



through the biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

Picnic at the Zoo: September 6, 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 6, 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.

The picnic is a potluck so please bring a dish to share with the group. The zoo will be providing chairs, which we may be renting for a nominal fee.

You don't need to bring a chair, but to reduce our

use of disposables, please bring a non-disposable plate and cup. Silverware will be provided.

DIRECTIONS: From I-40 take exit 392 to US11W south. Follow the signs to Knoxville Zoo. Please park in the main parking lot. 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.

- Mark Campen, VP and program coordinator



Sharps Ridge walk airs on 'Tennessee's Wildside'

In April *Tennessee's Wildside*, the TWRA program that airs on PBS, filmed our public walk on Sharps Ridge. It was released to local PBS stations across the state for broadcast but unfortunately the Knoxville outlet aired Lawrence Welk instead.

The good news is that you can watch the segment online by going to:

<http://www.tnwildside.org/>

and click the Knoxville Bird Walk link.

- Submitted by Dan Mooney

 MARK YOUR CALENDAR

trips & events

(Planned to date.)
See page 2 for details.

Sunday, September 10, 8 AM

Birding Pot-Luck Social

Sunday, September 17, 2 PM

Phillip Hoose at Ijams (See page 6)

Thursday, September 21, 8 AM

Norris Song Bird Trail

Sunday, September 24

Knox County Fall Count

Sunday, October 1, 8:30 AM

Hawk Watch at Foothills Parkway

Sunday, October 8

Janet's Big Sit, Louisville Point Park

"He was a widower with six young children...and the passion of his life was pigeon-flying. He was an enthusiast and a connoisseur. He would rave about pigeons. After work hours he used sometimes to come over from his hut for a talk about his children and his pigeons."

- Joseph Conrad, novel, "Heart of Darkness," 1902

Upcoming field trips and one 'Big Sit'

Sunday, September 10, 8 AM

*Birding Pot-Luck Social
Wood Thrush Ridge*

Janet McKnight invites us to her home on Wood Thrush Ridge in Loudon County. Join us for a day of easy birding and good friends. Janet will share her birdy home and co-host/leader David Trently will share his knowledge of all things airborne.

Bring some food to share and a chair to relax in. Club members wishing to join us can arrive at their leisure, as we will be there most of the day. Good birding, good company, good food...it just doesn't get any better than that! This trip format also provides an excellent opportunity to try other birder's binoculars. It's best to try a pair before buying them, and here you'll have that chance.

Call Janet if you need directions: (865) 856-2229 or (865) 271-8337

Thursday, September 21, 8 AM

Norris Song Bird Trail

Leader: **Dan Mooney** 789-0806

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the trail head below Norris Dam.

Sunday, October 1, 8:30 AM

Hawk Watch at Foothills Parkway

8:30 a.m. - ??

Leader: **David Trently**; dtrently@utk.edu; (865) 531-1473 home; (865) 974-8664 work

We'll start at the base of the Parkway off US 321 near Townsend, eventually making our way up about four

miles, to the site with parking lots on both sides of the road. From there we will scan the skies for whatever raptors and other birds might pass by.

Feel free to bring lunch to share with others, as this works well as a pot-luck opportunity. A chair can be useful too, as there may be times to sit and chat while no hawks are being seen.

- *David Trently, Interim Field Trip Coordinator*

Editor's note: The club thanks David for filling in for Harold.

Sunday, October 8, Sunrise until sundown

Louisville Point Park

Team leader: **Janet McKnight** (The Lone Tuftmouse)

Team participants: Anyone who cares to join me

The Big Sit is a nationwide competition among birders that allows us all to sit for a change. Participants sit in a 16-foot circle and count the birds that come their way. If the circle is in proper habitat, most possible species should eventually show themselves. It is so fun to use the ears and scopes and eke out as many species as possible. I will be in the circle for the duration of the competition, and anyone who cares to give me some help and company may come and go at any time during the day. Bring some food to grill out, a chair to relax in and a brownie for Janet. Call me if you have any questions, and please come and give me some company! (865) 856-2229 or (865) 271-8337.

- *Submitted by Janet McKnight*

Fall Count is Sunday, September 24

The annual Knox County Fall Bird Count will be held on Sunday, September 24. Everyone is encouraged to participate by joining a group in the field or counting birds in your own backyard and neighborhood (for those living in Knox County).

For more information on how you can participate, if you would like to join a group or would like some suggestions on places to count, please contact the compiler, Dean Edwards (see below for contact information).

Please submit your count results to the compiler as soon as possible or bring them with you to the October KTOS meeting. There are no fees for participating in this count. Please note, your results should include all of the following:

- a list including the tally for each species identified

- names of all participants with contact information for at least one person
- time of day you counted
- location(s) you counted
- number of hours spent counting by foot, by car, and/or by boat plus hours spent feeder/backyard watching and owling
- number of miles covered while counting by foot, by car and/or by boat and miles covered while owling
- documentation including written details and photos (if possible) of any rare species.

Compiler contact information: **Dean Edwards**
1615 Meadow Chase Lane, Knoxville, TN 37931
(865) 660-9701 c, (865) 560-9701 h, kde@utk.edu

What is eBird? - By Dan Mooney

eBird, a project developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, provides a simple way for you to keep track of the birds you see anywhere in North America. You can retrieve information on your bird observations, from your backyard to your neighborhood to your favorite bird-watching locations at any time for your personal use. You can also access the entire historical database to find out what other eBirders are reporting from across North America. In addition, the cumulative eBird database is used by birdwatchers, scientists and conservationists who want to know more about the distributions and movement patterns of birds across the continent.

The eBird database that you are helping to create can be used by

- you: to track your personal observations and maintain lists of all of the birds you've ever seen, those recorded at specific locations, or recorded over specific periods of time; or to create lists of birds recorded from various locations and dates based on the records of other eBirders

- other birders and amateur naturalists: allowing them to learn about the birds in your region

- scientists: to uncover patterns in bird movements and ranges across North America, including migratory pathways, wintering and breeding ranges, arrival and departure dates, range expansions and contractions, and a host of other important environmental relationships

- conservationists: to identify important areas for birds based on current range distributions and to track population trends that can be used to create management plans for endangered, threatened and at-risk species

- educators: who may use the cumulative database to teach students about birds and the scientific process, including collecting, analyzing and interpreting results

- anyone: to discover where species can be found throughout the year; which birds are regularly found at specific locations across North America; when certain species arrive or depart from their breeding and wintering grounds; and many other possibilities.

Visit the eBird website at www.ebird.org for more information and to start entering your records!

OF NOTE!

2007 KTOS membership dues

KTOS Treasurer Marie Oakes is now accepting membership dues for 2007. For additional information, see "KTOS Membership" on the last page of this newsletter.

Welcome new members: Nathan Haislip, Kaili Lynn, Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge

Best wishes for a speedy recovery The entire club sends its warmest wishes for a quick recovery to Betty Reid Campbell who is at home after joint replacement surgery.

Refreshment Queen wants to be replaced!

When I took over Holly's job as refreshment coordinator, I really wanted to pull it off for 40+ years, but my life has changed since then: single motherhood, acquiring the property of a lifetime with the accompanying mortgage from hell, dating from hell, etc.

Besides being the first to arrive at the meetings and the last to leave, there's nothing to it. Please let Janet or one of the officers know if you can take over as Refreshment Queen, or King!

- Submitted by Janet McKnight, the reigning Refreshment Queen (Editor's note: Before she died at age 96 in October 2003, Holly Overton was in charge of refreshments at club meetings for more years than anyone can remember.)

KTOS Financial Report • September 2006

Compiled by Marie Oakes, Treasurer

	Jun - Aug	May	YTD
Income:			
. Dues	\$76.00	\$68.00	\$1,110.00
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$132.26	\$119.00	\$577.26
. Interest	\$70.38	\$21.85	\$157.32
. Owen Memorial	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
. Other Memorials	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$75.00</u>	<u>\$575.00</u>
Total Income	\$303.64	\$283.85	\$2,469.58
Expenses:			
. Newsletter	\$54.63	\$156.70	\$386.94
. Supplies	\$0.00	\$14.14	\$31.92
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$202.71	\$0.00	\$580.23
. Member Dues to TOS	\$0.00	\$204.00	\$2,570.00
. Miscellaneous	<u>\$16.50</u>	<u>\$90.00</u>	<u>\$106.50</u>
Total Expenses	\$273.84	\$464.84	\$3,675.59
Other:			
. J.B. Owen Award	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Scout Project	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$400.00
. Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Total Other	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$500.00
Account Balances			
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$3,796.79	\$3,859.52	
. J.B. Owen Memorial	\$7,077.47	\$6,984.94	
Memberships			
	141	137	

TOS Fall Meeting 2006: October 27-29

This year's Tennessee Ornithological Society fall meeting will be held in Clarksville, TN the weekend of October 27, 28 and 29.

We have reserved a block of 20 rooms at the Country Inn & Suites, 3075 Wilma Rudolph Blvd. Call (915)645-1400 for reservations. Be sure to ask for the TOS meeting rates, which are \$60 per night (\$68.50 with tax). These rooms will be held for TOS members until September 27.

Field trips will be organized by Daniel Moss, and will leave the motel at about 7:00 a.m. on both Saturday and Sunday.

Chuck Nicholson is organizing the Saturday afternoon paper session. It will begin at 2:00 p.m.

We will have an evening speaker this year. Linn Ann Welch will be presenting a program about the

Tennessee State Parks all taxa inventory project.

This year's fall meeting is being organized through a cooperative effort of the Warioto Chapter of the National Audubon Society, the Knoxville Chapter of TOS and at large members of TOS.

Registration fee for the weekend is \$5.00. Please send pre-registration checks made out to KTOS to: KTOS, Marie Oakes, 18 Rockingham Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Registration will also be taken on Friday evening beginning at 5:30 p.m.

PLEASE PLAN TO BRING YOUR OWN NAMETAG. Prizes (shade grown coffee) will be given out to the three "most interesting" birding related event nametags.

For more information and directions to the hotel visit: <http://www.metrotravelguide.com/hotelinfo/Clarksville/TN/USA/55619/>

BOOK REPORT

The Mysterious Bird of Ulieta - By Lyn Bales

Although autumn is almost here, there's still time for some light summertime reading.

The description of *The Conjuror's Bird*, a historic novel/mystery, piqued my interest. It's about a little-known, long-extinct bird.

The novel toggles together two story lines: one centered on the famous eighteenth-century English naturalist Joseph Banks, while the second follows a fictitious modern-day lecturer, taxidermist and extinct bird expert named Fitzgerald. The mystery at the crux of the work is the disappearance of a specimen of the Bay Thrush, a.k.a. "Mysterious Bird of Ulieta," once in Banks' possession. The specimen was real, having been obtained on the island of Ulieta (200 miles from Tahiti) on Captain Cook's second expedition to the South Seas in 1774. Yet sadly, it was the only specimen ever collected and the species was never seen again despite repeated efforts to find it.

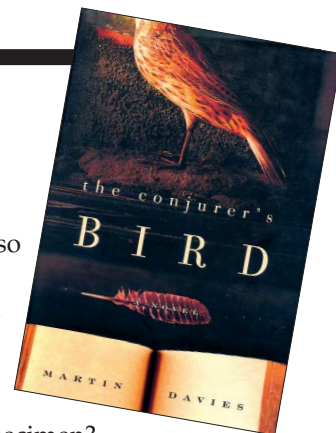
After being in Banks' collection for only a few years, the specimen itself disappeared without a trace, written record or explanation. (This part is also true.) At the

time, one illustration was also done of the "dusky brown bird." That drawing, housed in a British museum, is the only record of the species that survives today.

What happened to the specimen? Author Martin Davies uses all that is known about Banks, Cook and the fabled "rarest bird in the world" to create an imaginative whodunit filled with personal intrigue and betrayal. Unfortunately, the book is disappointingly short of the natural history minutiae I expected considering that two of its central characters are naturalists: one true-to-life, the other make-believe. However, there is a curious side story based on the discovery of the elusive Congo peacock that caused quite a stir in the world of ornithology in 1936.

Still, *The Conjuror's Bird* is a well-constructed, escapist page-turner. Each chapter ends with something of a cliffhanger that will keep you up late at night as the mystery of the Bay Thrush unfolds.

- *The Conjuror's Bird*, Martin Davies. Shaye Areheart Books, 2005, 384 pages.



Published in 1967, "Extinct and Vanishing Birds of the World" by James C. Greenway lists 105 species and subspecies that had gone or probably were extinct, all in the past few centuries. Most had disappeared in the 280 years since the loss of the dodo. Everything that is known about the "Mysterious Bird of Ulieta" is included in Greenway's book.

2006 Knox County Spring Bird Count *-Dean Edwards, compiler*

The Knox County Spring Count was held on Sunday, 30 April 2006. A total of 37 observers (well, 38 counting Allan Muise) in 19-21 parties spent a total of 110 party hours in the field. A total of 139 species (+4 during count week) were found which is the largest species total since 1995 when 150 species were recorded.

Among the highlights were 75 "Western" Willets at Concord Park which represents a record high count for East TN. The Willets were one of eight shorebird species—a very good total for Knox County—that also included impressive counts of Solitary (17) and Spotted (24) Sandpipers.

Thirty-one warbler species (+1 CW) were found including Orange-crowned and Wilson's and impressive totals for Cape May (4) and Prothonotary (8) and incredible totals for Yellow (23) and Northern Waterthrush (15!) which was reported by four parties with six individuals at Turkey Creek and seven at Cove Island. Bay-breasted and Canada were the only expected warblers not reported.

Other highlights included Common Loon (Solway, 1st since 1994), American Bittern (Sequoyah Hills Park, 1st since 1992), Bald Eagle (2 adult, 1 fledged juvenile), Sora (Turkey Creek, 1st since 1998), Sandhill Crane (off Alcoa Hwy, probably the first ever on the Knox County Spring Count), Eurasian Collared-Dove (Cherry St, 2nd time), Bank Swallow, and an impressive total of Baltimore Orioles (26).

Notable misses include Sharp-shinned Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Whip-poor-will, Red-headed Woodpecker, Loggerhead Shrike (last in 1998), Fish Crow (despite being found on Ft. Loudon Lake throughout spring and early summer), Gray-cheeked Thrush and Bobolink.

On a historical note, Paul Hartigan and Jim Human took a canoe trip along the French Broad River from Seven Islands WMA to Johnson Bible College. Their trip is reminiscent of a 12-mile canoe trip down the French Broad on the 1932 Knoxville Spring Field Day as briefly described in *The Migrant* (V2:2). In those early days, the count was focused on the Ijams' property. Paul and Jim had several good finds on their trip including Blue-winged Teal, Bald Eagle, Wild Turkey, Solitary and Spotted Sandpiper (4 each), 28 Tree Swallows and 4 Prothonotary Warblers.

Full details of this year's count follow.

Weather: AM: Pre-dawn showers, mostly cloudy
PM: Showers

Temperature: 54-69 F, **Precipitation:** 0.01" rain

Winds: Light and variable

Parties: 19-21, **Observers:** 37 (See list page 6)

Species: 139 + 4 CW, **Individuals:** 9153

Birds per hour: 83

Coverage: 00:00 - 00:15, 05:00 - 19:4

73.28 hours and 49.65 miles by foot

17.08 hours and 324.25 miles by car

6.0 hours and 6.0 miles by boat (canoe)

3.58 hours and 38.50 miles owling

10.25 hours feederwatching

110.20 hours and 418.4 miles TOTAL

Species: 212 Canada Goose, 96 Wood Duck, 76 Mallard, 9 Blue-winged Teal, 4 Wild Turkey, 5 Northern Bobwhite, 1 Common Loon, 2 Pied-billed Grebe, 23 Double-crested Cormorant, 1 American Bittern, 120 Great Blue Heron, 15 Green Heron, 17 Black-crowned Night-Heron, 27 Black Vulture, 54 Turkey Vulture, 14 Osprey, 3 Bald Eagle (2 adult, 1 immature), -CW- Northern Harrier, 7 Cooper's Hawk, 4 Red-shouldered Hawk, 4 Broad-winged Hawk, 18 Red-tailed Hawk, -CW- American Kestrel, 1 Sora, 2 American Coot, 1 Sandhill Crane, 51 Killdeer, 1 Greater Yellowlegs, 3 Lesser Yellowlegs, 17 Solitary Sandpiper, 75 "Western" Willet, 24 Spotted Sandpiper, 4 Least Sandpiper, 6 Wilson's Snipe, 6 Ring-billed Gull, 1 Forster's Tern, 105 Rock Pigeon, 1 Eurasian Collared-Dove, 246 Mourning Dove, 8 Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 2 Eastern Screech-Owl, 5 Barred Owl, -CW- Common Nighthawk, 4 Chuck-will's-widow, 146 Chimney Swift, 8 Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 22 Belted Kingfisher, 79 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 50 Downy Woodpecker, 9 Hairy Woodpecker, 27 "Yellow-shafted" Flicker, 10 Pileated Woodpecker, 7 Eastern Wood-Pewee, 32 Eastern Phoebe, 18 Great Crested Flycatcher, 27 Eastern Kingbird, 22 White-eyed Vireo, 2 Yellow-throated Vireo, 2 Blue-headed Vireo, 88 Red-eyed Vireo, 205 Blue Jay, 181 American Crow, 30 Purple Martin, 177 Tree Swallow, 118 N. Rough-winged Swallow, 6 Bank Swallow, 57 Cliff Swallow, 154 Barn Swallow, 149 Carolina Chickadee, 111 Tufted Titmouse, 9 White-breasted Nuthatch, 7 Brown-headed Nuthatch, 223 Carolina Wren, 17 House Wren, 37 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 48 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 122 Eastern Bluebird, 6 Veery, 7 Swainson's Thrush, 69 Wood Thrush, 448 American Robin, 28 Gray Catbird, 185 Northern Mockingbird, 55 Brown Thrasher, 831 European Starling, 9 American Pipit, 577 Cedar Waxwing, 3 Blue-winged Warbler, -CW- Golden-winged Warbler, 2 Tennessee Warbler, 1 Orange-crowned Warbler, 2 Nashville Warbler, 4 Northern Parula, 23 Yellow Warbler, 5 Chestnut-sided Warbler, 1 Magnolia Warbler, 4 Cape May

(Continued on page 6)

2006 Knox County Spring Bird Count *(Continued from page 5)*

Warbler, 2 Black-throated Blue Warbler, 172 "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler, 9 Black-throated Green Warbler, 2 Blackburnian Warbler, 2 Yellow-throated Warbler, 16 Pine Warbler, 11 Prairie Warbler, 28 Palm Warbler, 6 Blackpoll Warbler, 1 Cerulean Warbler, 10 Black-and-white Warbler, 9 American Redstart, 8 Prothonotary Warbler, 3 Worm-eating Warbler, 14 Ovenbird, 15 Northern Waterthrush, 4 Louisiana Water-thrush, 2 Kentucky Warbler, 140 Common Yellowthroat, 11 Hooded Warbler, 1 Wilson's Warbler, 43 Yellow-breasted Chat, 5 Summer Tanager, 49 Scarlet Tanager, 170 Eastern Towhee, 35 Chipping Sparrow, 146 Field Sparrow, 32 Savannah Sparrow, 7 Grass-hopper Sparrow, 167 Song Sparrow, 15 Swamp Sparrow, 122 White-throated Sparrow, 9 White-crowned Sparrow, 429 Northern Cardinal, 19 Rose-

breasted Grosbeak, 13 Blue Grosbeak, 285 Indigo Bunting, 434 Red-winged Blackbird, 59 Eastern Meadowlark, 447 Common Grackle, 122 Brown-headed Cowbird, 35 Orchard Oriole, 26 Baltimore Oriole, 70 House Finch, 195 American Goldfinch, 18 House Sparrow

Observers: Jean Alexander, Lyn Bales, Frank Bills, Kathy Bivens, Sharon Bostick, Howard Chitwood, Gail Clendenen, Steve Clendenen, Marcia Davis, Dean Edwards (compiler), Patty Ford, Jim Giocomo, Carole Gobert, Ginger Goolsby, Paul Hartigan, Tom Howe, Susan Hoyle, Jim Human, David Johnson, Kristine Johnson, Tony King, Denny McMahan, Brenda McMahan, Dan Mooney, Laurie Mooney, Charlie Muise, Tracey Muise, Mike Nelson, Chuck Nicholson, Truett Patterson, Martha Rudolph, Susie Stout, Allan Trently, David Trently, Sandy Underwood, June Welch, Chris Welsh

Phillip Hoose to speak at Ijams

As a special tie-in to the new exhibits on lost species at Ijams, the nature center is proud to announce a special program and book signing with award-winning author Phillip Hoose.

Sunday, September 17 at 2 p.m.

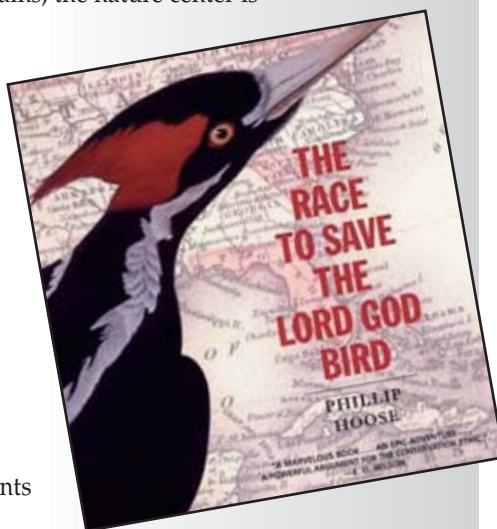
Sponsored by the University of Tennessee, Hoose will visit Ijams Nature Center as part of a three-day tour of Knoxville.

Hoose is an award-winning author of books, essays, stories and songs and is a founding member of the Children's Music Network. He has worked for the Nature Conservancy since 1977.

Hoose's program will include his reflections on the ivory-billed woodpecker and his conservation efforts with The Nature Conservancy. He will also share his talents as a performing musician.

This program is FREE and geared to an audience of all ages. Please reserve your place early by calling (865) 577-4717 ext. 10.

This program is made possible by the University of Tennessee Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, the sponsor of Phil Hoose's visit to Knoxville.



According to the School Library Journal,

"The Race to Save the Lord God Bird is a meticulously researched labor of love using drama, suspense, and mystery to tell the story of the ivory-billed woodpecker, the first modern endangered species. Its story is also the story of America, its economics, politics, development, plume hats and its environmental protection laws. The author's passion for his subject and high standards for excellence result in readable, compelling nonfiction, particularly appealing to young biologists and conservationists."

There are currently three recent books about the ivory-billed woodpecker enjoying good sales: "The Grail Bird: The Rediscovery of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker" by Tim Gallagher, "In Search of the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker" by Jerome A. Jackson and "The Race to Save the Lord God Bird" by Phillip Hoose. All have information about Nancy and James T. Tanner.



Presidential Perch - By Dan Mooney

This is my first presidential perch and I will use it to do a bit of soapbox preaching, but first a disclaimer! You will quickly notice that I will never win a Pulitzer Prize for prose, nor will I ever win a prize for public speaking. I will make an effort to be concise.

The first thing I want to do from the soapbox is to thank Charlie and Tracy Muise. Those two did a lot of good things for KTOS and it was a pleasure and privilege to work with them over the last several years. With Charlie's leadership the club made progress toward TOS's goals of education and conservation to benefit birds and other wildlife in the Knoxville area. It is my goal to continue that progress.

There are several projects that I would like to see continued by KTOS in the next few years.

As a club we helped fund the building of an observation blind at Kyker Bottoms. We also helped provide nesting boxes for barn owls at Kyker. One of those boxes was used to successfully hatch and fledge at least one barn owl chick this year! I believe that KTOS should continue to work with TWRA to provide public education opportunities such as viewing blinds. I also believe that anytime we can help improve habitat by providing nesting structures we should make the effort. TWRA is planning to improve the shorebird habitat at Kyker. KTOS has provided a small amount of funding for the project, but we may also be able to help by providing volunteer labor.

KTOS also helped fund a M.A.P.S. banding station at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge in east Knox County. In the station's first two years, over 1000 birds were captured which makes it one of the most active in the country. The Knoxville Zoo has adopted the station and has asked that KTOS partner with them in keeping it going. The cost of operating the station is relatively small (most years it will be well under \$250), but it does take volunteers. As a group, we can help most by volunteering on banding days. Even if you have never seen the banding process, training is provided. I have had the privilege of participating in the process several times. If you think a scope view is good, try holding the bird in your hand!

Another project, that will help increase the data available on birds in the area, is record entry into Ebird. Ebird is a program written by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The program allows individuals to contribute their personal birding records to an international database, which can be used by researchers to monitor population trends and to aid in the development of conservation strategies. (See page 3.)

We have entered KTOS field trip data from the last three years into the database. It is easy to use and works quickly if you have a high speed internet connection. I was lucky enough to be on a field trip with Howard Chitwood at Mosey Creek last year. Howard mentioned that he had birding records from Mosey creek for over ten years. He was kind enough to loan me his notebooks so that the data could be entered into Ebird. I am now working on entering his second notebook!

Several folks have also volunteered to enter data. If you have old field cards sitting in shoeboxes or where ever, we now have the opportunity to get those records into an international database that can benefit researchers. Please contact me if you have any records that you are willing to share. Your records will be returned to you when the data entry is complete!

Other projects with possible long term impact:

- Partnering with TVA to build a viewing blind at the beaver dams near Tellico Dam
- Raising KTOS's public visablility via brochures, slideshow presentations to schools and civic organizations
- Partnering with Ijams Nature Center to help provide educational signage for the whooping crane exhibit
- Leading more field trips for the general public.

Basically, all these things just require volunteers!

THANK YOU MRS. MCGOWN!!!

KTOS wishes to extend a heartfelt thanks to Mrs. George (Terry) McGown. Mrs. McGown has donated a beautiful group of framed and matted nature prints by several well know artist. The prints by Ray Harm, Guy Coheleach and J.D. McDonald are signed and several are limited editions. Mrs. McGown has requested that the prints be sold at a silent auction with the proceeds being donated to the J. B. Owen Fund.

If you are new to KTOS, you might not recognize Mrs. McGown's name. A quick search in the Migrant on CD found 41 occurrences of her name! Mrs. McGown joined KTOS in 1958 and has been a very active member until recent years.

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 a Life membership with TOS is \$450 with an annual fee of \$8 to the local chapter.

DEADLINE for October issue is **September 23**. 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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Ijams opens new 'Lost Species' Exhibit

Although extinctions have been occurring naturally for millions of years, the current rate of extinction is unprecedented. This accelerated rate is directly linked to human-related activities.

Ijams Nature Center recently unveiled its new Lost Species Exhibit that addresses the topic of endangered species and human-related extinctions.

The exhibit showcases the stories of two species of local interest: the passenger pigeon and ivory-billed woodpecker. And although the ivory-bill may or may not be still with us, its population could be so incredibly small, that it is functionally extinct: unable to recreate a viable population.

The exhibits are dedicated to two former KTOSers: H.P. Ijams and James T. Tanner. Interpretative panels use the writings of both men to flesh out the life histories of both species: how they lived and died.

Nancy Tanner, another member of KTOS, donated several items that are included on the ivory-bill display including the banding kit that her late husband Jim used on March 6, 1938 to band "Sonny Boy," the only ivory-bill ever banded.

Two other highlights of the exhibit are a pair of passenger pigeon specimens: a female on loan from UT's Frank H. McClung Museum and a male on loan from the National Park Service. For the male it is something of a homecoming. It's the same bird once owned by H.P. Ijams.

The new exhibits were created by Ijams staffers Pam Petko-Seus, Paul James and Lyn Bales with the help of several artists, builders and crafts people.

As part of the Lost Species Grand Opening, Phillip Hoose, author of the book *Race to Save the Lord God Bird*, will be at Ijams on September 17 to speak and sign books. (See page 6 for details.)



Historic photograph of young Martha Ijams with passenger pigeon specimen now on exhibit at the nature center.



Part of the banding kit Tanner used to band Sonny Boy.

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