

through the biKNOXulars



Newsletter of the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

Remembering the Ivorybills

Wednesday, May 3, 7:00 pm at Ijams Nature Center. Nancy Tanner, one of the last people to have ever seen an Ivory-Billed Woodpecker alive, will tell us of her adventures with her late husband, ornithologist Dr. James Tanner, as they set out to study this largest woodpecker of North America. Come on over to Ijams, and be prepared to be awed when you hear the recorded sounds of some of the last of these wonderful birds.

KTOS members: Due to the expected popularity of this event, it is vital that you call Ijams at 577-4717 ext. 10 if you plan to attend this meeting. Space is limited!

*** Pre-meeting birding at Ijams Nature Center will begin at 6pm for all interested (weather permitting)

TOS Spring Meeting 2000

The Spring 2000 meeting of the Tennessee Ornithological Society will be held in Bristol on May 5-6-7. Birders will enjoy fabulous high-elevation field trips to Mount Rogers and Whitetop Mountains, Virginia's highest peaks. In addition, field trips will visit the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries' Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area at Laurel Bed Lake on the Russell-Smyth and Washington count borders.

Volunteer state birders will also enjoy field trips on the Jefferson National Forest at the Virginia Creeper Trail and nearby Shady Valley, just south of Damascus, Va. as well as mountainous South Holston Lake.

Now is a good time to register for the TOS meeting. Registration fee is \$10 and a buffet dinner on Saturday night is \$15.95 per person. We have a special rate for the rooms and you should mention you are with the meeting when contacting the Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center at Bristol, VA 1-81. Call the Inn at 1-888-466-4141 toll.

For details, a form for registration and photos of the meeting location as well as photo directions, go to the BBC web page and click on the 2000 state meeting: <http://hometown.aol.com/z02/bbc.html>

Plans for Big South Fork

A few weeks ago, the National Park Service released a draft Big South Fork (BSF) General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. This plan, once finalized, will govern the management of the BSF for the next several years. It took a few years and much public input to develop this draft plan. There are 2 alternatives for managing the BSF. Similarities include provisions for strong protection of the gorge area; differences are in the level of visitor facilities that would be developed in the upland portions of the BSF. The accompanying draft EIS describes the environmental impacts of the two alternative plans. More information on the planning process, and a copy of the plan, are available on the BSF web site at:

http://www.nps.gov/biso/gmp_ann.htm

The Plan and Impact Statement are now out for public review. The review period closes at the end of May. TOS will likely submit comments on the plan. If you wish to contribute to the TOS comments, please email your comments to me at cpn@mail.vic.com

Chuck Nicholson

May Field Trips

Saturday April 29,
8:00am

Sharp's Ridge

Leader: David Trently
(531-1473)

Spring migrants are the object of this field trip. Orioles, grosbeaks, warblers, and other spring migrants are expected. Meet at the Overlook.

Saturday May 6,
7:00 am

Cross Mountain

Leader: Bob Collier
(938-4050)

Target birds are Warblers, Tanagers, Orioles, Grosbeaks and others. Bring insect repellent, lunch and a drink. This is usually one of the best field trips of the spring. Meet at Ingles parking lot at I-75 and Emory Road

Saturday May 20, 7:00
am

Freels Bend on the
Oak Ridge Reservation

Leader: Dev Joslin
(482-7591)

The trip will include open field, woodland and riparian habitat. Target species include Wild Turkey, Red-headed Woodpecker, Brown-headed Nuthatches, flycatchers and cuckoos. Bring water and a snack. Meet at Corner of Scarboro Rd and Bethel Valley Rd (2nd traffic light past the Solway bridge coming from Pellissippi Parkway).

Presidential Perch

By the time you get this newsletter Sharp's Ridge and pretty much anywhere else with suitable habitat for birds will be hopping. I hope everyone gets a chance to step outside on Sunday April 30th and participate in our Knox County Spring Count.

I'd like to take this opportunity to comment on a few of the issues discussed at KTOS business meetings. ***Remember anyone interested can attend these meetings.** We meet two Wednesdays before each monthly meeting, usually in the Ellington Plant Sciences Building on the UT Ag Campus. We've been addressing membership, fundraising, and conservation issues. Call me a week or so ahead of time if you want a rough idea of what we'll be covering at any given business meeting.

KTOS membership has been fairly stable over the past 5 years or so. Although a major membership drive isn't part of our plan, we certainly want people in our area who are interested in birds to know that we exist, with the hope that they'll join our ranks. Each membership contributes a small amount to our treasury, which we want to grow to provide funds to encourage bird-related research and conservation activities. Plus, the more active members we have, the more we can accomplish.

So far our discussions of membership have focused on increasing KTOS's visibility to the public. If the turnout of nonmembers at David Pitts' bluebird talk is any indication, J.B. Owen's willingness to announce our program meetings in his weekly News-Sentinel nature column appears to have great potential. Dan Mooney has done a terrific job of arranging field trips and getting the word out, including timely reminders of when those trips will occur. Dan and Roger Tankersley are refining our KTOS window decals, and a final product will probably be available by the June meeting. In addition to looking nice, the decals will serve to alert nonmembers of KTOS' existence. Christine Tankersley has completed a KTOS brochure which really looks sharp and provides all the important details to introduce the chapter to interested birders.

On the fundraising side, we have a long way to go. We are planning one or more auctions of donated materials. Ideally we wanted to have the first at the TOS Spring Meeting in Bristol where we'd have a larger crowd, but apparently that is not an option. We are now exploring the possibility of including an auction as part of our June potluck or perhaps waiting until fall making it coincide with a larger gathering. Other fundraisers will include sale of the window decals and copies of J.B. Owen's history of KTOS. Reading J.B.'s book makes me wonder what J.B.'s counterpart will have to say about us 20 or 30 years from now and provides some incentive for us to improve our record keeping and spice up our minutes and reports.

I and the other officers would like to have as much feedback as we can on any and all issues related to making KTOS all it can be. This includes constructive criticism where warranted. We need feedback on how the meetings are going. Are they running too long? Should we consider starting meetings at 7 pm instead of 7:30? What do people think of having some of our meetings at Ijams or elsewhere? How are we doing with the mix of business and program? What has worked and what hasn't this year? Ideally we are looking to limit business at program meetings to 30 minutes, including bird sightings in that 30 minutes, then proceed to a program of 45 minutes or so followed by refreshments and socializing. Please be involved and let your thoughts be known. In the meantime, good birding.

Chris Welsh

Trip Report: Cove Lake State Park - April 15th, 2000 Field Trips, cont.

Sixteen birders turned out in the cloudy skys and drizzle Saturday morning for the Knoxville Chapter of Tn. Ornithological Society's field trip to Cove Lake State Park, (Campbell County) . It was a great morning. We were blessed that the harder rains held off for us. The bird(s) for the day were definitely the (9) RED -CROSSBILLS found feeding on -(of course) Pine cones. What an unexpected treat! They were life birds for 9 people in the group and proof of my theory- ANYTHING can turn up at Cove Lake. This is a rather low elevation for these birds.

"Spring firsts" for Cove Lake included a singing WOOD THRUSH, COMMON YELLOWTHROAT and an OVENBIRD on the trail behind the observation tower. A lone GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER was heard behind the campground near the beaver lodge.

Our target bird for the day was a major hit as the male PROTHONOTARY WARBLER put on a great show, becoming another lifer for several in the group. This seems to be the only one found so far this year in the area. Everyone had very good, long satisfying looks as he fed and serenaded us.

Warblers were few with only 8 species seen or heard. BLACK AND WHITE(1), BLACK THROATED GREEN(1), YELLOW-THROATED(4), PINE(2), YELLOW-RUMPED (50+- most prominent) and the others mentioned above. No shorebirds were found, but 8-10 BLUE-WINGED TEAL were scoped from a very short distance. Several WOOD DUCKS were seen, including a female exiting a nest hole in a decaying tree. Wintering species still present were BROWN CREEPER (Heard only), RUBY-CROWNED KINGLETS, RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES and JUNCOS.

We concluded the morning walk with a delicious lunch at Louie's Restaurant on the Lake, and our final count/checklist for the morning was 63 SPECIES.

- Nell Moore

2000 Elections

It is once again time to elect officers for our chapter and we will be voting on the following nominations at the May meeting:

President: Chris Welsh

Vice President: David Trently

Treasurer: Bob Steffy

Secretary: Jean Alexander

Directors: David Trently & Dev Joslin

May 13th - North American Migration Count

Pick your favorite county and count birds for our national and state count. Simply keep track of the times you are in your areas and let me know your hours and miles on foot and the hours and miles by car, hours feeder watching and hours owling. These statistics make it easier to do statistical analysis later with the data gathered. Please include the names of all participants. Send your results to me at: Ron Hoff, 282 Hackworth Lane, Clinton, Tn. 37716 or email them to me (dollyron95@aol.com).

Thanks in advance for your help. Above all, enjoy yourself and have a fun day.
Ron Hoff

Sunday May 21,
8:00 am

Windrock Mountain

Leader: Tony

Headrick(687-9956)

Primary targets for this trip are Swainson's Warblers. Tony hopes to have nesting sites staked out for the trip. Bring lunch and a drink. Meet at the McDonalds on Illinois Ave in Oak Ridge.

Sunday May 27,
7:30 am

Greenback Area

Leader: Janet

McKnight(856-8332)

We hope to find a variety of woodland and grassland birds. Grasshopper sparrows will be a target bird. Bring water and a snack. Meet at Sequoyah's Birthplace Museum near Fort Loudon State Park.

Thursdays May 4th and
May 11th 8:00am

Sharp's Ridge

Leader: Ben

Mooney(525-5681).

Warblers, Tanagers, Orioles, Vireos, and Buntings are the expected species. Meet at the rangers house.

Bulletin Board

TOS BIRDERS NEEDED FOR POINT COUNTS

For the sixth year in a row, TOS will be assisting TWRA in point counts on nine routes on the Oak Ridge DOE Reservation. Counts will take place on the weekends from Saturday May 27 until Sunday June 17 (or until all routes are completed). This will be an opportunity to bird some of the back country of the reservation, as well as contribute to bird records that may help preserve the reservation from development. Volunteers should call **Dev Joslin (482-7591)** or speak with him at the May 3 KTOS meeting.

Summer Birding in Kentucky

Joint Summer Birding Weekend of the Tennessee and Kentucky Ornithological Societies June 23-25, 2000

Join members of TOS and KOS as we travel to Western Kentucky to look for Bell's Vireo, Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows and many more birds at the Peabody Wildlife Management Area, Mammoth Cave and possibly Land Between the Lakes.

To receive additional information as it becomes available, contact David Trently at: 865-974-8664 (work) 865-531-1473 (home) or e-mail: dtrently@utk.edu

577-4714 ext. 80: Use It or Lose It!

Now that spring is here, please report your sightings to the Wild Bird Hotline. Ijams has informed us that they are always in need of more telephone extensions at the Nature Center and if the Hotline is not being used, they will reclaim it. Now that we have started advertising meetings and field trips on it, it is an asset more valuable than ever before.

The Secret Lives of Warblers

Thanks to John Kennerly for pointing out the following article which should be of interest to many of us as we crack our necks scanning the treetops for warblers: "Exposed: Secret Lives of Warblers," NATIONAL WILDLIFE, Volume 38, Number 3, April/May 2000, pp. 46 - 53.

The article summarizes recent research revealing that many of the warbler species that breed in this country behave a lot differently in the Tropics.

Steve Satterfield has an excellent copy of Volume one of the **Birds of South America**, The Oscine Passerines, that he is selling for \$50. Please call him at 865-992-3611 if you are interested.

Membership: Individual - \$18; Family \$20; Sustaining - \$28; Lifetime - \$200; Student (High school or earlier) - \$8; Mail to Chapter Treasurer at address below.

TOS HOME PAGE: [HTTP://WWW.TNBIRDS.ORG](http://www.tnbirds.org)

PRESIDENT.....Chris Welsh

5337 Hickory Hollow Rd
Knoxville, TN 37919 766-0368
cwelsh@utk.edu

VICE-PRESIDENT.....David Trently

1029 Morrow Road
Knoxville, TN 37923 531-1473
tn_mockers@hotmail.com

TREASURER.....Bob Steffy

7619 Charlton Road
Knoxville, TN 37920 579-3674
robertsteffy@aol.com

SECRETARY.....Daniel Moss

807B Red Hill Drive
Louisville, TN 37777

EDITOR.....Christine Tankersley

2924 Jenkins Street
Knoxville, TN 37921 673-0931
cytanker@yahoo.com

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