



October Program “Place Names of the Smokies”

Join us on **Wednesday, October 3, at 6:45 p.m.** for our first speaker of the program year. Allen Coggins presentation will be based on his book *Place Names of the Smokies*, which was published by the Great Smoky Mountains Association. He is a delightful presenter with lots of great stories. This program is one you do not want to miss!

Mr. Coggins is a freelance writer and part-time subcontractor with Oak Ridge Associated Universities, where he previously worked for twenty years. He has also served as Chief Naturalist for both Georgia and Tennessee State Parks. He is a native of Knoxville and Oak Ridge. He and his wife, Barbara, now reside in Blount County, in the shadow of their beloved Smoky Mountains.

This month's meeting will be at our regular location in Room 117 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. For directions, please click on our Meetings page on the web at <http://www.tnbirds.org/KTOS.html>.



Yellow-rumped Warbler, a common winter resident in the Smokies. Source: Wikimedia Commons

Dues Almost Due

It is hard not to enjoy the cooler temperatures, beautiful fall weather and the fall migrants we have been looking forward to throughout the long hot summer. Autumn is also the time we should start thinking about paying our KTOS dues for the coming year. Several members did this at the picnic last month. While the dues are not required to be paid until December 31, it is always appreciated if payment is made earlier so that KTOS' treasurer is not inundated with dues payments and paperwork while wrapping presents and trimming the tree at Christmas.

You can renew at the October meeting or by mailing your payment to Carole Gobert, 1304 Barcelona Drive, Knoxville, TN 37923. For those new members who joined at or after the Hummingbird Festival in July, your dues were for 2013 so you do not need to pay again until next fall.

KTOS 2013 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://www.tnbirds.org/chapters/knoxvill/KTOS_MembershipForm.pdf.

New Field Trip Coordinator

Tom Howe has volunteered as our new field trip coordinator. He may be contacted at blountbirder@yahoo.com or (865) 983-8198.

Puffin Photographs

Michael Plaster won first place and best of show for a series of Atlantic Puffin photographs taken at Machias Seal Island at the Cocks County A&I Fair this year. Machias Seal Island is located in the Gulf of Maine, about 10 miles southeast from Cutler, Maine. Bold Coast Charter (<http://www.boldcoast.com>) provides half-day excursions from Cutler to this island. Also, see <http://www.mainebirding.net> for additional information about birding in Maine.



Presidential Perch

September is off and running like wild fire! We had a great picnic at Ijams Nature Center with lots of good food, good chats and, of course, the wonderful surprise that was presented to me from KTOS members — roses, wine, and a gift certificate to Mayo's Garden Center, all of which I appreciate. Thank you! We also had two new members, Dennis McCorkle and Tiffany Beachy, attended the picnic. Welcome!

The following day Mark Armstrong, Jane Kading, Patty Ford, Colin Leonard, and I traveled to the Strawberry Plains Hummingbird Festival in Holly Springs, Miss. We were part of the Hummer/Bird Study Group that banded hummingbirds and presented information on how special hummingbirds are. More than 500 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were banded during the festival that lasted three days.

We had the "Wine in the Wild" wine tasting lead by Mike Nelson. We birded in my garden finding a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-and-white Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and a great show by the American Redstart. We had members, past members, and some member wannabes who brought a great assortment of food. Mike introduced us to some fantastic wines that had a birding theme. I want to thank Ijams for allowing us to use their tables and chairs. Ijams is a wonderful partner and if you have not been visited them, please do. We are so lucky to have them in our back yard.

Please remember to leave up a hummingbird feeder this fall. Should you see a hummingbird after the 15th of November, please contact Mark Armstrong at woodthrush@bellsouth.net. He will come and band it. We are getting more and more western hummingbirds wintering in our area.

Billie Cantwell



Billie accepting her gifts from KTOS members.

Get Out and Get Birding! October Field Trips



Chipping Sparrow, a common resident. Source: Wikimedia Commons

Seven Islands

Sunday, October 7 @ 8:00 a.m.

Leader: Mike Nelson, madbirder@surfbirder.com

We will meet at the Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge parking lot at 8:00 a.m. For directions and a site description, see <http://www.sevenislands.org/home.html>. Mike Nelson will lead this field trip to one of the premiere birding areas in East Tennessee. We will walk the fields looking for sparrows and raptors, coming back along the wooded trail to the pond, then on to the river along the path to the barn, and returning along the road. The trip should last two to three hours. Bring snacks and water as needed.

Brian Hann's Farm/Bike Trails

Thursday, October 11 @ 8:30 a.m.

Leader: Tony King, (865) 988-6172

We will meet at Ijam's Nature Center parking lot at 8:30 a.m. and drive to Karen Fletcher's home. For directions to Ijams, see <http://ijams.org/find-ijams/directions/>. Karen has invited us to explore Brian Hann's farm that was formerly owned by her great-great aunt. The area consists of several farms that connect forming 300 acres including Karen's. The land contains cedar thickets, old growth trees, meadows, creeks, springs, caves, and sinkholes with lots of undergrowth. This site should be an excellent area for a large variety of birds.

Kyker Bottoms Refuge

Sunday, October 28 @ 8:00 a.m.

Leader: Mike Nelson, madbirder@surfbirder.com

We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the paved parking lot. For directions and a site description, see <http://www.tnbirds.org/birdfinding/KykerBottoms.htm>. We will check the fields for sparrows and other fall migrants, then look in the ponds for ducks and other waterfowl. This is our last opportunity to visit this site before the park is closed for the season. We will likely visit some of the other parking areas to look for other species. Bring snacks and water as needed.

Birding Briefs

Billie Cantwell has recently enjoyed several visitors to her yard recently, including American Redstarts; Blue-winged, Canada, Black-and-white, and Chestnut-sided Warblers; and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Currently, she still has male Red-throated hummingbirds.

Maya and Michael Plaster recently spent a day and a half birding in northeastern Bulgaria at Lake Durankulak and Lake Shabla. They observed around 90 species, including Red-breasted and Spotted Flycatchers; Pied and Isabelline Wheatears; a Citrine Wagtail; Paddyfield, Eurasian Reed, Great Reed, Willow, and Garden Warblers. They used Branta Tours (www.branta-tours.com) and stayed at Branta Tour's Lodge located on Lake Durankulak. We will use Branta Tours again.

Have you seen a really great bird you want to share? Email your bird information (e.g., species, number, date, location) to Michael Plaster at KTOS.Editor@gmail.com.

Duck Stamps

For those that preordered a 2013 Duck Stamp, they will be distributed at the next meeting. If you are not able to attend the next meeting, you may contact Billie Cantwell at bfcantwell@gmail.com or by calling (865) 212-9797.



Duck Stamp sales are used to purchase or lease wetland habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge system. Since its inception in 1934, the stamp has and protected more than 5.3 million acres.



Allen's Hummingbird Returns to East Tennessee

On September 23, Mark Armstrong, Jane Kading, and Billie Cantwell traveled to Russellville, Tenn. to capture an Allen's hummingbird at the home of Jane and Wally Manspeaker. We arrived just at sunrise to see hummingbirds feeding. Mark quickly put a trap on the feeder that the Allen's preferred. After only a few minutes the hummingbird was inspecting the cage, then moved away, then came back and entered the trap. We had him! He was quickly in Mark's hands and his band read. It is the same one that Mark banded in November 2011 as a hatching. This year he came wearing his full dress uniform and was handsome! Please remember to leave out a feeder for our winter visitors and if see a hummingbird, let Mark Armstrong know (woodthrush@bellsouth.net).

OPERATION MIGRATION

The class of 2012-2013 of Whooping Cranes broods has been dubbed "The Sensational Six" by OPERATION MIGRATION (OM's) crew members. If one is lucky enough to witness their training, the six chicks still have their cinnamon colored necks with white bodies and black wing tips.

OM has announced an earlier migration departure date from White River Marsh in Wisconsin. This new departure date, September 28, 2012, may have passed by the time you read this newsletter. Hopefully the Cranes will be on their way to Florida and away from the fickle Wisconsin weather, before the end of September.

This year has been tougher than usual for financially supporting worthy causes, mainly due to the flood of mail to do with the elections!! However, OM has set this year's MILEMAKER fund at \$200 per mile, \$100 per half mile, or \$ 50 per quarter mile. To date in Tennessee, 24.5 miles of the 106 miles of the migration route have been sponsored. We need to do more for this cause!! KTOS and a member have each sponsored one mile. Thank you!! Hopefully by the year's end the MILEMAKER goal for all of the migration route of 1265 miles will be met.

Remember that there are only about 104 Whooping Cranes in the Eastern Migratory population. Compare that number to the 120 or so European Starlings counted on the North American Migration Count (NAMC) on September 15, 2012 in Blount County by Tony King.

Follow the migration adventure at <http://www.operationmigration.org/index.html>.

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

**2012 — 2013
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Local Support of Ijams

Recently Stanley's Greenhouse (<http://www.stanleysgreenhouses.com>) and Sunlight Gardens (<http://www.sunlightgardens.com>) have generously donated plants that will attract hummingbirds to Ijams Nature Center (<http://www.ijams.org>). As you know, Ijams is where we held our Hummingbird Festival this year. These plants will help to increase the hummingbird population at Ijams. KTOS needs any hummingbird feeders and ant traps so they can be donated to Ijams. If you have any of these items, please contact Billie Cantwell at bfcantwell@gmail.com or by calling (865) 212-9797.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird, a common summer resident at Ijams. Source: Wikimedia Commons