The Executive Committee will consist of the elected officers, state directors from this Chapter, and the immediate past president. If any of these decline or are unable to fulfill the obligations of this committee, the president shall appoint other club member(s) in good standing to the position, subject to approval by a majority vote of members at a general meeting.

Sec. 2 Duties: The Executive Committee shall manage the business affairs and provide guidance for the Chapter, subject to approval of the membership. Other than normal, recurring expenditures, expenditures up to \$100 may be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Executive Committee, or represented by their proxy present at a meeting. Expenditures above \$100, or which are not approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority, may be approved by a majority vote of members at a general meeting. For events incurring numerous expenses a budget shall be prepared and presented for approval by a majority vote of members at a general meeting. Executive Committee members unable to attend a meeting of the executive committee may inform the presiding officer of their proxy.

Sec. 3 Meetings: The Executive Committee shall meet as often as deemed necessary by the majority of the committee to carry on Chapter business and organize meetings for the general membership. All Chapter members may attend and participate in Executive Committee meetings; only Executive Committee members may vote.

Sec. 4 Quorum: A majority of the Executive Committee must be present in order to conduct business.

## **Bylaw VII – STATE DIRECTORS**

Sec. 1 Number: The Chapter shall select one (1) director for each ten (10) members or major part thereof, not to exceed five (5) such directors to represent it at the annual state meeting.

Sec. 2 Election: State directors shall be elected by the membership as needed. Each state director shall serve for two (2) years or until a successor is elected. The term for state directors starts at the conclusion of the June meeting or picnic.

Sec. 3 Duties: State directors shall represent the Chapter at all state Board of Director meetings. State directors unable to attend said meetings must select a proxy to represent the Chapter. State directors shall serve on the Chapter Executive Committee.

Sec. 4 Vacancies: For any vacancy due to circumstances other than regular term expiration a new state director shall be nominated by the president and elected by a majority vote of members at a general meeting.

## **Bylaw VIII - NEWSLETTER**

Sec. 1 Publication: Within budgetary constraints and any other unavoidable constraints upon the newsletter editor, a newsletter shall be published at least a week before monthly meetings (except during months when there are no meetings) and at any other time deemed necessary by the newsletter editor, president, or Executive Committee. The newsletter does not accept advertisements.

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Sec. 2 Editor: The editor shall publish the newsletter, and assure that it is mailed to the members and posted to the Chapter website in a timely manner. The president shall appoint the editor.

Sec. 3 Contents: The editor shall exercise editorial control over the contents of the newsletter, subject to any policies of the Executive Committee or the Chapter.

### **Bylaw IX - FIELD TRIPS**

Sec. 1 Appointment: The president shall appoint the Field Trip Coordinator.

Sec. 2 Duties: The Field Trip Coordinator shall be responsible for planning the field trips for the Chapter. A minimum of two field trips per month, some on Saturday and some on Sunday are recommended. During April, May, and June, at least one per week is recommended.

The Field Trip Coordinator shall keep track of the number of participants on each trip, as well as the species sighted. When the field trip chairperson cannot attend a field trip, he or she shall designate a participant to keep track of this information. The field trip chairperson shall make a report in the newsletter.

### **Bylaw X - AMENDMENTS**

Sec. 1 Procedure: Chapter Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the members present at a general meeting, providing there is a quorum.

Sec. 2 Notice: Written notice of pending Bylaw amendment(s) must be mailed or e-mailed to each member no later than thirty (30) days preceding the date of the proposed meeting when the amendment shall be voted upon.

### **Bylaw XI – BYLAWS**

Sec. 1 Adoption: The Chapter may adopt such Bylaws, as it deems necessary, by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of a quorum provided such Bylaws do not contravene the Constitution of the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

Sec. 2 Robert's Rules of Order: The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Chapter in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, the Chapter Bylaws, and/or any special rules of order the Chapter may adopt.



## Birding Bliss in North Dakota – Part two, by Janet McKnight

*Editor's note: Part one of Janet's North Dakota trip report appeared in last month's newsletter.*

**N**ow about the birding: North Dakota in June is a birding Mecca, and I'll tell you why. The birding festival was in the prairie pothole region of central North Dakota. There is standing water everywhere; in ditches, ponds, potholes and lakes. Every bit of water, no matter how small, was full of birds; you couldn't drive two feet without seeing a bird to look at. And not only is the water full of birds, but full of birds in all their breeding glory. Birds in their breathtaking breeding plumage were displaying and singing, mating and nest building, mate and baby tending. My lifer Eared Grebes were a mating pair, so they simultaneously made it on my life list and "pump" list, as Bill would call it. And the looks of the birds are completely unobstructed since trees in North Dakota are scarce. The looks of the birds are not fleeting, speck-in-the scope looks. The looks of the birds are long, luscious, fill-the scope, soul-satisfying looks. By the end of the three days with Bill and Julie I had 21 life bird: Western Kingbird, Yellow-Headed Blackbird, American White Pelican, Sedge Wren, Vesper Sparrow, Sharp-Tailed Grouse, Marbled Godwit, Canvasback, Swainson's Hawk, Chestnut-Collared Longspur, Western Grebe, Brewer's Blackbird, Alder Flycatcher, LeConte's Sparrow, Franklin's Gull, American Avocet, Eared Grebe, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Ferruginous Hawk, Lark Bunting and Clark's Grebe.

So not only was it an exceptionally birdy place but the landscape to do the birding in was exceptional as well. My favorite part was the Coteau, a hilly region created by the glaciers, which created the prairie potholes as they melted. The views were absolutely

breathtaking. And the mammal watching was sensational. The area is so sparsely populated with people that wildlife reigns. I saw deer with fawns everywhere, jackrabbits with huge eyes and wooden-spoon ears, and Richardson's ground squirrels feeding and playing in a meadow. My favorite sight was a red fox at the entrance to his den on a dirt embankment, in the middle of a Bank Swallow colony. His head was out of his hole so he could keep an eye on us, with his chin resting on his paws. That little guy's face in my scope was so precious it choked me up. Julie sketched a picture of the fox at the moment he looked at us over his shoulder before entering his den. When I saw the sketch I felt as if she had captured the animal's soul and saved him for eternity on paper. She is such a gifted artist! It was a joy to watch her practice her mastery. One of my favorite parts of the trip was when Julie and I were way out on a peninsula completely surrounded by singing Marsh Wrens, all nest building and advertising themselves. Julie sat down on the grass and began to sketch the Marsh Wrens around us. The birds were so close that without my binoculars I could see how bright orange the insides of their mouths were as they sang their bubbly song. One would pop up, sing, grab some cattail fluff and take it into his globe-shaped reed nest and pop back out to sing again. The moment was pure birding bliss. Bill said we were getting Marsh Wren lap dances. And my trip was full of birding-bliss moments like this, too numerous to write about here. Can you tell I had a good time? I concede again, you have to see North Dakota in June to believe it.

For Birding Drives Dakota information call 1-888-921-2473 or [www.birdingdrives.com](http://www.birdingdrives.com)

**Big Sit anyone?** The Big Sit is a nationwide event that allows a birder to sit for a change and let all the local possible species of birds come to them. In theory, if one is vigilant and in good habitat, most species will eventually show themselves. Laurie Mooney had a registered Big Sit circle (The Bird Nerds) in 2003 and recorded 52 species! This year Kim Henry and myself are giving it a go. Our registered circle is on the grassy peninsula under the pines at Kingston Steamplant. We invite everyone to come by

our 17-foot diameter circle and spend some time, lend your ears and eyes and cheer us on. We are very excited to see how the day unfolds; we're ready with our chairs, our books, our optics, our coolers and hopefully some visiting birding buddies. And our registered circle has a name, and we'll tell it to anyone who asks, but it will remain unprinted. Wish us luck! -Submitted by Janet McKnight

For more Big Sit information go to [www.birdwatchersdigest.com](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com)

**Penguin dreams!** *The night before the Knox County Fall Bird Count I dreamed that Kathy Bivens and I found a group of penguins swimming up the Tennessee River next to the boardwalk at Ijams. We were thrilled to include them in our count totals, although, I suspect, Dean would have disavowed the sighting as being the product of an overactivity REM. What do you think? -Lyn*



## Presidential Perch - By Charlie Muise

Happy fall. I hope you are enjoying the beautiful weather, cooler temperatures, clearer night skies and—of course—fall birds. I've seen lots of reports of warblers, thrushes, vireos and other birds to which Tennesseans are only treated during migration. It sounds like the weather cleared just in time for people to safely get out and count during the fall North American Bird Count. Hopefully the same will be said about the Knox Count, which will have happened by the time you read this. Ron Hoff and Dean Edwards, the compilers, respectively, of these two counts, do a lot of hard work crunching numbers and one way we can thank them is by getting our data to them as quickly after a count as possible. And remember, it's not too early to plan for Christmas Bird Counts...

We had a great turnout for the September picnic, which was held at the Knoxville Zoo, thanks to the efforts of Mark Armstrong, who not only arranged a good location, but also lead members on a short tour (*see page 2*) of some of the bird exhibits at the zoo. THANK YOU MARK! As usual, the food and company were both great. And in my four years with KTOS, I've not been to an event where more children were present. We always want to do anything we can to involve young people – they are the future of both birding and bird conservation.

While none of us ever wish for the destruction and potential loss of life that hurricanes bring, there is one phenomenon associated with these violent storms that birders do find exciting. We call them "storm birds." These birds of the Caribbean or Gulf of Mexico are swept up in big storms and literally stuck in them until the winds weaken substantially. Often that happens overland. So in the hours or days after a big storm comes ashore, birds that are very rare inland can be found in Tennessee, generally over large bodies of water. After Hurricanes Frances and Ivan arrived in a weakened state in Tennessee birders found a number of birds, such as Sooty Terns, Least Terns, Red-Necked Phalaropes, and even a possible Brown Noddy. Our own Dean Edwards found perhaps the biggest concentration of such birds at Cherokee Dam the day after Ivan came through.

After distributing a copy of the proposed chapter bylaws at the picnic, we received some good comments from an active member. The Executive Committee decided to incorporate these comments into the bylaws. The current proposed bylaws are in this newsletter (*see page 5*) and will be posted on the state website ([www.tnbirds.org/ktos.htm](http://www.tnbirds.org/ktos.htm)) soon. Plus copies will be available for member's review at the

October 6 meeting. A vote will be called for at the November meeting.

Plans are underway for KTOS participation in the April 2005 Dogwood Arts Festival. Applications were sent and are pending the acceptance of the DAF committee. We plan to conduct a public walk as we have so many years. In addition, I am happy to announce that we plan to host a speaking engagement at Ijams Nature Center, thanks to the dedication of our wonderful secretary Kathy Bivens. Details to follow.

Please note that a new management plan is being determined for all TVA land that is controlled by Watts Bar. Public comments are solicited through OCTOBER 8. A public hearing will be held at Roane State Community College in Harriman on September 28 from 4-8 p.m. Letters can be sent via fax to 865-632-1430. Phone calls can be made to the Watts Bar Project Manager at 865-632-1803. Or go to the web page for information and to comment: [www.tva.com/environment/reports/wattsbar/index.htm](http://www.tva.com/environment/reports/wattsbar/index.htm).

Having gotten advise from several people and checked out the state tax laws online, we have determined how, as a non-profit, we can sell shade grown coffee. Therefore, we will have some for sale at the next meeting, and hopefully most meetings thereafter. Please see page 11 about why shade grown coffee is a tasty way to help Tennessee birds. Proceeds from coffee sales will go into the general club fund and may be used for such things as augmenting the J.B. Owen Fund. Please see the article on page 12 about the most recent recipient of a J.B. Owen grant.



### Gilmers receive special thank you

*At the annual fall picnic in September held at the Knoxville Zoo, Brice and Beverly Gilmer were given a plaque thanking them for their gracious hospitality. They had hosted the picnic at their home for almost 20 years.*

## Why special coffee? – By Charlie Muise

Here are a few things about this coffee we're selling:

1) It's shade grown. There are two methods of growing coffee. One is to completely clear and burn an area of forest, then plant "sun coffee." This coffee, of varying levels of palatability, is heavily sprayed with pesticides, and is the only plant grown on a plot of land. Few organisms thrive here. One benefit is that a lot more coffee can be harvested per unit of land. The other way is to clear out the under-story and plant shade-tolerant varieties of coffee. This is a "higher-quality, lower-yield" method that produces better coffee, and allows many more organisms, including birds, to live. It also requires much less use of chemicals.

2) It is certified as fair trade. This means that third party organization guarantees a higher amount of the money we pay goes directly to the land owners, growers and other workers, and less of it goes to

international conglomerates. This reduces coffee's equivalent of "sweat shops" and ensures those farmers will stick with shade grown, and be less tempted by the short-term financial temptation of sun coffee.

3) Our decaf is obtained by the Swiss-water process, which uses far fewer toxic chemicals. While there is little evidence that these chemicals (used in the big name decaf coffees) are dangerous to coffee drinkers, buying coffee processed in this manner means we are encouraging the production, transportation and use of some dangerous substances.

4) This coffee is imported, roasted, ground and packaged by a small, local business. John Clark's Vienna Coffee Company is based in a small building on US 411 in Maryville. He imported and roasted coffee as an aficionado and hobbyist for years before putting out his shingle as a businessman.



OF NOTE!

### Special Newsletter Deadline! OCTOBER 17

Because of some travel plans, the November newsletter needs to be produced a few days early. Deadline for that issue will be **OCTOBER 17**.

Anything not received by that date will be held until the December issue. Sorry for the inconvenience.

-Thanks, Lyn

### Final call for 2004 Dues

Take note: If you have not already paid your membership dues for 2004, your name will be dropped from the mailing list and this will be your last newsletter. Don't miss out. To pay your dues, look for information on the last page of this newsletter.

### Shade grown coffee benefits birds

Just a reminder from the refreshment queen: We now have delicious shade-grown coffee brewing at our monthly meetings, so bring your own mug and enjoy a cup. There are also some KTOS mugs for sale for the J.B. Owen Memorial Fund. Hooray for shade-grown coffee! -Submitted by Janet McKnight

### Welcome new KTOS members!

- Debbie Cavanaugh
- Keith and Marilyn Cottrell

### KTOS Financial Report • October 2004

Compiled by Marie Oakes, Treasurer

	September	August	YTD
<b>Income:</b>			
. Dues	\$56.00	\$36.00	\$1,654.00
. Mugs & Patches	\$13.00	\$10.00	\$44.00
. Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$120.37
. Dividend	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$26.38
. Owen Memorial	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$575.87
. Fuller Memorial	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Income	\$69.00	\$46.00	\$2,420.62
<b>Expenses:</b>			
. Newsletter	\$109.80	\$95.40	\$959.10
. Supplies	\$20.70	\$0.00	\$204.84
. Member Dues to TOS	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$1,578.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$130.50	\$95.40	\$2,741.94
<b>Other:</b>			
. Foothills Conservancy	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Friends of UT Gardens	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Fuller Memorial	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Owen Award	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
. Transfer to J.B. Owens	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
. Memorials	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$100.00</u>
Total Other	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$2,100.00
<b>Account Balances</b>			
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$3,025.63	\$3,087.13	
. J.B.Owen Memorial	\$6,364.78	\$6,864.78	
<b>Memberships</b>			
	175	173	

## 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 fees are \$18 for an individual and \$20 for a family. Sustaining memberships are \$28 and a Life membership with TOS is \$200 with an annual fee of \$8 to the local chapter.

**DEADLINE** for the November issue is **October 17**. Due to space restrictions, please try to 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**



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## Kestrel study to receive funding -By Marie Oakes

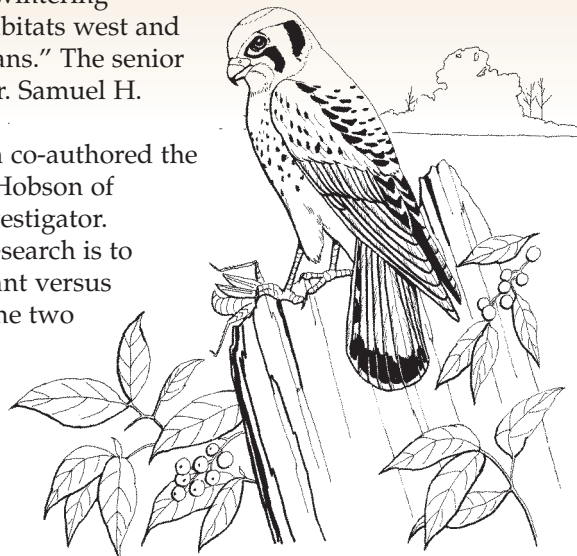
**T**he Knoxville Bird Club has made a J.B. Owen Award of \$500 to support the project on "Stable-isotope feather analysis and foreign band encounter comparisons of wintering American Kestrels in similar habitats west and east of the Southern Appalachians." The senior investigator for the project is Dr. Samuel H. deMent of Greenwood, SC.

David F. Vogt of Chattanooga co-authored the project proposal, and Keith A. Hobson of Saskatoon, SK Canada is co-investigator. The purpose of the proposed research is to determine proportions of migrant versus resident American Kestrels in the two study areas, using analysis of hydrogen isotope levels in feathers.

The isotope levels are related to the areas where food was consumed while the feathers were grown. The isotope technique does not replace banding, since it cannot trace a bird to an exact location. However, the recovery of a banded bird is a rare event, and it can take decades to accumulate data.

Stable-isotope analysis provides similar dispersal and migration data, but at a far greater rate. In essence, every bird that is captured for a feather sample is equivalent to a band recovery. Among other uses, the data from this project could be applied to American Kestrel conservation efforts, through increased understanding of Kestrel migration and dispersal patterns.

The study period will encompass the next three winter seasons. Project deliverables will include an article to be submitted to *The Migrant* or other ornithological journal and/or a presentation at a Fall TOS meeting.



through the biKNOXulars

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