



Discover Birds

Discover birds is off and running this fall! We had a group of 34 (9 parents and 25 children) from the Young Adventures Home School Group of Oak Ridge. Thanks to Michael Plaster, Doug Schneeberger and Vickie Henderson for their time and leadership.

Our next group is the Blount Home Education Association. We did a program for this group last fall at Ijams Nature Center and had 33 students. This year they ask if we would do it again for them and so far they have 71 students signed up! What is special about this group is that I got to know one of the families and it has been such a pleasure to see them attend banding sessions, come to the Hummingbird Festival and watched their love for nature keep growing! This is what Discover Birds can do for kids and adults!

We will need some volunteers for this group. It will be at Ijams Nature Center on October 17, 2014 in the afternoon. We will need at least four volunteers to lead this group on a bird walk for about 45 minutes. The program will begin around 1:00 p.m. with a slide show followed by the show and tell portion of the program. The bird walks will begin around 3:30 p.m.

This is one program that will make you heart swell with pride, so if you would like to help please email me bfcantwell@comcast.net. Do not forget to check out [Vickie's blog](#), [Facebook page](#), the Discover Birds Programs that have been presented to the schools (discoverbirds.blogspot.com).

Billie Cantwell

October Program: The Ninety-Year History of KTOS

Please join us on Wednesday, October 1 for the presentation: "The Ninety-Year History of KTOS" by Vickie Henderson. In honor of our club's 90th anniversary, Vickie delved into the club's archives of early 20th century correspondence, newsletters, and photographs as well as TOS materials in Nashville. She compiled a PowerPoint presentation of the interesting information she identified. Learn about our early club members, their talents, and the legacy they left behind.

Vickie is a member of KTOS, an artist, writer and naturalist. In 2011, she wrote and illustrated "Discover Birds Activity Book" published by the Tennessee Ornithological Society. With more than four thousand copies distributed to students around the state, the book is designed to inspire the students' curiosity and creativity while presenting facts about birds.

The meeting will be held in Room 118 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. For directions, please visit the meetings page of on the KTOS website at: www.tnbirds.org/chapters/knoxvill/KTOS_Meetings.html.

Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival

The fourth annual Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival was a great success! Not only was it successful, it was also fun, educational and a great event for the Knoxville area.

We are thankful for our sponsors for making this festival possible: Tennessee Wildlife Federation (www.tnwf.org), Pete and Linda Claussen, Charles Sartwell, Visionary Horizons Wealth Management, Wild Birds Unlimited (knoxville.wbu.com), Stanley's Greenhouse (www.stanleysgreenhouses.com), Agri Feed Pet Supply (www.agrifeedpetsupply.com), Food City (www.foodcity.com), and Visionary Horizons (www.visionaryhorizons.com).

Loggerhead Shrike. Source: Wikimedia Commons



Presidential Perch

Hello Everyone,

I hope that everyone had a great summer—I have been extremely busy but things seem to be settling down a little now. Fall migration is in full swing in East Tennessee and there have been some remarkable sightings reported in the greater Knoxville area. I was able to make several trips to Rankin Bottoms during the recent surge of shorebirds that was passing through. Many wonderful and locally rare species were seen there. There have been numerous Swainson's Thrushes moving through the area as well.

We have some wonderful field trips coming up soon with the Knoxville chapter, and fall bird counts are under way in surrounding counties. Knox County's fall count will be September 28, 2014. I hope everyone can get involved with some of the data collection supporting these counts. This is such an exciting time of year for birding and we are so fortunate to live in a migration corridor of the Tennessee Valley. Get out there and see some of the beautiful birds that pass through! I look forward to seeing everyone at the monthly meeting, we have some great speakers lined up this year, and we will have a lot of fun!

We will be releasing more information on the projects we are working on in the near future. If anyone has suggestions or ideas for the club, please feel free to contact me and I would be happy to discuss them. We are currently discussing ideas for field trips, guest speakers, etc. Any input would be greatly appreciated.

John O'Barr



Children showing their "Faces Gone Wild" at the Fourth Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival at Ijams Nature Center.

Get Out and Get Birding! October Field Trips

**Cove Lake State Park, Caryville, Tenn.
Saturday, October 11, 2014 @ 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Tom Howe, blountbirder@nxs.net,
(865) 407-9620**

We will be searching for both water and land birds, late warblers, early sparrows, and lingering flycatchers. We will meet by the rest rooms near the playground. Bring water and a snack. For directions to Cove Lake, see <http://www.tnbirds.org/birdfinding/CoveLake.htm>.

**Brian Hann's Farm/Bike Trails
Thursday, October 23, 2014 @ 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Tony King, (865) 988-6172**

We will meet at Ijam's Nature Center parking lot at 9:00 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 is an excellent area for a large variety of birds.

**Kyker Bottoms Refuge
Saturday, October 25, 2014 @ 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Tom Howe, blountbirder@nxs.net,
(865) 407-9620**

We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the paved parking lot at the refuge. 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.

Welcome New Members

Please welcome the following new members: Gisele Martins Schoene, Betty Sue Dunn, and Nancy Tabor. Also, please welcome back JoAnne Benard.

Fourth Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival: A Success!

Billie Cantwell



The fourth annual Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival was a great success! Not only was it successful, it was also fun, educational, and a great event for the Knoxville area. With Knoxville becoming an outdoor destination, the Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival is a perfect fit.

Attendance was up by about 10% over 2013. Our total income for the festival was \$10,433.35. However, we increased our activities and the expenses were higher this year, \$5,580.07. Ijams Nature Center and KTOS made profit of \$2,426.64 each.

There were more kids this year and they had more activities from which to choose. The "Nature Tent" was a blast with games, painting, and making bird feeders to take home! A huge thanks goes to Paula Schneeberger, Susie Kaplar, Kathy McGinnis-Craft, Sharon, and Erin Burnett. The slide

show, "Introduction into Backyard Birding" by Paula Schneeberger, was well attended and was followed by Chris Welsh leading the kids and adults on a bird walk. I am guessing we will be seeing these youngsters again as they were enthralled! The face painting by Kelly Mules "Faces Gone Wild" was also a big hit.

We have received a lot of good feedback about our speakers. People have even requested several of our speakers to return next year. One family wrote:

"I wanted to tell you how much my family and I enjoyed the festival. We have attended the last two years. I especially wanted you to know how much my whole family enjoyed David Unger's presentations. We were so impressed with his black bear presentation, that we stayed much later than we anticipated to hear his next speech, Carnivores: The Big Good Wolf. He was informative as well as entertaining. He was very receptive to questions and took the time to carefully answer my children. Please invite him back to speak next year.

We were very excited to once again see the hummingbirds up close. Thank you for allowing my children the opportunity to release the hummingbirds after they were examined. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity that they will never forget. We will definitely attend next year's festival. Thank you for an educational and enjoyable experience."

This shows that we are on the right track with our speakers and festival!

Mark Armstrong banded 33 hummingbirds and had one re-capture from last year's festival. Thanks to the banding team, Jane Kading, Steve McGaffin, Patty Ford, Richard, Gar and Keane Secrist, Eddy Whitson, Colin Leonard, and Andy Troutman. Our "entertainers" Mike Nelson, Colin Sumrall, Chris Welsh, Oliver Lang and Kristen Johnson helped our visitors understand and learn more about hummingbirds and banding while waiting in line.

The bird, butterfly, and nature walks were also well attended. A special thanks to Steve Routledge from the NTOS chapter who filled in for a couple of our walks at the last minute! The hummingbird walk led by Sabrina DeVault had over 60 excited individuals. Thanks to Steve McGaffin, Oliver Lang, Chris Welsh, Mark Campen, Sabrina DeVault, and Mike Nelson.

As you can tell I could go on and on. For those of you who want to see more, visit Vickie Henderson's blog, the Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival, and the KTOS Facebook pages where you can read Vickie's article and see photographs of the event taken by Karen Wilkerson. Thanks Karen and Vickie.

A special thanks goes to all the behind the scenes people too. Lyn Bales, Paul James, Colin Leonard, Patty Ford and Vickie Henderson.

Again, thank you to all who help to make this a wonderful event. With Ijams as a partner we can only get better each year!

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 (high school or younger), or TOS life membership for \$450 with \$8 annual fee to Chapter.



www.tnbirds.org/KTOS.html

**2014 — 2015
Chapter Officers**

President

John O'Barr
(865) 279-9043
jonhop11@yahoo.com

Vice President

Merikay Waldvogel
(865) 691-8117
quiltalive@aol.com

Treasurer

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

Secretary

Karen Wilkinson
(865) 404-8506
karenwilk@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, 2014 – 2016

Jean Alexander
Harold Howell
David Johnson

State Directors, 2013 – 2015

Michael Plaster
Chris Welsh

through the biKNOXulars
725 Mountain Pass Lane
Knoxville, TN 37923

POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to: *through the biKNOXulars*, 725 Mountain Pass, Knoxville, TN 37923



Doug Schneeberger and children from Young Adventures Home School Group of Oak Ridge enjoying a Discover Birds Program at the University of Tennessee Arboretum in Oak Ridge, Tenn. on September 19, 2014.