



through the **biKNOXulars**

Newsletter of the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

‘Whooping Crane Migration in the Eastern Flyway’ is the topic of April 7 program

KTOS member Vickie (Taylor) Henderson presents "Whooping Crane Migration in the Eastern Flyway" on Wednesday, April 7 at 7 p.m. Henderson actively volunteers for Operation Migration, the organization overseeing the reintroduction of the Whooping Crane Migration from Wisconsin to Florida.

Henderson's interest was piqued when she first learned about Operation Migration and the cranes passing through "our back yard," Hiwassee Refuge (Meigs County). Since then she has been present at Hiwassee for all of the ultra-light trained migrations. During the stopovers she has gotten to

know the Operation Migration pilots and crew members. This past fall, Henderson was in charge of making sure the Whooping Crane pen at Hiwassee Refuge was clear of trash and was prepared for the Whoopers' arrival.

Operation Migration has benefited from Henderson's other talents as well. She created the artwork for their new hat. She has created a child's coloring book for the Whooping Crane Conservation.

Henderson has also participated in the more mundane, but equally important, tasks of handing out

- (Continued on page 2)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Friday, April 2 - Sunday, April 4

Southern Illinois and St. Louis. See page 1.

Thursday, April 15, 22 and 29 • 8 AM

Sharps Ridge, Knox County. See page 1.

Saturday, April 17 • 7 AM

Oak Ridge Reservation's North Boundary Trail Greenway. See page 2.

Sunday, April 18 • 8 AM

Williams Creek, Knoxville. See page 2.

Saturday, April 24 • 8 AM

PUBLIC FIELD TRIP to Sharps Ridge. See page 2.

Sunday, April 25 • All day

Knox County Spring Bird Count. See page 7.

April field trips.

Friday, April 2 - Sunday, April 4

Southern Illinois and St. Louis.

Leader: David Trently: dtrently@utk.edu; 974-8664 (w); 531-1473 (h). Target Birds will include Greater Prairie Chicken and Eurasian Tree Sparrow. For details on this trip please call David Trently.

Thursday, April 15, 22, and 29 • 8 AM

Sharps Ridge, Knox County.

Leader: Tony Headrick: 687-9956. Meet at the ranger's house at 7:30 a.m. The walk will be along the road in Sharps Ridge Memorial Park. Spring migrants are the objects of this field trip. Orioles, grosbeaks warblers and other spring migrants are expected.

(Continued on page 2)

"Oh, the little birds sang east, and the little birds sang west."

- Toll slowly. Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806-1861)

Whooping crane program - (Continued from page 1)

information and collecting donations at wildlife art festivals. She has also given slide presentations about the Whooping Crane Project at other venues.

Joseph Duff and Bill Lishman founded Operation Migration in 1998 with the mission to help endangered bird species by introducing them to safe migratory routes. On their first adventure using ultra-light aircraft they lead 18 Canada Geese in migration from Ontario to Virginia. Between 1995 and 2000, Operation Migration studied Sandhill Cranes, the non-endangered relatives of Whooping Cranes. Part of that study included teaching/leading the Sandhill Cranes on a migratory route from Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, Wisconsin to Crystal River, Florida, including a stopover at Hiwassee Refuge. In 2001 Operation Migration successfully led the first flock of six Whooping Cranes on the same route. To learn more about Operation Migration and how you can become involved check out their website: <http://www.operationmigration.org/>

On April 7, Henderson's "Whooping Crane Migration in the Eastern Flyway" presentation will describe the historic range and decline of the Whooping Cranes, give an overview of historic efforts to help the species recover and take the audience step by step through the migration project which begins prior to the egg hatching. See you there, in Room 117 of the UT Vet School (on Joe Johnson Drive just off Neyland Dr.) at 7 p.m.

- Tracey Muise, program coordinator



April field trips (Continued from page 1)

Saturday, April 17 • 7 AM

Oak Ridge Reservation's North Boundary Trail Greenway
Leader: Dev Joslin: (865) 482-7591, jdjoslin@esper.com
 We will meet at 7:00 a.m. in the back of the Walmart parking lot (near Panera's) in downtown Oak Ridge (on Illinois Ave, the main road into Oak Ridge coming in on the Pellissippi parkway).

This several mile loop passes over and along Bear and East Fork Poplar Creeks crossing mature forest, riparian, shrub-scrub, wetland and second-growth forest habitats. Twenty-two of 32 Ridge and Valley "species of conservation concern" are known to breed here, as well as seven species on Partner's in Flight's National Watch List. By this date, Kentucky, Prairie and Yellow-throated Warblers should have returned along with Acadian Flycatchers, Summer Tanagers, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Wood Thrushes and Yellow-breasted Chats. Other very likely species are Blue-winged Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-headed Woodpecker, Wild Turkey and Bob-white Quail. Possible are Louisiana Waterthrush, Cerulean Warbler and many migrant species passing through.

Sunday, April 18 • 8 AM

Williams Creek, Knoxville

Leader: Mark Campen: (865) 523-3800 or mark@tnike.com / Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the large parking lot at the UT Agriculture Campus, on the corner of Neyland Drive and Center Avenue, for car pooling to Birdsong Street off Riverside Drive. We will go from field habitat to the (surprisingly) moderately wooded golf course (under construction) to a heavily wooded

stretch of urban forest and varying habitats all along the beautiful Williams Creek. The distance is approximately 1.5 miles each way. Depending on weather, some areas may be moist or muddy.

Saturday, April 24 • 8 AM

PUBLIC FIELD TRIP to Sharps Ridge

Leaders will include Harold Howell: (865) 828-6302, Dr. Dean Edwards: 560-9701 and Tony Headrick: 687-9956. All other KTOS members are urged to attend. The more birders we have listening, the more birds we will see and that may translate into new recruits for our hobby.

Meet at the overlook at 8:00 a.m. The walk will be along the road in Sharps Ridge Memorial Park. Spring migrants are the objects of this field trip. Orioles, grosbeaks, warblers and other spring migrants are expected. The general public will be invited.

-Best regards, Harold Howell, field trip coordinator



Banding at Seven Islands on Saturday, April 3

We will be meeting in the Seven Islands parking lot at 7 a.m. and usually finish around noon.

We are doing some flush-line banding which means we walk in a line through the thick grass and sticks in the field toward a line of mist nets to flush birds into the nets. We usually set up about 40 meters of nets so sometimes we catch a lot of birds. We are trying to see what the species distribution is in the fields during the non-breeding season.

Anyone interested in helping out contact Jim Giocomo (865) 974-8749. - Submitted by Jim Giocomo

KTOS to celebrate 80th Birthday June 2 at Ijams -By Lyn Bales

Who would have guessed that when a group of birders got together in South Knoxville in 1924 to form a club that it would have endured. But it did; and it's still going strong.

It's our octogenarial birthday, so let's have a party! Our traditional June potluck picnic will be held again at Ijams Nature Center on Wednesday, June 2, but this one will be a little different. We'll be celebrating our 80th birthday at the site where it all started.

According to J.B. Owen,* the first "official organizational meeting, with the first officers elected and minutes kept, was on January 13, 1924. The group chose to be known as the East Tennessee Ornithological Society, a name they were to keep for 18 years." There were ten charter members and H.P. Ijams was elected president.

We'll be celebrating our 80th at Ijams in June so that we'll have plenty of daylight to enjoy the park plus we have a few special activities planned.

The party will be held in the Visitors Center large Multi-purpose Room and Back Terrace. We plan to walk down to the Ijams Homesite to take a group photo of all KTOS members that are present (see below). We'd also like to have a Silent Auction with a portion of the proceeds going to the new raptor enclosure at Ijams (see below).

If you know any former members or anyone that might like to become a member please invite them to attend.

As is tradition, everyone should bring a covered dish to share. We also hear there will be a birthday cake. Plans are still a bit tentative but the following timetable should be close.

5:30 PM - Begin early to have time to socialize, do some birding at Ijams and take a leisurely stroll to the Homesite.

7 PM - (Weather permitting) Assemble as a group at Ijams Homesite for a photo of all KTOS members present.

7:30ish - Reassemble at Visitor Center for food and a short business meeting.



Tentative KTOS Birthday Party Activities



Traditionally, KTOS's *Spring Field Day* was held in April and included a bird count confined to the Ijams property, Dickinson Island, the grounds of T.S.D. and the neighborhoods immediate to the Ijams home. The above photo of KTOS members was taken on the Ijams lawn at the *Spring Field Day* in 1940. H. P. Ijams, wearing his customary vest, is on the back row, four from the right.

* Historical information from *Our First 70 Years, KTOS 1924-1994* by J.B. Owen

Group Photo

We'd like to recreate (in the same location) the group photo to the left taken in 1940.

Silent Auction

We hope to have a silent auction to raise money for the planned new raptor enclosure at Ijams. But, in order to do that we need donations of auctionable items. So if you have any bird or nature related items (photos, prints, books, magazines, etc.) you can part with or if you have a business and can donate an item or gift certificate please contact Lyn at lynbales@comcast.net or 577-4717, ext. 24 (w) or 577-6978 (h).

Bird ID table

Ijams has a small collection of stuffed birds, museum specimens believed to have belonged by H. P. Ijams. The birds are not identified so bring your knowledge of world birds and exotic field guides.



KTOS Member Harold Howell found a missing hubcap.



KTOSers Carol Lammers and Janet McKnight with young son.



A group of volunteers from Fulton High School

First Sharps Ridge Cleanup a group success

- By Mark Campen

Saturday, March 13, volunteers from the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, Izaak Walton League and the Play-it-Smart program cleaned up litter along Sharps Ridge. Items collected included over eighty bags of trash, two tires, two auto gas tanks, two shutters, various sizes of construction debris and metal, one deteriorating mattress and a doghouse with the decomposing dog still inside.

Special thanks go out to the students and leaders from Fulton and Austin-East High Schools, which are a part of the Play-it-Smart program. They comprised over half of the fifty or so people attending.

Thanks to the City of Knoxville for providing us with and picking up the trash container we put the refuse in. Through adoption of the ridge and biannual events such as this, the KTOS wants to keep this premiere birding area and vista clean in memory of J.B. Owen, for whom the overlook has been dedicated.

Thanks again to all who helped make this event a success.



Students with the Play-it-Smart program help with cleanup

15th Annual River Rescue is Saturday, April 3

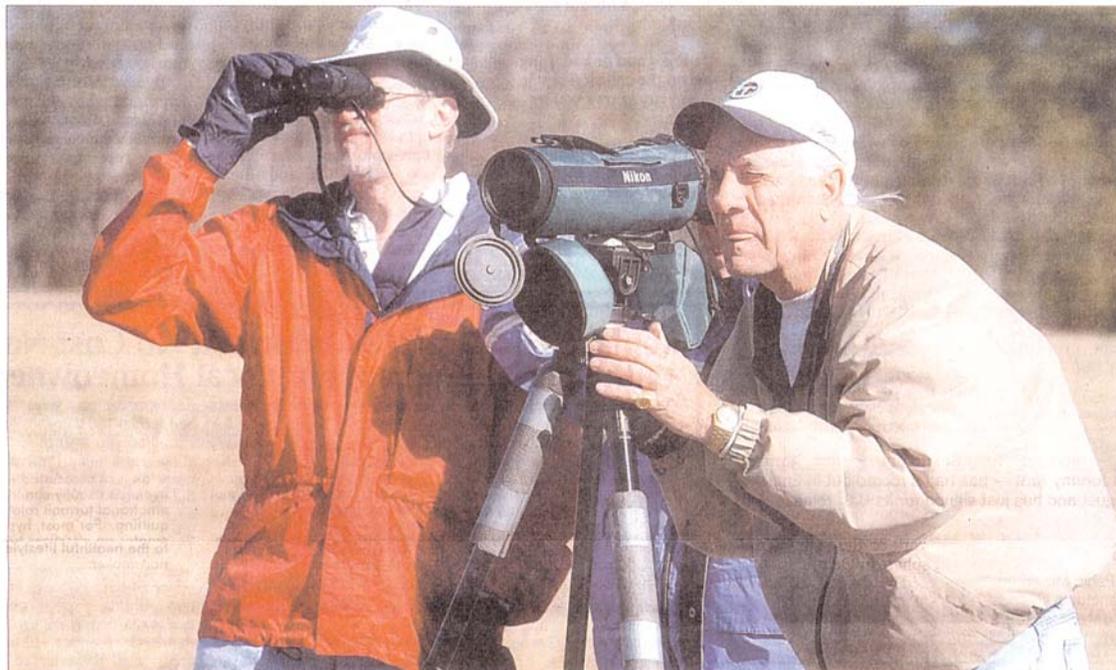
It's that time again! Time to clean up local rivers. River Rescue is Saturday, April 3, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. This will be the 15th Annual River Rescue coordinated by Ijams Nature Center. Each year we make progress reducing the amount of trash and debris along the river. You're invited to be a part of this group effort.

For the past 14 years, between 600 and 800 volunteers have come together each spring to clean up the shorelines of the Tennessee and Clinch Rivers. In

the past nine years, 224.9 tons of trash have been removed. Last year we worked 37 sites. This year we hope to do even more, but we need your help! Call (865) 577-4717, ext. 15, or e-mail pbeute@ijams.org to sign up for a site near you; or report the day of the cleanup to zone captains Lyn Bales at Marine Park on Alcoa Highway or Mark Campen at Craig's Cove off Houser Road. Free t-shirts to all volunteers. River Rescue is sponsored by Sea Ray Boats.

KTOS member Ed Manous in Atlanta newspaper

Loon lovers in luck



Ed Manous (right) of Knoxville and Fred Heacock of Fayetteville seek a glimpse of the yellow-billed loon at Lake Horton in Fayette County.

MARLENE KARAS / Staff

By CHANDLER BROWN / cmbrown@ajc.com

Donna Jackson has spent years searching for the elusive yellow-billed loon, a bird native to the Arctic Circle.

"I've been to Alaska and didn't see it," said the free-lance photographer from Peachtree City. "Now it's right here in my back yard. I'm going to take full advantage of it."

She's far from alone. Dozens of bird watchers from as far away as Massachusetts are flocking to south Fayette County's Lake Horton, the winter home for a lone yellow-billed loon.

To the untrained eye, it looks like an ordinary duck with — you guessed it — a yellow bill. But to ornithology enthusiasts, it's a winged wonder.

This kind of loon has never been seen in Georgia and usually spends the winter in the Pacific Northwest. The bird's genetic compass likely hit a glitch while migrating last fall, said Greg Butcher, director of bird conservation for the National Audubon Society.

"These birds basically have a map and a compass in their brain. Sometimes the compass gets reversed, so a bird that's supposed fly southwest flies southeast instead,"

Butcher said.

In other words, "he took a left when he should have taken a right," joked Richard Hester of Atlanta, among a handful of bird-watchers who braved Friday's chilly morning air to get a gander at the loon.

The "birders" donned heavy coats and gloves and peered through high-powered scopes. About 100 yards away, the bird glided along the lake's smooth waters munching on minnows with more common loons, seemingly unaware of the attention.

Yellow-billed loons, unlike ducks, cannot walk. They usually migrate alone or in loosely organized groups. Birders doubt they'll see the loon at Lake Horton next year. That's why David Chaffin, a radiologist from Cleveland, Tenn., has made two trips to Fayette County.

"This is a short chase compared to what I've done," said Chaffin, 56, who once flew to Alaska for a peek at a rare eagle.

Birders know that some people consider them a little, er, loony.

"I don't care what they say," said Helena Wood, 53, of Atlanta. "I've been on a lot of literal wild goose chases. When you finally do see it, it's worth it."

► **ON THE WEB:** Georgia Ornithological Society: www.gos.org

YELLOW-BILLED LOON



Range: Usually breeds in northern Alaska and northern Canada. Normally winters along West Coast of United States and Canada.

Size: Largest loon in North America, 25 inches long with a 60-inch wingspan.

Activity: Large diving bird with long body that rides low in the water.

Scientific name: *Gavia adamsii*



Common loon

Can be found in Georgia this time of year. It is smaller, has darker coloring and a thinner bill and neck.

Sources: U.S. Geological Survey, enature.com, The Sibley Guide to Birds



ELIZABETH LANDT / Staff

A field trip to Janet's Place - February 15, 2004

The day of the field trip was dominated by cold rainy, then sleety skies. Nonetheless, the coffee was hot and the donuts were sweet on my dry front porch. Seven brave souls came to freeze with me, and the birds did not let us down. It was the Sunday of the Great Backyard Bird Count and Tracey Muise figured out my motive for having other keen eyes on my property that day. There were two flurries going on at once—one made out of snow and one made of the birds at my feeders.

There was a constant flow of activity, at times over 100 individuals to see at once. Carole Gobert got her first looks at a bright, beautiful male Purple Finch. And I was so proud to share my favorite daily visitors, the elegant immature and adult White-crowned Sparrows. Every time I see them I marvel at how they were hatched in a nest so far up in Canada, and here they are having a feast in my own yard. They were so close for everyone to see, being so used to human onlookers on the porch.

I could see the terror in the eyes of my guests as

the snow came down, but everyone stayed awhile, saw me smooch a pig and helped me count some birds. My thanks to those who came! I will host another raincheck trip when my Purple Martins return.

My count for the day at or near my feeders, with the help of my guests are as follows: Tufted Titmouse 2, American Goldfinch 35, Brown-headed Cowbird 65, Downy Woodpecker 2, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, White-throated Sparrow 3, Carolina Wren 2, Northern Cardinal 16, House Finch 9, Blue Jay 4, Eastern Bluebird 3, White-breasted Nuthatch 2, Carolina Chickadee 3, Mourning Dove 10, European Starling 75, American Robin 36, White-crowned Sparrow 3, Dark-eyed Junco 2, Turkey Vulture 3, American Crow 3, Field Sparrow 9, Wood Duck 2, Eastern Meadowlark 4, Purple Finch 4, House Sparrow 2, Northern Mockingbird 1, Eastern Phoebe 1, Palm Warbler 1 (thanks Kim!), Song Sparrow 5, Red-shouldered hawk 2 (thanks Tracey!). For a total of 30 species, 310 individuals. - Janet McKnight

Purple Martin nest house moved - By Mark Campen

On a blustery morning, February 7, the Purple Martin (PUMA) nesting house was relocated from the UT Trial Gardens to Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge. Once it was taken down from UT, I met the attending biologist, Wayne Schacher, at Seven Islands. After some minor difficulties and a little drilling here and there, we erected the PUMA house down by an old home site and storage barn. This location, which sits on the edge of a recently burned native grass field and not too far from the French Broad River, should suit these birds that prefer nesting close to human inhabitants near fields, ponds and rivers.

Taking a foreman's approach, Jim Giocomo showed up towards the end to help oversee the activity. Of course, we were soon birding, observing a male and female Northern Harrier search the fields for potential prey. Hopefully, the nesting "apartment," which was erected years ago in memory of J.B.Owen, will soon be busy with many purple martins and people to enjoy them.



Presidential Perch (Continued from page 8)

At the April meeting we will vote whether we should reimburse Mark Campen for expenses regarding the Purple Martin house he recently moved for us to Seven Islands. After the move, Meredith Clebsch and Janet McKnight, who have both done a lot of research on Martins brought to Mark's attention the fact that it is much easier to attract new Martin

colonies to gourds than to a house and that there should be gourds around the house. With help from both of them Mark decided to buy gourds, knowing that the club may not reimburse him.

Since the purchase was made in order to benefit birds (and birders) of Knox County, and will not benefit him directly, several Executive Committee members including myself told him we would support the club reimbursement.



Knox Spring Count is Sunday, April 25

KTOS will hold our annual Spring Count throughout Knox County on Sunday, 25 April 2004. Unlike the Christmas Bird Count, all of Knox County is fair game to be covered for our spring and fall migration counts. I hope you all plan to help out by counting birds at your favorite spot in Knox County...including your backyard. If you have any questions or are looking for recommendations on where to go, contact the compiler, Dean Edwards, at kde@utk.edu or (865) 560-9701.

Please let Dean know if you plan to participate (this includes the regular counters, too!) and send your results to the compiler as soon as possible at the e-mail address above or to Dean Edwards, 1615 Meadow Chase Lane, Knoxville, TN 37931. You can also bring them to the May KTOS meeting.

Beetle to be named after Don Defoe

A previously undescribed species of *Trechus* beetle found in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park will be named after the late Don Defoe, longtime naturalist and curator for the park.

Trechus beetles are small, shiny black insects that live on the forest floor in the leaf litter. The Smokies have 14 known species.

Don Defoe passed away last year. He served as KTOS president in 1974.

Keebler teaching in Virginia

Former KTOS president Joel Keebler is teaching in Abingdon, Virginia—10 miles from the Tennessee state line. He's Instructor of Horticulture at Virginia Highlands Community College. Joel served as vice president of KTOS 1995-96 and president 1997-98.

Recycle your batteries during Earth Week

It's AAA's East Tennessee Great Battery Roundup. During Earth Week, April 17-24, bring your old lead-acid batteries to an AAA Approved Auto Repair Facility. They'll sell them for environmentally safe recycling and donate the proceeds to Ijams Nature Center. To learn more about the AAA Battery Service and the Great Battery Roundup, call your local AAA office or visit www.aaapublicaffairs.com

Drop off sites: Alcoa-Rice Chrysler-Plymouth Dodge, Tennessee Collision Repair; **Knoxville**-Alert Transmission Service, Knoxville Collision Center, Elite Auto & Truck Repair, Reeder Chevrolet, Rice Mitsubishi, Rice Oldsmobile-GMC Truck, Rodgers Cadillac, Sam's Automotive; **Maryville**-Pro Care Tire & Service Center; **Oak Ridge**-RT Clapp of Oak Ridge, Trans Tech Volvo/BMW. - Submitted by Carol Lammers

'04 membership dues are long OVERDUE!

Your 2004 KTOS membership dues should have been paid by December 31, 2003. If you have not paid your 2004 dues, please do so now to assure that you will continue to receive *through the biKNOXulars*, *The Tennessee Warbler* and *The Migrant*.

Renew your membership by mailing your annual dues to Jerry Hadder, 18 Rockingham Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Membership dues are \$18 for an individual and \$20 for a family. Sustaining memberships are \$28, and a Life membership with TOS is \$200 with an annual fee of \$8 to the local chapter. Please write your check to "KTOS."

May KTOS newsletter

The U.S. Mail delivered version of the May KTOS newsletter will be a few days late. Cindy is going to China and Madeleine will be in New Zealand! Mailing it from those faraway locations would be too costly.

The May newsletter will be available on-line at tnbirds.org at its usual time: roughly eight days before the May meeting. - Thanks, Lyn

KTOS Financial Report • April 2004

Compiled by Marie Oakes, Financial Committee

	March	February	YTD
Income:			
. Dues	\$114.00	\$430.00	\$1,112.00
. Mugs & Patches	\$14.50	\$0.00	\$14.50
. Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$41.04
. Dividend	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$26.38
. Owen Memorial	\$0.00	\$4.00	\$4.00
. Fuller Memorial	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Income	\$128.50	\$434.00	\$1,197.92
Expenses:			
. Newsletter	\$204.40	\$116.00	\$320.40
. Supplies	\$9.06	\$38.50	\$47.56
. Member Dues to TOS	<u>\$176.00</u>	<u>\$440.00</u>	<u>\$1,294.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$389.46	\$594.50	\$1,661.96
Other:			
. Foothills Conservancy	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Friends of UT Gardens	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Fuller Memorial	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Owen Award : J. Powers	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
. Transfer to J.B. Owen Fund	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
. Memorial Books	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Other	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Account Balances			
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$3,624.71	\$4,885.67	
. J.B.Owen Memorial	\$6,222.98	\$5,222.98	
Memberships	168	167	

KTOS Membership

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DEADLINE for the May newsletter is April 24.

For a color version of this or past issues go to "local chapters/Knoxville" starting at the TOS Home Page:

HTTP://www.tnbirds.org



PRESIDENT.....Charlie Muise
2632 Montvale Rd.,
Maryville, TN 37803 (865) 977-8429
cmmbirds@yahoo.com

VICE-PRESIDENT.....Tracey Muise
2632 Montvale Rd.,
Maryville, TN 37803 (865) 977-8429
muise@esknnoxville.org

TREASURER.....Jerry Hadder
18 Rockingham Lane
Oak Ridge, TN 37830 (865) 483-9287
marieoakes@msn.com

SECRETARY.....Don Vowell
6909 Quail Dr.
Knoxville, TN 37919
don@vowell-law.com

EDITOR.....Stephen Lyn Bales
1801 Kemper Ln.
Knoxville, TN 37920
(865) 577-6978
lynbales@comcast.net

EDITOR (Distribution)...Cindy Day
11417 N. Couch Mill Rd.
Knoxville, TN 37931-2908
(865) 927-1417
n.c.day@worldnet.att.net



Presidential Perch

- By Charlie Muise

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank two long-time club members for all they have done in the last few years. Jerry Hadder has been much more than our treasurer – he has been an organizer, a voice of wisdom and experience, and a quiet leader. His wife Marie Oaks has been a steadfast worker who has done a lot for us – primarily behind the scenes, and with little recognition. They were instrumental in organizing the Spring TOS meeting Knoxville hosted two years ago. They have helped change our accounts to gain the most interest possible. They have shared with us ideas from a club to which they belonged when they lived out west. Many KTOS accomplishments would have been less successful without their dedication. In my months as president I have leaned greatly on Jerry for advise and opinion, as well as the trust he has gained in many club members who have known him many years longer than they have known me. But like all good things, we have some changes coming. Jerry is stepping down as the Treasurer of KTOS this summer, and Marie does not wish to be nominated. They have done a lot for us, and handing off this responsibility to someone else is part of a bigger plan to have more flexibility to travel and bird. Next time you see Jerry or Marie at a meeting or field trip, please thank them both, for all they have done.

Naturally that means we are looking for another treasurer. Jerry assures me he will train the next person, hand off records and account information in an organized fashion and set that person up for success. The club treasurer need not be an accounting genius – or even an accountant. We just need a person who is willing to spend a few hours each month balancing the books and reporting to the club. If you have any questions about what that would entail, I am sure Jerry would be happy to answer them for you.

Please pass the word on: at the annual spring picnic this June, we will officially celebrate the 80th birthday of KTOS! The potluck picnic will be held at Ijams, and will include a photo of ALL club members – so please do your part to get everyone possible to the picnic. Lyn has reserved both indoor and outdoor facilities, so we are ready rain or shine.

(Continued on page 6)

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(USPS 697-010)

Published monthly, except January, July and August by the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, 11417 N. Couch Mill Rd., Knoxville, TN 37931-2908. Subscription Price \$8.00. Periodical Postage paid at Knoxville, TN 37901. POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to: *through the biKNOXulars*, 11417 N. Couch Mill Rd., Knoxville, TN 37931-2908.