

### **December 7, 2011 Meeting for KTOS**

30 members and two visitors were present for the meeting in room 117 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

### **UPCOMING**

**Jan. 7** - Will Skelton Greenway, Ijams Nature Center

**Jan. 14-15** - Sandhill Crane Festival

**Jan. 21** - Fort Loudon Lake Loop, Marcia Davis

### **WINTER BIRD COUNTS**

**Dec. 17** - Norris CBC with Chuck Nicholson

**Dec. 18** - GSMMP CBC, Sugarlands Visitor Center, Mike Nelson

**Dec. 31** - Knoxville CBC, Dean Edwards

**Jan. 1** - Cades Cove CBC, Susan Hoyle

**Bird Sightings** included an Allen's Hummingbird in Hamblin Co., Rufous Hummingbirds in Tellico, Northern Harrier and Bald Eagle on Cherokee Blvd., American White Pelican

**CONSERVATION** information is located on the Yahoo Group site.

### **DECEMBER SPEAKER - Mark Armstrong**

#### **Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge**

Although volunteer work started in 2005, Mark started his banding work in 2007 setting up MAPS stations sponsored by the Institute for Bird Populations (IBP), which looks for population declines in breeding and wintering habitats. MAPS Banding sessions are held from May through August. Twelve nets are set up at the same location during each session and are opened 30 minutes before sunrise. The nets are checked every 30-40 minutes and are open for 5 hours per session. After MAPS sessions are also held at SIWR throughout the year. 74 species and a total of 3,497 birds have been banded at Seven Islands.

### **Next Month**

Share your photos.

**November 2, 2011 Meeting for KTOS**

43 members were present in room 117 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

**Bird Sightings** included Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, Ruddy Duck, Rusty Blackbird, Great Horned Owl and American Bittern

**UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS**

**NOV. 5** - Sharp's Ridge Clean-Up - Tony King

**NOV. 5** - Turkey Creek Wetlands field trip - Mark Campen

**NOV. 6** - Cove Lake State Park - Mike Nelson

**NOV. 12** - Kyker Bottoms - Chuck Nicholson

**NOV. 17** - Mossy Creek Wildlife Viewing Area - Harold Howell

**CONSERVATION**

Osprey nest destroyed by storms to be rebuilt.

Ron Hoff summarized plans for the restoration of wetlands, shorebird habitat and pond at the Kingston Steam Plant to be completed by 2014.

Tony King discussed progress of the 10 Operation Migration Whooping Crane fledglings.

Evan Searfoss talked about the completion of the observation tower at Kyker Bottoms Refuge.

**NOVEMBER SPEAKER - Scott Somershoe - TWRA****Birding in Southern California - August 2010 & Ebird Primer**

Scott provided a slide show with narrative on the various locations he visited around southern California for birding including: Ventura County, Salton Sea, Malibu Lagoon, CA Lutheran University, Oxnard Plains, Ynez River, Maricopa, and Los Padres National Forest.

Some of the bird species he encountered included: Snowy Plover, Brewer's Blackbird, Wrentit, California Towhee, Cactus Wren, Lark Sparrow, Anna's and Allen's Hummingbird, Spotted Owl, Le Conte's Thrasher, Sage Sparrow, Golden Eagle and California Condor.

Scott gave an update on the Watchable Wildlife Website which includes 185 places in Tennessee and has pages on birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish and insects and can be found on Facebook.

There was also a tutorial on how to use the features of the eBird website with tips on how to enter data for bird sightings and use the many maps and charts available.

Next month's speaker - Mark Armstrong - MAPS Project

## **October 5, 2011 Meeting**

Room 117 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dues are due for 2012.

Duck Stamps are still for sale at \$18; \$15 goes towards purchasing wetlands

TOS State Fall Meeting - Oct. 7, 2011, Chattanooga

**David Johnson** presented Than Boves with the J.B. Owen Award to help continue his research on Cerulean Warblers.

**Bob Steffy** discussed the J.B. Owen Fund which was established to recognize groups or individuals working for the welfare and conservation of birds. At about \$8,000, the interest in the account is not high enough to gain so he asked people to donate or consider the fund for estate planning.

### **UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS**

#### **1. The Big Sit! - Mike Nelson & Janet McKnight**

Sunday, Oct. 9 - Kyker Bottoms - ALL DAY

Draw a 17-foot diameter circle and sit in the middle. All available birds will make themselves seen. The Big Sit! is an annual, international, noncompetitive birding event.

**2. The Big Year** - A get-together to see the birding movie, coffee afterwards.

#### **3. Victor Ashe Park - Tony King**

Thursday, Oct. 20 - 9:00 a.m.

#### **5. Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge - Mike Nelson**

Sunday, October, 23, 8:00 a.m.

#### **6. Kyker Bottoms - Evan Searfoss**

October 15 - Help build a platform. Please RSVP.

### **OPERATION MIGRATION - Tony King**

Operation Migration plays a leading role in the reintroduction of endangered Whooping Cranes into eastern North America. \$186/mile pledge for the trip. The target departure date for the 2011 ultralight-guided Whooping crane migration is Saturday, October 8th.

### **SPEAKER - THAN BOVES - University of Tennessee**

**Cerulean Warbler Response to Experimental Forest Disturbance in**

**the Appalachian Mountains**

Than gave an in-depth and informative talk and slide show on his intensive work studying Cerulean Warblers nesting in the Cumberland Mountains. Male Ceruleans were caught, banded and examined and nests were counted and observed for success in the rearing of young in various experimental plots.

## **Sept. 7, 2011 Meeting and Potluck Dinner - Ijams Nature Center**

Approximately 54-58 KTOS members and guests were present for the Sept. meeting.

Before dinner, President Billie Cantwell introduced the new officers and reminded everyone to sign the petition for the TVA wetlands restoration project at the Kingston Steam Plant. Duck Stamps were sold by Carole Gobert.

David Trently was recognized by Bille for his many years of contributions and field trips. He received gifts from Wild Birds Unlimited.

David Johnson talked about picking up and ordering coffee and presented Evan Searfoss with a \$300 J.B. Owen award. Evan gave an update on his Eagle Scout Project involving the construction of an observation tower at Kyker bottoms. The project will continue with the help of volunteers on Sept. 24 and Oct. 15.

### **Announcements:**

Sept. 11 & Sept. 20 - 2 Turkey Creek Wetland Field Trips

Sept. 18 - Hawk Watch at Foothills Parkway

Sept. 25 - Knox County Bird Count

Oct. - State Meeting - Chattanooga

Bird Sighting Column will be added to newsletter

Webmaster Chuck Nicholson presented the new website to the club highlighting the new layout, links and features, archives, meetings and field trips.

For the October Meeting - Than Boves will present an update on his Cerulean Warbler research.