



KNOXVILLE CHAPTER OF THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## September Potluck Picnic

After a long, hot summer, we'll get together for our annual potluck picnic at Ijams Nature Center on **Wednesday, September 7, at 6:30 p.m.** Bring a tasty dish to share with a serving utensil (and your own drink), and Jean Alexander will again provide our traveling dishes and silverware. We'll hope for hummingbirds around the back patio, and bring your binoculars along if you want to come early or stay late for a little birding! We hope to have a big turnout to start the new KTOS year off right. Our new president, Billie Cantwell, and the whole leadership team have been working hard to make it an exciting year full of growth! For directions, visit [www.ijams.org/about/directions.html](http://www.ijams.org/about/directions.html).

In addition to the eating, chatting, and birding at the picnic, we also hope to **unveil the new KTOS web site** that Chuck Nicholson, Angela Hoffman, and Melinda Fawver have been working on diligently for months behind the scenes. Melinda also designed the beautiful new masthead for the newsletter seen above. Thanks, Melinda!

## TOS Fall Meeting

The Chattanooga Chapter will be hosting the Fall Meeting and Symposium of the Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS) between October 7 - 9, 2011. The registration fee is \$10.00, and the meeting and symposium will be held at the Chattanooga Nature Center. The Chapter is also chartering a Friday night BBQ dinner cruise on the Tennessee River for an additional cost. Field trips will be held Saturday and Sunday morning, and possible destinations include Standifer Gap Marsh, Chattanooga Nature Center, Brainerd Levee, Nickajack Lake, Chester Frost Park, and the Honors Golf Course.

To learn more and to register for the event, visit [www.tnbirds.org](http://www.tnbirds.org).

## Get Out and Get Birding! Fall Field Trips

**Foothills Hawk Watch and Early Fall Birding**  
**Sunday, September 18 @ 8:00 a.m.**  
**Leader: Mike Nelson**

This trip will start at the base of the Foothills Parkway off U.S. Hwy 321 near Townsend. Meet at the parking area/turnaround just shortly after you turn south (right) onto the Parkway. There is an obvious place where people pull over to park. Mike will be at the meet-up place at 7:00 a.m., and the group will start walking the unpaved part of the Parkway toward the bridge at 8:00 a.m. We will search for migrating songbirds, especially thrushes, vireos, and warblers. The group will next head up the paved part of the Parkway until we reach 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. The most common raptor likely to be seen is Broad-winged Hawk, but we can hope for other buteos, accipiters, falcons, vultures, eagles – and perhaps some real surprises. There are usually migrating songbirds at the hawk site to keep birders interested in between flights of hawks.

Come on out to help us scan the skies! This trip will last into early afternoon if the birds keep coming, so bring water and lunch. A chair can be useful too, since there may be time to sit and chat while no hawks are in view. A chair that reclines is even better so you can lean back and scan the sky in comfort.

**Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery Shorebirds**  
**Saturday, October 1 @ 8:00 a.m.**  
**Leaders: Ron Hoff and Dollyann Myers**  
[aves7000@bellsouth.net](mailto:aves7000@bellsouth.net), (865) 435-4547

The group will meet at the fish hatchery in Anderson County to search for shorebirds with chances for a few warblers or maybe even a duck or two. The trip is likely to last about 1.5 hours. If attendees are interested, the trip may be extended to include a visit to Cove Lake. For directions and a site description, visit [www.tnbirds.org/birdfinding/EagleBend.htm](http://www.tnbirds.org/birdfinding/EagleBend.htm).



Red-tailed Hawk. Steven D. Amato



## Presidential Perch

When Mark Armstrong asked me in April 2009 to consider running for vice president of KTOS, I was excited and yet scared. I told him “yes,” but that I did not want to run for president. Well, after two years of being vice president, getting to know the members better, and becoming more involved with the club, I find I now welcome the challenge. So please bear with me as I find my way along this path.

I have a great team behind me: Patty Ford, vice president; Melinda Fawver, secretary; Carole Gobert, treasurer; Angela Hoffman, newsletter editor; Robin Barrow, distribution editor; and Alice and Gary Woody, field trip coordinators. We have met to discuss ideas about how we can grow the club and get more people involved.

One new goal our team has is to create a **Conservation Committee** made of three branches.

- **Community Outreach** – involving people in projects like making bluebird boxes and restoring bluebird trails in need of repair, helping Evan Searfoss with his Eagle Scout project to finish building the observation tower at Kyker Bottoms, and restoring the osprey nesting tower that was destroyed in a storm;
- **Advocacy** – working at the local community level in support of birds and wildlife; and
- **Legislation** – working at the state level to help us better protect our birds, wildlife, and habitats.

Another new project will be selling Duck Stamps, which you can learn more about on page 4.

On the digital front, KTOS is getting a brand new web page that we hope to show you at the September picnic. We are up and running on Facebook, so please visit, “like” us, and let us know what birds you’re seeing. The Yahoo! group is also still going strong, and we are getting new members joining us there too. For links to both groups, click on the “Resources” tab on our new web page.

In other news, Colin and I monitored the Seven Islands bluebird trail again this summer. This year we had some help from Justine Cacchiara and Aaron Manzke. Vickie Henderson did an article in the March/April 2011 issue of *The Tennessee Conservationist* on “Helping Cavity Nesters” that covered the trail. You can see a recap of the article on her blog, [vickiehenderson.blogspot.com](http://vickiehenderson.blogspot.com). Thanks, Vickie, for supporting us at Seven Islands! Wayne Schacher will also be analyzing the data and giving us a report on the data gathered.

I am looking forward to serving the club. Please feel free to let me or one of the officers know how we can better serve you or the birds.

*Billie Cantwell*

## Fall Migration Count Time!

Each September, birders take part in the fall North American Migration Count (NAMC) to count birds in the field and create a snapshot of migration across the continent. You can participate by taking part in counts scheduled in Anderson, Blount, and Knox counties, or by counting in your own county if you live elsewhere.

Everyone is encouraged to participate by joining a group in the field or by counting birds in one’s own backyard. There is no cost to participate, and all experience levels are welcomed!

For specific count dates and the contact info of each county compiler, see below. The county compilers can also answer questions about the count, give you a designated area to cover, or get you connected to a group that’s already going out.

You will need to submit the following data to the compiler after the count. If you’re in area without an organized count, submit your data to Ron Hoff (info below).

- checklist with the tally for each species identified
- miles covered and hours spent counting by car, by foot, owling, and by other means (boat, etc.)
- hours spent watching feeders (if any)
- weather data and temperatures
- # of birding parties
- # of participants, their names, and their contact info
- location(s) where you counted
- documentation of any rare species, including written details and photos (if possible)

Putting your tally sheet of birds in taxonomic order really helps compile the data. For a checklist, visit [www.tnwatchablewildlife.org/files/0986\\_bird\\_card.pdf](http://www.tnwatchablewildlife.org/files/0986_bird_card.pdf).

### **Anderson County & all non-organized counties**

Saturday, September 17

Ron Hoff

282 Hackworth Lane, Clinton, TN 37716

(865) 567-9679

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

### **Blount County**

Saturday, September 17

Jean Alexander and David Johnson

(865) 977-0052

[jjadmj@infionline.net](mailto:jjadmj@infionline.net)

### **Knox County**

Sunday, September 25

Dean Edwards

1615 Meadow Chase Lane, Knoxville, TN 37931

cell – (865) 660-9701, home – (865) 560-9701

[kde@utk.edu](mailto:kde@utk.edu)

## Stepping Back at Seven Islands

Dear KTOS friends and Seven Islands partners,

This past July was my 10th anniversary of involvement at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge (SIWR). What a wonderful experience it's been!

From creating plans, carrying them forward, and seeing the grassland, woody buffer and wetland communities establish, the transformation from very marginal habitat to diverse habitats of quality and productivity has been gratifying, frustrating, exciting, and so enlightening through the years. To be able to observe, monitor, and inventory the critters' response to our efforts justifies everything else... the last decade has been a wildlife biologist's dream!

Unending thanks to the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society — so many have been so active and supportive of our efforts at SIWR. Extreme gratitude to the Seven Islands Foundation (SIF) for having the confidence in me to transform their vision for SIWR into reality. Thanks to our dedicated core of volunteers and partners who have helped facilitate and document the transformation!

Over a year ago, I sent SIF a letter indicating that they shouldn't count on me beyond June 30 of this year. For many reasons, it seemed time to transition the care of SIWR to others. I have agreed to stay on for a while to try and ease the transition and to try to maintain continuity. I will spend the next few months pulling together the species inventory, research, and demonstration project data to make the wealth of information that we've accumulated available. I look forward to a presentation at a future KTOS meeting to share those results. The story of what we've done and what we've learned at SIWR needs to be told so that others might learn from our efforts and hopefully model future landscape restoration projects after Seven Islands.

I haven't retired. The dogs and I will visit and enjoy the refuge. I'll stay involved as long as I'm in the area. I want to watch the habitats at SIWR continue to mature; I want to see the species inventory continue to grow. Thank you all so much for helping make SIWR a place we can enjoy — a place we can all be proud of!

*Wayne H. Schacher*



Photo courtesy of Miles Carey, Knoxville News Sentinel.



Eastern Screech-Owl, Steven D'Amato

### Call for Bird Sightings

Have you seen a really great bird you want to share? Starting next issue, you'll have the opportunity to do so right here in the pages of the newsletter. Just submit some details (species, number, date, location), and then look for the new column in the next issue. Email your cool birds to Angela Hoffman at [ahoffman07@bellsouth.net](mailto:ahoffman07@bellsouth.net) or leave a message at (865) 670-8822.

### Recent Changes to Newsletter Format

In order to free up space in the newsletter, the Chapter's financial reports will no longer be published each month. The year-end report, however, will continue to appear in the February issue. If anyone at any time should you wish to see the most current financial report, please contact our treasurer, Carole Gobert (contact info on page 4). Carole will continue to compile our financial information each month and keep all money matters up to date!

In addition, please now limit all articles submitted for possible publication to **300 or fewer words**. This word limit will allow for a greater variety of articles from a greater number of people in coming issues. All article ideas are welcome, including serialized pieces, and should be sent to Angela Hoffman (contact info on page 4).



**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](http://www.tnbirds.org/KTOS.html)

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David Johnson

*State Directors, 2011– 2013*

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## Why Duck Stamps?

Duck Stamps are not just for hunters. By purchasing a Federal Duck Stamp, bird watchers, stamp collectors, and wildlife enthusiasts can make a valuable contribution to conservation. Known simply as the Duck Stamp, the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is a vital tool for wetland conservation. Ninety-eight cents out of every dollar generated from its sale goes directly to purchase or lease wetland habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge system. Since its inception in 1934, the stamp has generated over \$750 million dollars and protected more than 5.3 million acres. In Tennessee, the stamp has purchased over 120,000 acres of wetlands.

With all the talk about coming budget cuts, funding for wildlife habitat is at risk. Keeping that in mind, KTOS has decided to support wetland conservation by selling the Duck Stamp with a protective key chain holder that can be attached to your binoculars, backpack, hat, or purse. The cost for a stamp and the protective holder is only \$18.00 with \$15.00 of that going directly to the federal program. You can order yours today by sending an email to Billie Cantwell at [bfcantwell@gmail.com](mailto:bfcantwell@gmail.com) or by calling (865) 212-9797.

Display your stamp with pride, and let the world know that you support habitat conservation!

*Billie Cantwell*

--some content adapted from the Federal Duck Stamp Office web site

