



# biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

## BINOCULARS TO BE THE TOPIC OF THE OCTOBER 1st PROGRAM.

Do you have a question about binoculars? Have you been thinking about upgrading your current bins? Maybe you are thinking of buying a pair of binoculars for your child or grandchild, or perhaps you are just curious about what is on the market today.

Ken Worthington, who is the Nikon representative for our region, will be in charge of the program for October and he should be able to answer whatever questions you might have.

Ken will have samples of binoculars for us to see as well as information on how they work, how to select them and the different types available.

We will meet at 7 o'clock on Wednesday, October 1st in Room 117 of the UT Veterinary Building.

### **\*\*IMPORTANT NOTICE\*\***

**Apparently UT is cracking down on free parking so when you come to the October meeting, you will need to put a visible notice in your car window that you are attending a KTOS meeting in the Veterinary Building.**

**Mark is trying to get an okay for October, but there is no guarantee. Please remember that KTOS CANNOT be responsible for any tickets you may receive.**

## Upcoming field trips and meeting

### SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS OF FIELD TRIPS

**Saturday, October 4, 7:30 a.m. / 8:15 a.m.**

**Kingston Steam Plant, Roane County**

Leader: Ron Hoff (865-435-4547)

[aves7000@bellsouth.net](mailto:aves7000@bellsouth.net);

**Saturday, October 11 9:00AM - 11:00AM**

**Knoxville Botanical Gardens and Arboretum (KBGA)**

Leader: Kathy Bivens (865-983-7349 or cell 865-250-6410)

**Saturday, October 18, 8:30 a.m.**

**Norris Dam Songbird Trail**

Leader: Carole Gobert (cell 865-254-8841)

[cpgobert@hotmail.com](mailto:cpgobert@hotmail.com)

**Sunday, October 26 8:30 a.m.**

**Kyker Bottoms Wildlife Area, Blount Co.**

Leader: David Trently

(Home 865-531-1473, Work 865-974-8664)

[NatureTours@avianpursuits.com](mailto:NatureTours@avianpursuits.com)

**November 7-9, 2008**

**TOS Fall Meeting, Chattanooga, TN**

The Chattanooga Chapter extends an invitation to all TOS members across the state to attend the TOS Fall Meeting, to be held November 7 - 9, 2008. Most of the meeting events will be held at the [Chattanooga Nature Center](#).

### **Lodging:**

A block of 12 rooms at the Econo Lodge Lookout Mountain, 150 Browns Ferry Rd, has been reserved for TOS. Call 423-821-9000 for reservations. Be sure to ask for the TOS meeting rates, which are \$54.99 per night (\$5 - \$15 off standard rate). We encourage people to reserve hotel room soon.

For more information, pictures and directions visit the Econo Lodge website: <http://www.econolodge.com/> and use the locator for Chattanooga, Tennessee (Lookout Mountain), or go directly to the [hotel's website](#). Please note that this is the same hotel used for the 2004 spring meeting in Chattanooga. It is very close to the Browns Ferry Road exit of I-24 and not on Lookout Mountain.

See (<http://www.tnbirds.org/>) for further information.

*"A wonderful bird in the pelican; His bill will hold more than his belican.*

*He can take in his beak; Food enough for a week,*

*But I'm damned if I see how the helican."*

Dixon Lanier Merritt



**Presidential Perch**  
- By Mark Campen

Ahhh, the fall season is upon us. Many migrating passerines are stopping by our yards, parks, fields and forests feeding on plump insects and fruits on their way to spread their wings and bask in the warmer climates of Central and South America. If you haven't been feeding wild birds, this is good time to start. Many birds will prepare for winter by scouting out bountiful feeding areas, and if you keep the feeder full this fall you are more likely to have more visitors this winter.

I want to thank all of you who helped out with the September picnic at the Knoxville Botanical Gardens and Arboretum. Approximately 30 people were in attendance. Although we didn't have as much time to bird watch, many people got to walk around and discover what could be a great birding spot. I hope we will take advantage of this place to lead field trips and have meetings. In fact, a field trip is scheduled for October 11. Kathy Bivens will be leading the trip and KBGA board member Jim McDonough will also tour the grounds with KTOS members while presenting information about the gardens' flora and history.

Also, I want to thank Janet Lee for soliciting new members and spreading the good news about KTOS at the Mast General store on September 6. We all need to do more to get new members to our club. Try to get a friend or two to join us at a meeting in the next few months.

Now this month's quiz bird: Sometimes called "Butterbird" and "Robert" this bird was once a serious nuisance in the south due to the damage it did to rice fields; so bad that it was omitted from the original protections of the Migratory Bird Law of 1913. On its way to wintering grounds, butter birds are eaten by some people in Jamaica, maybe other countries too. At a length of approximately 7", this bird has a song that is jumbled, bubbling and somewhat metallic. Like many other species, populations have decreased significantly over the past few decades.

Last month's bird: Eastern Phoebe

**ANNUAL DUES**

It is time to start thinking about annual dues payments. Membership dues are \$26 for an individual, \$30 for a family and \$13 for a student.

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 data.

If you want to pay your dues in October, Jean Anderson will be filling in for Marie.

**Seven Islands Banding Update**

The MAPS station at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge concluded it fourth season on August 3, 2008. We were not quite as busy as our previous seasons which in a way was a relief but we had a productive time none the less. At the end of the season we had processed a total of 413 birds including 321 birds banded, 80 recaptures and 12 unbanded birds. Previous years we processed a bit over 500 birds.

Like last year we are continuing our banding sessions through the year at approximate two week intervals. October sessions are scheduled for the 5th and 26th. We usually try to open the nets approximately 30 minutes before sunrise and band until about 11:00 AM when things start slowing down. We have had three sessions since MAPS ended and have banded some nice birds. In addition to the many Field Sparrows and Indigo Buntings, we have also banded Northern Waterthrush, Palm Warbler and recaptured a Prothonotary Warbler banded in 2007. Last year we hit the sparrow migration or the sparrow migration hit us and we banded eight species in the late October to early November sessions. If anyone would like to see the banding please contact Wayne Schacher or myself to confirm our schedule.

I would like to thank the members of Knoxville TOS for their support of the MAPS station and banding at Seven Islands through the JB Owen Memorial Fund. The environment at Seven Islands can be very harsh and we have made good use of the funds to purchase a supply of nets and other equipment. I would also like to thank the many volunteers that help extract birds, put up nets, provide snacks, record data and many other chores that get done in the very early morning.

Thank you.  
Mark Armstrong

**Saturday, October 4, 7:30 a.m. / 8:15 a.m.  
Kingston Steam Plant, Roane Co.**

To carpool, meet at 07:30 at the Stokely Building on the northeast side of the Cedar Bluff exit, in the parking lot closest to Cedar Bluff. Participants should bring water and maybe a small snack. We'll try to be finished by noon. We have had some interesting sparrows there in the past at this time of the year, and there should be some shorebirds and maybe a few early ducks to spice up the mix. If anyone wants to meet us at the Steam Plant, we'll probably work the pines trees in the front for Brown-headed Nuthatch starting about 08:15 before proceeding to the back. Total walking will probably be about 2-3 miles.

**Saturday, October 11 9:00AM - 11:00AM  
Knoxville Botanical Gardens and Arboretum (KBGA)**

The KBGA is located in a quiet residential area in East Knoxville and is quite easy to find and is only about 5 minutes from downtown Knoxville. There are signs directing you to the property from downtown (driving directions below). The gardens are a magical place with whimsical round stone buildings, pebble walkways, stone-sided greenhouses and secret garden paths and alleys. Today, mature specimens of rare and unusual trees and shrubbery remain, surrounded by thousands of feet of beautiful stone walls that define the planting areas.

Jim McDonough, who is on the Board of Directors at KBGA, has agreed to act as our personal tour guide of the gardens. Kathy Bivens is the field trip coordinator. The route that Jim has planned through the property is relatively level and easily accessible for all ages and physical abilities. He has a regular route he follows to give tours of the property and this field trip should last about 2 hours.

Parking is in the field across from the KBGA entrance where we parked for the picnic. (across from the former owner's residence). The parking area is a mowed field and it is relatively level. Please remember to bring binoculars, drinking water, and bug spray. Pets are not permitted at KBGA. Please visit their web site ([www.knoxgarden.org](http://www.knoxgarden.org)) for more visitor guidelines.

Driving Directions:

**Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum  
2743 Wimpole Avenue, Knoxville TN 37914**

**From I-40 East** take exit 389, 441S, Hall of Fame Drive. Go south for 0.8 miles, turn left on Summit Hill Drive. Go 1.4 miles to five-way stop. Go straight but bear left. Go .4 miles and turn left on Biddle Street and go .2 miles to three-way stop. Turn right onto Boyd's Bridge Pike, go .6 miles and turn left onto Parish Street, go one block and turn left onto Wimpole Avenue. Continue along Wimpole. Park in the field across from the KBGA office (a former residence).

**If driving along Neyland Drive going east**, take Hall of Fame Drive exit. Turn left on Hall of Fame Drive. At the third traffic light, turn right onto Summit Hill Drive and follow above directions

**Saturday, October 18, 8:30 a.m.  
Norris Dam Songbird Trail**

Carole Gobert will lead a field trip to her favorite birding spot in east Tennessee: the Songbird Trail just below Norris Dam in Anderson County. We'll meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Visitor Center at the dam and from there drive to the entrance to the Songbird Trail. We can either walk the entire loop or leave some cars at each end and just walk one way (1.4 miles, flat, easy walking). Should be finished by lunch time but it's a good idea to bring water.

Birds that may be seen include kinglets, Hermit Thrush, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Wood Pewee and probably some late migrants. Norris has a variety of habitats-- riparian, meadows, woodland-- and a corresponding variety of birds.

Directions from Knoxville: From I-75 North take exit 122 (Norris/Clinton), turn right and go east on TN 61 for approximately 1.5 miles and turn north (left) onto TN 441 after passing the Museum of Appalachia and go approximately 5-6 miles to the Visitor Center/restrooms that will be on the left, before crossing over the dam.

More information on the Songbird Trail and the Norris Dam area is on the TOS website at:  
<http://www.tnbirds.org/birdfinding/NorrisArea.htm>

**Sunday, October 26 8:30 a.m.  
Kyker Bottoms Wildlife Area, Blount Co.**

Meet at the paved parking area at Kyker at 8:30. David will arrive at 7:30—if anyone wants to ride with him, or is interested in carpooling with someone else for an 8:30 arrival, contact him by the evening of October 23. We'll start out birding from the blind, then wander the nearby fields looking mostly for sparrows. Eventually we'll make our way to the area near the barn where we'll look for more sparrows, plus waterfowl. Anyone who's interested may want to walk through the wet fields trying for snipe, rails, Sedge Wren, etc. Rubber boots suggested - but you can bird the area without waterproof shoes, so don't let that scare you away. This is also a good time of year to see a few raptors, woodpeckers and some late warblers. We'll be out there at least until noon so you may want to bring a snack and drink.

**OTHER BIRDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**October 3-5, 2008**

Carolina Bird Club Meeting in Wilmington, NC  
(<http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/>)

**October 9-13, 2008**

Colonial Coast Birding Festival, Jekyll Island, GA  
<http://www.coastalgeorgiabirding.org/index.htm>

**October 16-19, 2008**

Alabama Coastal Birdfest, Five Rivers Delta Resource Center, Spanish Fort, AL  
(<http://www.alabamacoastalbirdfest.com/>)

**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 November issue is October 24.

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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Just a few of the members and guests who attended the KTOS September Picnic at Knoxville Botanical Gardens

**SHADE GROWN COFFEE**

Don't forget to see David Johnson to place your order this month for shade grown coffee to be delivered at the November meeting.

Your orders not only help the farmers and the birds, but you also help KTOS.

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