

through the biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

34



Picnic at the Zoo: September 7, 6:30 PM

After the great turnout last year, we are returning to the Knoxville Zoo for the KTOS Fall Picnic. We will meet Wednesday, September 7, in the Kids Cove Tent at 6:30 p.m. After we eat, KTOS member and zoo employee, Mark Armstrong will take us for a tour of the zoo's latest addition—Kids Cove. Mark will focus on the native species found in Kids Cove including songbirds and a beaver. If time permits, we will visit the condors.

One of the goals of the executive committee is to involve more young people in birding and our club. So please bring your families and young ones. In addition to the picnic we hope to see lots of youngsters on the Saturday, September 10 field trip geared for kids and beginning birders (see "Outings" at the bottom of this page for more info).

The picnic is a potluck so please bring a dish to share with

the group. We have rented chairs from the zoo. You don't need to bring a chair, but we would greatly appreciate it if you could help reimburse the club for the cost of renting the chairs (50¢ per chair). As usual, to reduce our use of disposables, we will have plates, silverware, and cups available (which Charlie Muise borrows from Tremont).

DIRECTIONS: From I-40 take exit 392 to US11W south. Follow the signs to Knoxville Zoo. Please park in the main parking lot (unlike last year). We will enter through the gate at the handicap parking area.

Once in the gate, Mark Armstrong will direct us to the tent (left once inside the gate).

See you Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. for lots of yummy food, conversation and fun.

- Tracey Muise, VP and
program coordinator



 MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Outings for September

Saturday, September 10, 9:30 AM

Maryville Greenbelt. See page 1.

Saturday, September 17

Fall Migratory Bird Count. See page 6.

Sunday, September 18, 8:00 AM

Hawk Watch at Foothills Parkway. See page 2.

Saturday, September 24, 7:30 AM

Bald River Falls and Cherochala Skyway. See page 2.

Sunday, September 25

Knox County Fall Bird Count. See page 6.

Due to changes in water levels and thus the uncertainty of shorebird migration there, we have not scheduled a trip to Rankin Bottoms. However, we may announce a trip there if conditions seem appropriate. It might be on a weekday evening. Look for the announcement on the TN-Bird listserv.

Saturday, September 10, 9:30 AM

Birdwatching for Young People • Maryville Greenbelt

Leader: **Tracey Muise** 977-8429

Meet at the Maryville Library parking lot. The focus of this field trip is to engage children in birdwatching. We will

(Continued on page 2.)

"A hen is only an egg's way of making another egg."

Samuel Butler, English poet (1835-1902)

September outings! *(Continued from page 1)*

focus on the basics of using binoculars and identifying some of the more common species found along the greenway. More experienced birders are welcome, of course. If you know some young people that you'd like to introduce to birding, this is a great opportunity to do just that!

Sunday, September 18, 8:00 AM

Hawk Watch at Foothills Parkway

Leader: **David Trently** 531-1473 (w), 974-8664; dtrently@utk.edu) Meet at 8 a.m. at start of Foothills Parkway off US 321 near Townsend. We may spend up to two hours at the start of this road, looking for migrant songbirds before heading up the parkway. We should see a number of warblers and vireos. Once we start the hawk watch part of the trip (by 10 a.m.) we expect to see mostly Broad-winged Hawks, but there's always a few other raptors and



OF NOTE!

Welcome New KTOS Members

Dr. Shelley Newman, Beverly Abele

KTOS Financial Report • September 2005

Compiled by Marie Oakes, Treasurer

	Jun to Aug	May	YTD
Income:			
. Dues	\$74.00	\$38.00	\$1,188.00
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$210.00	\$245.95	\$847.95
. Interest	\$56.61	\$0.00	\$119.15
. Silent Auction	\$31.00	\$582.40	\$613.40
. Owen Memorial	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$71.00
. Miscellaneous	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Income	\$371.61	\$866.35	\$2,839.50
Expenses:			
. Newsletter	\$119.25	\$50.00	\$302.00
. Supplies	\$33.96	\$0.00	\$51.96
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$276.29	\$0.00	\$511.73
. Member Dues to TOS	\$54.00	\$30.00	\$1,346.00
. Miscellaneous	<u>\$18.08</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$18.08</u>
Total Expenses	\$501.58	\$80.00	\$2,229.77
Other:			
Total Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Account Balances			
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$3,920.82	\$4,102.57	
. J.B.Owen Memorial	\$6,639.30	\$6,587.52	
Memberships			
	145	143	

usually some surprises.

Bring chairs, scopes and, once again, we plan to do a potluck lunch, so bring something to share. In past years we have had Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Caspian Tern, Common Raven, Red-headed Woodpecker, Sandhill Crane and many vireos, warblers, thrushes and tanagers.

Saturday, September 24, 7:30 AM

Bald River Falls and Cherohala Skyway

Meet in time for a 7:30 a.m. departure from the Stokley Building parking lot, 320 N. Cedar Bluff. Secondary meeting site is the Hardee's in Tellico Plains, where we should be by 8:30.

From there we will head to Bald River Falls. Bring your cameras! There are some trails in the area and we'll wander about a bit before heading up onto the Skyway. This is usually a good place to see lots of fall migrant songbirds.

- For additional info contact David Trently

Out-of-state bird club meetings

Here are dates for some neighboring states' bird club meetings coming up this fall, with links to their websites for where you can find additional information.

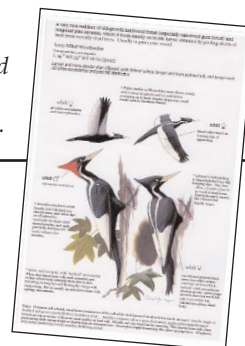
Alabama Ornithological Society: October 14-16; Dauphin Island, AL
<http://www.bham.net/aos/>

Carolina Bird Club: September 30 - October 2; Charleston, SC
<http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/index.html>

Georgia Ornithological Society: October 7-9; Jekyll Island, GA
 Colonial Coast Birding & Nature Festival
<http://www.gos.org/>

Kentucky Ornithological Society: September 23-25; Lake Cumberland State Resort Park, Jamestown, KY
<http://www.biology.eku.edu/kos.htm>

Free ivory-billed
four-color pdf
is available online.



Sibley adds a bird! Editor's note: If you have a copy of *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, first published in 2000, you know that it does not include the ivory-billed woodpecker, after all it was extinct at the time, wasn't it? Take heart: the author David Allen Sibley has created an update. A free four-color pdf is available online. Go to: sibleyguides.com/ivorybilled.htm

A visit with the Joslins in Costa Rica *By Ron Hoff*

Dollyann and I recently went to Costa Rica for nine days to visit and bird with former Oak Ridge residents and KTOS members Dev and Harriet Joslin. We are happy to report that Dev and Harriet are doing well and loving their new house and country. Their house is built up on the side of a hill and on a clear day they can see west about 25 miles or so to the Gulf of Nicoya, an inlet of the Pacific Ocean.

They have lots of very large windows so they always have a beautiful view. The house is situated at about 5000 feet. Dev told me the temperature only varies from 60 to 80°F, so they don't have either heat or air conditioning.

Harriet has flowers, fruit trees and vegetables growing everywhere and Dev stays busy contributing to several local forestry and birding projects. We spent about three or four days birding in the immediate area. The last four days Harriet stayed at home as we were going into the Caribbean lowlands to bird and she doesn't cope well with high heat and humidity. We basically went to biological research station called La Selva. We spent three nights there. Our last day started out in the middle lowlands, but finished up over 11,000 feet on Cerro de la Muerte.

In all we saw just over 200 species of birds. July was not a very productive time of the year to go birding in Costa Rica as most species were just finishing raising their young and were already starting to molt. This reduced the effectiveness of playing tapes plus most of the birds were not singing anyway. In spite of this I managed to find 20 new species, including three owls and two species of Quail-Doves (notorious in the birding world as mega-skulkers and very difficult to see well). Our big news was that Dollyann saw 13 new species. That was just enough for her to record her 6,000th world bird, an Olive-backed

Quail-Dove.

We have been doing this for quite a few years and feel very lucky to have had the opportunity to travel to so many different places looking for birds. We wanted to thank all the people that have nurtured us along the way and all the great guides and leaders we have had during our trips.



Harriet and Dev outside their house in Santa Elena, Costa Rica, July 23, 2005.



Joslins' living room in Costa Rica.

Ivory-billed mania sweeps the nation *By Lyn Bales*

The Fall issue of *Nature Conservancy* magazine estimates that since the ivory-billed woodpecker's rediscovery in Arkansas was first announced last April 25, there have been more than 650 newspaper, magazine, TV and radio stories about the "ghost bird." Needless to say, KTOSer Nancy Tanner has been very busy the past few months nimbly answering all of the reporters' questions about the famous Singer Tract birds she last saw in Louisiana in 1941.

The real boon: by raising public awareness of the still very endangered bird, money can be collected to

acquire additional habitat. In so doing, a lot of other lesser-known and less glamorous species—springtails, madtoms, midges, snails, beetles—that live in the same swampy-hardwood forests will also be protected.

This editor also finds it interesting that with all the modern technology at the disposal of today's researchers, the best photos ever taken of the species are still the ones made by young Jim Tanner who climbed a tree and patiently hid in a blind by a nest hole some 70 years ago.

If you're working on your dissertation, take note!

2005 Knox County Spring Bird Count *Dean Edwards, compiler*

On Sunday, 24 April 2005, KTOS conducted our annual Knox County Spring Count, although it felt more like a Christmas Count. The low temperature (35°F) was actually colder than on the previous two Knoxville Christmas Counts and there was more snow cover on this Spring Count—only a dusting—than any Knoxville Christmas Count since 2000!

A total of 32 observers in 17 parties spent 80 hrs in the field and feederwatching and managed to find 117 species plus five more during count week (CW). This is our lowest species total in recent years.

Despite the cold, a few good birds were found. A Barn Owl was found at Seven Islands. This is apparently the first record of this species on any Knox County bird count since 1975. Barn Owls were released at Seven Islands as part of a hacking program a few years back and have been reported there occasionally in recent years.

A Eurasian Collared-Dove was located in east Knoxville near Cherry Street. As many as six were observed at the same location the previous day. This is only the second report of this species in Knox County.

A total of four Bald Eagles were reported including two young birds on a nest.

Swallows were found in tremendous numbers accounting for 2046 of the 8893 individual birds counted (23%). Tree Swallow (968) and Barn Swallow (583) were the second and third most abundant species reported behind only European Starling (1124).

Other good finds included Red-breasted Merganser, six shorebird species, Caspian Tern (CW), Brown-headed Nuthatch and Marsh Wren. Several species were missed including Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl, the thrushes, Gray Catbird, and American Redstart (CW only).

Full details follow.

Weather: Unseasonably cold, windy

AM: snow flurries, mostly cloudy **PM:** partly cloudy

Low Temperature: 35°F **High Temperature:** 54°F

Precipitation: trace accumulation of snow in AM

Winds: W, 5-25 mph

Observers: 32 in 17 parties (includes 2 in 2 feeder watching parties)

Species: 117 + 5 CW **Individuals:** 8893

Birds per party hour: 111

Party Hours: by foot: 44 hrs **by car:** 26.25 hrs

owling: 0.75 hrs **feeder watching:** 9 hrs

TOTAL: 80 hrs

Party Miles: by foot: 41.5 miles **by car:** 457 miles

owling: 13 miles

TOTAL: 511.5 miles

Coverage: 06:45 - 16:30, 17:15 - 19:30

Species list:

Canada Goose 302, Wood Duck 30, Mallard 126, Red-breasted Merganser 4, Wild Turkey 19, Northern Bobwhite 4, Double-crested Cormorant 40, Great Blue Heron 79, Green Heron 5, Black-crowned Night-Heron 10, Black Vulture 24, Turkey Vulture 44, Osprey 13, Bald Eagle 4 (2 adult, 2 nestlings), Northern Harrier 2, Sharp-shinned Hawk 6, Cooper's Hawk 4, Accipiter sp. 3, Red-shouldered Hawk 5, Broad-winged Hawk 3, Red-tailed Hawk 28, Buteo sp. 2, American Kestrel 5, Killdeer 49, Lesser Yellowlegs 1, Solitary Sandpiper 6, Spotted Sandpiper 6, Pectoral Sandpiper 2, Wilson's Snipe 1, Caspian Tern CW, Rock Pigeon 95, Eurasian Collared-Dove 1, Mourning Dove 188, Barn Owl 1, Great Horned Owl 1, Barred Owl 1, Chuck-will's-widow 1, Chimney Swift 310, Ruby-throated Hummingbird 5, Belted Kingfisher 9, Red-bellied Woodpecker 49, Downy Woodpecker 20, Hairy Woodpecker 9, Northern Flicker 26, Pileated Woodpecker 2, Eastern Wood-Pewee 1, Eastern Phoebe 20, Great Crested Flycatcher 2, Eastern Kingbird 35, White-eyed Vireo 16, Yellow-throated Vireo 2, Blue-headed Vireo 6, Red-eyed Vireo 68, Blue Jay 180, American Crow 282, Purple Martin 16, Tree Swallow 968, N Rough-winged Swallow 144, Cliff Swallow 335, Barn Swallow 583, Carolina Chickadee 113, Tufted Titmouse 92, White-breasted Nuthatch 7, Brown-headed Nuthatch 4, Carolina Wren 151, House Wren 6, Marsh Wren 1, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 11, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 76, Eastern Bluebird 125, Swainson's Thrush CW, Wood Thrush 15, American Robin 407, Northern Mockingbird 138, Brown Thrasher 22, European Starling 1124, American Pipit 28, Cedar Waxwing 62, Blue-winged Warbler 3, Orange-crowned Warbler 2, Nashville Warbler 2, Northern Parula 2, Yellow Warbler 9, Chestnut-sided Warbler 1, Cape May Warbler CW, "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler 88, Black-throated Green Warbler 7, Blackburnian Warbler 2, Yellow-throated Warbler 5, Pine Warbler 4, Prairie Warbler 3, Palm Warbler 12, Cerulean Warbler CW, Black-and-white Warbler 2, American Redstart CW, Prothonotary Warbler 1, Worm-eating Warbler 3, Ovenbird 5, Louisiana Waterthrush 2, Common Yellowthroat 31, Hooded Warbler 10, Canada Warbler 2, Yellow-breasted Chat 3, Summer Tanager 6, Scarlet Tanager 20, Eastern Towhee 109, Chipping Sparrow 44, Field Sparrow 89, Savannah Sparrow 17, Song Sparrow 130, Swamp Sparrow 10, White-throated Sparrow 89, White-crowned Sparrow 11, Northern Cardinal 364, Rose-breasted Grosbeak 3, Blue Grosbeak 4, Indigo Bunting 19, Red-winged Blackbird 361, Eastern Meadowlark 80, Common Grackle 325, Brown-headed Cowbird 101, Orchard Oriole 10, House Finch 77, American Goldfinch 202, House Sparrow 38

Observers: Jean Alexander, Jerry Armel, Lyn Bales, Frank Bills, Sharon Bostick, Howard Chitwood, Meredith Clebsch, Gail Clendenen, Steve Clendenen, Marcia Davis, Dean Edwards (compiler), Patty Ford, Carole Gobert, Ron Hoff, Tom Howe, Susan Hoyle, Jim Human, Wes James, David Johnson, Kristine Johnson, Amy Keenum, Janet McKnight, Dan Mooney, Laurie Mooney, Dollyann Myers, Chuck Nicholson, Kelly Roy, Boyd Sharp, Allan Trently, David Trently, Chris Welsh, Robert Wittig



Presidential Perch

- By Charlie Muise

I hope everyone had a great summer. Tracey, Allan and I capped ours with a two-week trip to southern California. While visiting good friends we hiked, camped, played in the desert and on the beach—and, of course, birded. We saw some of the state's endemic birds, such as California Gnatcatcher, Island Scrub-jay and Yellow-billed Magpie.

Bird research is a primary goal of TOS. I have become increasingly involved with that and would like to encourage other members to do so. This summer I participated in four Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) Routes and two MAPS bird-banding stations. One station is in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, where we band more Louisiana Waterthrushes than any other station. The other station is at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge, on the French Broad River in east Knox County. Jim Giocomo and I run it with great support from Wayne Schacher who is the manager. A TOS grant made this new station possible, and we received lots of help from members of the Knoxville Chapter, including Mark Armstrong, Dan Mooney and David Trently. Bristol Bird Club's Charlie Parker even came down with his mother Ellen to help. Next year we'll be looking for more assistants, so please let Jim or me know if you're interested. And if you're able to bird by ear, we could use your help running the state's BBS routes. Chuck Nicholson is the state coordinator. If you're interested in ANY bird research, you can contact me or State Ornithologist Michael Roedel.

I hope to see you at the September picnic. While there, you may want to thank Mark Armstrong for setting this up for us again. There was virtually no cost. The zoo just asked that we pay fifty cents per chair, to help with the cost of setup (which they will do for us) cleanup and defray the wear and tear to chairs. We have decided to put out a jar for any of you who wish to donate towards this cost. I will personally cover the rest. Anything donated over the required \$35 will be put in the club's general fund. The zoo is allowing us to enter without paying the admission fee. Please express your thanks!

Sixteen people attended the recent executive committee meeting, including all but one of the committee members. Please remember that all club members are welcome to attend committee meetings or send along agenda items with any member. This is

one of many ways you can become more involved in your club. Topics included:

- Financial donation procedure. Our club likes to support good causes related to birds. Unfortunately, we cannot donate to every program that deserves our money. We need to prioritize. We ask that anyone who proposes a donation from KTOS provide all the necessary information, including: who receives the money; how it will be used; etc.
- Chapter Secretary Kathy Bivens is creating a calendar of events. Please make sure you get her any dates relevant to the club. I'd be happy to pass them on, too.
- Lifetime membership at local level. Currently it is possible to purchase a life membership at the state level, but not the local level. Our finance committee researched the possibility of creating one for KTOS. If we were to create this, it would only be available to folks who are life members of TOS. Right now members of the committee are too busy with other projects to write an official proposal to institute it. If you are interested in writing a proposal, please contact me and I'll tell you what needs to be done.
- There are lots of bird counts coming up. The Foothills Parkway hawk watch, the Knox County Count, the fall North American Bird Count. Contact David Trently, Dean Edwards or Ron Hoff, respectively, for more information.
- We would like to get more kids more involved. The picnic at the zoo is a great opportunity. So is the bird watch at the Maryville Greenbelt that Tracey is leading on September 10. Please consider inviting a kid to a field trip or meeting or leading an activity specifically for kids.
- We are furthering our efforts to keep the business portion of general meetings short. Methods identified include: reading the newsletter before the club meeting; asking everyone to plan or even write-out their announcements, so they can be given efficiently; notify the president of all announcements ahead of time, if possible, so the agenda can be written. Additionally, when a topic may require a lot of discussion, we may put it off until after the speaker. This way people who cannot stay late, including our older members who are uncomfortable driving in the dark, can leave after the speaker. Also, people who are not interested in the particular topic may leave. Finally, the speaker does not have to sit through a debate. We will continue to conduct those portions of the business that take place every month prior to the speaker.

20 whoopers attend flight school! Operation Migration, the non-profit organization working to reestablish an eastern migratory flock of whooping cranes, is busy at work raising the Class of '05 in Wisconsin. It has the potential of being a banner year. They are working with 20 young cranes, the largest flock they've ever had to train. If all goes well, they'll pass through the Tennessee Valley in November. Wish them luck and send them some money! With gasoline prices going through the roof, it's going to be an expensive year.

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 October issue is **September 24**. Due to cost and space restrictions, please 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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Fall Migratory Bird Count - Saturday, September 17

The Fall North American Migration Count is Saturday, September, 17.

This is exactly like the spring NAMC. Every county is a count area.

Please keep track of: the weather conditions and temperatures for the day; hours and miles by car, foot and owling; any hours and names of feeder watchers; starting and ending times of your count; names of all participants. If there is no county compiler (as Jean Alexander is for Blount Co.), send your data to me at either Ron Hoff, 282 Hackworth Lane, Clinton, TN 37716 or email at: rondolly@esper.com. As always, thanks for your participation and please be safe while conducting your count.

-Ron Hoff, TOS state count compiler, Clinton, TN, rondolly@esper.com

Knox County Fall Count - Sunday, September 25

The 2005 Knox County Fall Count will be held on Sunday, September 25.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in the count. There are plenty of good territories available both in town and in some of the more rural areas of Knox County. If you would like to join a party of more experienced counters, please contact the compiler. We are particularly looking for owling and feederwatching parties.

Compilation forms and territory maps will be available online at:
<<http://www-chaos.engr.utk.edu/~kde/birds/kcsfc/KCSFCpage.html>>.

Please submit your results (including location and time of day you counted; hours and miles by foot, car, boat, etc.; hours and miles spent owling; hours spent feederwatching; names of all observers in the party with contact info for at least one person; rare bird documentation for any unusual species; and species list) to the compiler: Dean Edwards, kde@utk.edu, (865) 560-9701(H), (865) 660-9701(C), 1615 Meadow Chase Ln, Knoxville, TN 37931.

-Submitted by Dean Edwards, Knox County compiler

through the biKNOXulars

(USPS 697-010)

Published monthly, except January, July and August by the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, 11417 N. Couch Mill Rd., Knoxville, TN 37931-2908. Subscription Price \$8.00. Periodical Postage paid at Knoxville, TN 37901.

POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to: *through the biKNOXulars*, 11417 N. Couch Mill Rd., Knoxville, TN 37931-2908.