

December 5, 2012 Meeting for KTOS

50 members and 9 visitors were present for the meeting in room 117 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

Upcoming Field Trips (see newsletter for details)

Dec. 13 - Victor Ashe Park, Tony King

Dec. 16 - Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge, Eric Bodker and Wayne Schacher

Jan. 10 - Tommy Schumpert Park, Tony King

Jan. 12-13 (tentative) - Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Decatur, Alabama

Jan. 19-20 - Tennessee Sandhill Crane Festival, Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge

Winter Bird Counts

Dec. 15 - Norris CBC, Compiler: Chuck Nicholson

Dec. 29 - Cades Cove CBC, Compiler: Susan Hoyle

Jan. 5 - Knox County CBC, Compiler: Dean Edwards

Business and Announcements

- The club passed the vote to purchase 250 books for the Discover Birds Project.
- A motion was made to donate \$700 to the J. B. Owen Fund; the motion was passed.
- Enough donations were made to sponsor 15 classes for the "Discover Birds" program.
- A motion was made to donate \$280 to the Crane Festival; the motion was passed.
- Paula Scheenberg agreed to do a program for the Farragut Library.
- Talissa Ralph offered her home in Stinson Beach, CA as a birding retreat for KTOS members. A donation to KTOS was suggested for the use of the house.

DECEMBER SPEAKER - Paul Super

Protecting the Birds of the Smokies - Avian Research and Management in the GSMNP

Goal: To conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and wildlife therein.

Paul Super is an Affiliate Professor of Biology at Western Carolina University and the Research Coordinator for the Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Center at the GSMNP. His presentation provided a brief overview of some research and protection activities occurring at the park including the removal of exotic species, the reintroduction of native species and the discussion of breeding bird survey sites.

1. Inventory

2. Research
3. Monitoring
4. Management
5. Restoration/Reintroduction

Next Month

Members share their photos.

November 7, 2012 Meeting for KTOS

36 members and 3 visitors were present for the meeting in room 117 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

Announcements and General Business

- Rocky Hill Project needs sponsors for the 6 first grade and 6 second grade classes. The Discover Bird Committee is creating activity books for the educators and students and the new 36-page book will premier at the Crane Festival in January.
- A motion was made to purchase 250 Discover Birds Activity Books for \$500. The motion was passed.
- The Nov-Dec 2012 issue of The Tennessee Conservationist is available to all members. The magazine contains an article about Tennessee's Sandhill Cranes by Vickie Henderson.
- The Tennessee Land Trust has reached their monetary goal to purchase 60 acres as an addition to Hiwasee Wildlife Refuge.
- Hunting of Sandhill Cranes in Tennessee decision has been delayed by TWRA until 2013.
- Duck stamps are still available
- A motion was made to donate \$700 made from the wine tasting and bird watching outings for the JB Owen Fund. The motion was passed.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, Nov. 10 - Sharp's Ridge Clean-Up - Tony King

Saturday, Nov. 10 - Hickory Creek Park - Mark Campen

Sunday, Nov. 11 - Botanical Gardens and Arboretum - Mark Campen

Thursday, Nov. 15 - Melton Hill Park - Tony King

Dec. 1 - Waterfowl/Sparrow Outing

NOVEMBER SPEAKER - Todd Witcher - Discover Life in America

Todd Witcher, the Executive Director of Discover Life in America, talked about the ATBI (All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory) which began in 1998 and is being conducted in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It is an intensive survey to discover and understand America's species through science and education for conservation with over 3000 individuals involved in the project. DLIA will use this knowledge to develop and disseminate information to encourage the discovery, understanding, preservation, and enjoyment of natural resources. DLIA also offers many opportunities and workshops for interested folks to become citizen scientists.

Species count for GSMNP

New to Science - 923

New to the Park - 7,636

October 3, 2012 Meeting

43 members and 7 guests attended the KTOS meeting in room 117 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

Sightings:

American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Tennessee Warblers, Swainson's Thrush.

Announcements:

Vickie Henderson gave an update on the Discover Birds Activity Book:

- Pilot Project - KTOS will sponsor Rocky Hill Elementary classes, deliver activity books and welcome packet, and lead classroom bird walks.
- Goals - Partner with Tennessee teachers and get kids excited about birds
- Land Trust for Tennessee is accepting donations for the purchase of a 68-acre parcel adjacent to Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge
- Planning Meeting - Oct. 25th, 7:00 pm

Upcoming Field Trips:

Sunday, Oct. 7 - Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge - 8:00 am, Mike Nelson

Thursday, Oct. 11 - Brian Hann's Farm - 8:30 am, Tony King

November - Clean-up at Sharps Ridge

The **J.B. Owen Award** was presented to Tiffany Beachy by David Johnson. Tiffany's project includes the study of Hemlock decline in the Walker Valley and the study and banding of Louisiana Waterthrush and Acadian Flycatchers along with habitat mapping by volunteers.

Speaker for October

Allen Coggins was the first Georgia State Park Naturalist and has written a book called ***Place Names of the Smokies***. He gave a presentation and shared some stories from the book about the origins of names such as Boogerman Trail, Charlie's Bunion, Clingman's Dome, Cherokee Orchard and Gregory Bald. Topographic maps found online were used to find names used in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Sept. 2012 Meeting and Potluck Picnic - Ijams Nature Center

A large group of KTOS members and 4 guests were present for the Sept. potluck meeting and picnic.

Announcements:

Tom Howe was announced as the new Field Trip Coordinator.

Ron Hoff discussed potential speakers for the spring TOS meeting in April 2013.

Planning Meeting - Thursday, Sept. 20 at Billie's house.

Field Trips and Events:

Saturday, Sept. 15 - Wine in the Wild birding and wine tasting at Billie's house.

Saturday, Sept. 15 - Fall Migration Bird Count

Thursday, Sept. 20 - The River Bluff atop Cherokee Trail

Sunday, Sept. 23 - Hawk Watch at Foothills Parkway

Sunday, Sept. 30 - Knox County Fall Count

For the October Meeting - Allen R. Coggins

KTOS May 2012 Meeting

41 members and 2 visitors were present for the KTOS meeting in room 117 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

SIGHTINGS

There were many bird sightings including: Scissortail Flycatcher, Bobolink, Grasshopper Sparrow, Dicksissel, Barn Owl, Great Horned Owl, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Whippoorwill.

CLUB BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Several members shared stories that celebrated Jack Tarr's life.
- A new baby was born to Mark and Becca Labig April 26.
- Volunteers needed to lead a group of 35 from Crossville at Seven Islands Wildlife Reserve.
- The July 29th Hummingbird Festival still needs volunteers.
- A motion was made and passed to accept next years' nominated club officers.

President

Billie Cantwell

Vice President

Patty Ford

Treasurer

Carole Gobert

Secretary

Melinda Fawver

Newsletter Editor

Michael Plaster

Newsletter Editor -- Distribution

Robin Barrow

Field Trip Coordinators

Alice & Gary Woody

The state directors are:

David Johnson

Jean Alexander

Harold Howell

- An Operation Migration update was given by Tony King. A motion was made and passed for the club to subscribe to 1 mile.
- There was an update from Vickie Henderson on the status of the "Discover Birds" activity book.
- Planning Meeting - May 24, 7:00 pm.
- Duck Stamps go on sale in June.

FIELD TRIPS

May 3 - Last Sharp's Ridge Midweek Walk, Thursday 8:00 am.

May 5 - Foothills Walk/Drive for Chucks & Whips, 7:45 pm.

May 12 - Bluebird Box Monitoring at Seven Islands, 9:00 am.

May 12 - North American Migration Count.

May 13 and May 27 - Spring Migrants on Sharp's Ridge, 8:00 am.

May 26 - Bird Watching and Wine, 4:00 pm (birding), 6:00 pm (wine tasting).

MAY PROGRAM

Mike Nelson shared a series of presentations with the group. In presentation one, Mike talked about the reasons he got into birding at a young age, how he moved frequently because of his father's job and was introduced to many new birding environments. He records and uploads the calls and songs of birds, takes photographs and does drawings of the many species he encounters. The second presentation included slides of the landscapes and birds of southwest France where a group from KTOS stayed at a winery. The third presentation was a slide show of Rankin Bottom birds with music – a movement from a symphony using bird calls and instruments.

Next Month

Ijams potluck and June meeting.

KTOS April 2012 Meeting

38 members and 10 visitors were present for the KTOS meeting in room 117 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

CLUB BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A motion was made for the club to buy 200 Discover Birds Activity Books to sell for \$2.00 each. The motion was passed.
- A motion was made to name the annual bird walk the Jim and Betty Reid Campbell Bird Walk. The motion was passed.
- The July 29th Hummingbird Festival needs volunteers.
- Nominations for next years' club officers were announced.

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Field Trip Coordinators

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David Johnson

Jean Alexander

Harold Howell

- An Operation Migration update was given by Tony King
- Planning Meeting - April 19, 7:00 pm.

FIELD TRIPS

April 7 - Sharp's Ridge Cleanup, 9:00 am.

April 12 to May 3 - Sharp's Ridge Midweek Walks, Thursdays 8:00 am.

- April 14** - Evening Woodcock Walk at Forks of the River WMA, 6:00 pm.
April 21 - Public Bird Walk at Sharp's Ridge, 8:00 am.
April 21 - GSMNP/Clingmans Dome Road: Grouse Drive & Saw-whet Owl Walk, 6:00 pm.
April 22 - Late Waterfowl and Water Birds in Chattanooga, 7:00 am.
April 28 - Yuchi Refuge & Smith Bend, 8:00 am.
April 29 - Knox County Spring Bird Count.

APRIL PROGRAM

Clinch River Raptor Center

The goals of the CRRC are to provide valid and interesting information to as many people as possible about some of the more abused forms of wildlife and to rehabilitate injured birds (especially raptors). Three volunteers from the raptor center brought a variety of rescued, non-releasable birds to share with the group including two Screech Owls (gray male and red female), a Barred Owl, a Red-Tailed Hawk, and an American Kestrel. The center has rehabilitated over 2000 injured birds over the last 28 years and has both federal and state rehabilitation permits for Class II birds.

Next Month

Mike Nelson shares a powerpoint presentation of his birding trips to Malaysia and France.

KTOS March 2012 Meeting

44 members and 9 visitors were present for the KTOS meeting in room 117 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Spring Meeting - May 18-20, Johnson City.
- Planning Meeting - March 22, 7:00 pm, to discuss upcoming Hummingbird Event at Ijams Nature Center.
- Tony King made a motion for a plaque to be made to recognize the hard work of Evan Searfrost on the observation tower at Kyker Bottoms.
- Bird boxes donated Wild Birds Unlimited have been installed at Turkey Creek Wetlands.
- GBBC - Knoxville finished first (173) for checklists submitted.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, March 17 - Marcia Davis - Fort Loudoun Lake Loop - Rescheduled from January with a focus on shorebirds, 8:30 am.

Thursday, March 22 - Tony King - River Bluff atop Cherokee Trail, 9:00 am.

Saturday, April 7 - Sharp's Ridge Cleanup.

MARCH PROGRAM

"Bird Attitudes - Inspiring Art and Conservation"

Vickie Henderson shared photos of her sketchbook drawings and studies, watercolor paintings and gourd art based on photos she has taken of birds in her yard and on field trips. She also talked about her blog - <http://vickiehenderson.blogspot.com/> - which has become a platform for her conservation efforts and a place to share her photos and art. The Discover Birds Activity Book is a publication designed by Vickie to get kids excited about birds.

Next Month

Speakers and raptors from Clinch River Raptor Center.

KTOS February 2012 Meeting

38 members and one visitor were present for the KTOS meeting in room 117 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Bluebird boxes are available for a \$20 donation to the TWRA Crane Fund which will be used for research and environmental restoration.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Wayne Schacher asked for ideas, suggestions and volunteers for the new committee. Vickie Henderson still has TOS children's activity books for sale.

Bird Sightings included a Common Gallinule in Sevierville, an Osprey and Night Heron at Bull Run, and a Painted Bunting in Hamilton County.

Tony King gave an update on Operation Migration. The young cranes are still in Arkansas and may not fly south.

FIELD TRIPS

Feb. 12 - Mike Nelson - Cove Lake State Park - Meet at 7 am at the Stokely Building or 8 am at the park.

Feb. 18 - Hiwasee Island Eco Cruise - 1:30 pm. Cost is \$39 + tax per person.

PLANNING MEETING

Feb. 16 - 7:00 pm at Billie's.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

"Planning and Anticipating the Trip was Almost Half the Fun"

Ed LeGrand showed us a photo and video slideshow of his recent 24 day trip to Australia where he viewed and photographed 280-290 species of birds. Landscapes, locations, waterfalls, wetlands, birds, mammals and other wildlife were shared for each of the areas visited including: Sydney, Cairns, Darwin and Alice Springs and surrounding areas.

KTOS January 4, 2012 Meeting

35 members and three visitors were present for the KTOS meeting in room 117 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Vickie Henderson and Wayne Schacher will serve on the new KTOS Conservation Committee.

FIELD TRIPS

Jan. 14-15 - Sandhill Crane Festival - Fundraiser for Whooping Crane and Sandhill Crane habitats.

Jan. 21 - Fort Loudon Lake Loop field trip includes stops at Louisville Point Park, Hitch Pond, Ft. Loudon Dam and Lenoir City. Lead by Marcia Davis

Bird Sightings included a Rufous Hummingbird in Knoxville, Peregrine Falcon in Maryville and Winter Wren in Sequoia Hills.

Tony King gave an update on Operation Migration. Enough donations were collected from the club to support 2 miles of Operation Migration and Wild Birds Unlimited donated 1 mile.

Vickie Henderson designed and illustrated a TOS Activity Book which she shared with the group. The book educates children about the importance of bird conservation.

JANUARY PROGRAM

KTOS members shared photos from birding trips all around the United States and several countries.

Next Month

Ed LeGrand will discuss his birding trip to Australia.