



# through the biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

## 'Breeding Bird Banding at Tremont' is April 6 program

**W**ednesday, April 6, our very own chapter President, Charlie Muise, will present "Breeding Bird Banding at Tremont." As Senior Teacher Naturalist at Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, one of his roles is to operate the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (or MAPS) station.

The station, one of over 500, has existed for five breeding seasons in the Blount County portion of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Although the overall number of birds banded there is small, one species has possibly been captured more often there than any other station in the world—Louisiana Waterthrush, *Seiurus motacilla*. Charlie will also discuss another unique aspect of the Tremont MAPS station—student involvement.

A closet herpophile, Charlie became interested in birds while studying under Dr. Dan C. Holliman at Birmingham Southern College in January 1991. In his nomadic life as a professional naturalist, he has been

lucky enough to live in some great bird watching places, such as Cape Cod, Chesapeake Bay and the Patuxent River. Charlie conducts four Breeding Bird Survey routes in Tennessee, is writing Tennessee's Coordinated Bird Monitoring Plan and is initiating another MAPS station at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge this summer.

Come learn more about the research being conducted on our local birds Wednesday at 7 p.m. in room 117 of the UT Vet building.

- Tracey Muise, program coordinator

### Silent auction items needed

As part of the "Birds and Blooms" program that will feature Sam and Mary Ann Venable (*see page 6*), items are needed for a silent auction fundraiser to be held in conjunction with the event. Contact Kathy Bivens or Lyn Bales (*contact info on page 6*) for more details.

 MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### April Field Trips!

(See pages 2 or 3 for all contact information and details)

#### Saturday, April 2, 8 AM

Norris Dam Songbird & River Bluff Trails

#### Saturday, April 9, 8 AM

Piney Grove Park, Knoxville

#### Sunday, April 10, 8 AM

Fort Loudon area

#### Saturday, April 16, 9 AM - 2 PM

Sharp's Ridge, Knoxville



#### Thursdays, April 21, 28 and May 5, 8 AM

Sharp's Ridge, Knox County

#### Saturday, April 23, 8 AM

Dogwood Arts Festival Public Trip to Sharp's Ridge

#### Sunday, April 24

Knox County Spring Bird Count (*See page 3*)

#### Saturday, April 30, 8 AM

Hastie Park, Knoxville

"O thrush, your song is passing sweet / But never a song that you have sung / Is half so sweet as thrushes sang / When my dear love and I were young."

"Other Days" William Morris, English craftsman, poet, artist and socialist (1834–1896)

## April field trips *(Continued from page 1)*

### Saturday, April 2, 8 AM

*Norris Dam: Songbird and River Bluff Trails*

Leader: **Allan Trently** 865-494-2830 h;  
ajtcorax@hotmail.com

Meet at 8 a.m. at the restroom parking lot on US 441 immediately before crossing the dam. We will walk the Songbird Trail below the dam along the river looking for early migrants and resident species. Later, we will cross the dam and walk the River Bluff Trail, checking the spring wild flowers as well as the birds. The Songbird Trail will be easy walking, but the River Bluff Trail will be more strenuous. Good walking shoes and water are required. You may also wish to bring a picnic lunch. We should finish in the early afternoon.

### Saturday, April 9, 8 AM

*Piney Grove Park, Knoxville, TN*

Leader: **Mark Campen** 865-414-5593 w;  
865-406-6377 h; campen@tnike.com

This trip will continue a series of trips to some small areas around Knoxville that have not been on our traditional list of birding areas. Since the areas are small, participants will be limited to a maximum of seven for each trip. We will have several trips, so that all who wish to go can be accommodated. Please call Mark at the numbers above to sign up for the trip. These trips will involve easy walks along gravel paths and some woodland walking. Meet at West Hills Elementary School for carpooling.

### Sunday, April 10, 8 AM

*Fort Loudon area beaver ponds, open water and tail waters*

Leader: **Wes James** 988-2433 w; wkjames@tva.gov

Meet at 8 a.m. in the Tellico Canal Bathhouse/parking area adjacent to the canal that connects Tellico and Fort Loudon Reservoirs. This area is reached by taking the first exit after crossing the Fort Loudon Dam Bridge. The exit says Tellico Village, Route 444. After taking this exit you go straight across Tellico Parkway (Route 444) to the bathhouse and parking area. It is the same road that goes to the Tellico Canal boat ramp. There are major beaver pond areas to visit as well as the open water areas of the reservoirs and tail waters. There is also a lot of early succession "sparrow" habitat. Expect to see several waterfowl and wading bird species, sparrows, raptors, (possibly bald eagle and maybe an early osprey), and numerous other early migrants. We could finish up before lunch time. Walking should be fairly moderate.

### Saturday, April 16, 9 AM - 2 PM

*Sharps Ridge, Knoxville, TN*

Leaders: **Harold Howell** 865-828-6302 h;  
howellh2@bellsouth.net;  
and **Mark Campen** (865-414-5593 w; 865-406-6377 h;  
campen@tnike.com

KTOS has adopted Sharp's Ridge as a place about which we care deeply. We will hold the second in a series of scheduled cleanup operations this spring from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Our objective is removing trash to prepare for our public walk during the Dogwood Arts Festival. The result will be more pleasant viewing and easier bird sighting. Please come out and help us maintain the area the way we wish to see it.

### Thursdays, April 21, 28 and May 5, 8 AM

*Sharp's Ridge, Knox County*

Leader: **Tony Headrick** 687-9956

Meet at the ranger's house at 8 a.m. The walk will be along the road in Sharp's Ridge Memorial Park. Spring migrants are the objects of this field trip. Orioles, grosbeaks warblers and other spring migrants are expected.

### Saturday, April 23, 8 AM

*Dogwood Arts Festival PUBLIC field trip to Sharp's Ridge*

Leaders will include **Harold Howell** (865-828-6302), **Dr. Dean Edwards** (560-9701), and **Tony Headrick** (687-9956) and many others.

This walk will be a scheduled event for the Knoxville Dogwood Arts Festival. All 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 J. B. Owen overlook at 8 a.m. The walk will be along the road in Sharp's 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.

### Saturday, April 30, 8 AM

*Hastie Park, Knoxville, TN*

Leader: **Mark Campen** 865-414-5593 w; 865-406-6377 h; campen@tnike.com

This trip will continue the series of trips to some small areas around Knoxville that have not been on our traditional list of birding areas. Since the areas are small, participants will be limited to a maximum of seven for each trip. We will have several trips, so that all who wish to go can be accommodated. Please call Mark at the numbers above to sign up for the trip. These trips will involve easy walks along gravel paths and some woodland walking. Meet at the large parking lot just off Neyland Drive and Joe Johnson Drive for carpooling.

- Best regards, Harold Howell, Field Trip Coordinator

## Knox County Spring Count - Sunday, April 24 - Compiler K. Dean Edwards

**K**TOS will conduct the annual Knox County Spring Count on Sunday, April 24, 2005. We are hoping to get a lot of folks out counting birds this year so, if you are interested, please contact Dean Edwards at kde@utk.edu or (865) 560-9701.

We are looking for people to count in the field as well as people who would prefer to count in their own backyard.

If you have never participated in a bird count, we can send you out with a more experienced group so you can learn how it is done.

Please send all results to the compiler as soon as possible (K. Dean Edwards, 1615 Meadow Chase Ln, Knoxville, TN 37931 or kde@utk.edu).



Your results should include:

- start and end times;
- hours and miles by foot, car, boat, etc.;
- hours and miles owling;
- hours feederwatching;
- location birded and time of day you were there;
- names of observers and contact info for at least one of them;
- species list of birds counted;
- details and description of any rare birds.

## 2004 Cades Cove Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 26, 2004 • Susan Hoyle, compiler

**Location:** Cades Cove CBC, GSMNP

**Count Date:** December 26, 2004

**Number of Party Hours:** 39.5

**Time:** 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

**Species reported on count date:** 68

**Weather:** Clear in the morning and cold, depending on elevation between 15-20 deg. F; partly cloudy in the afternoon with temperatures ranging from the high 30s to low 40s

**Participants:** 10 participants in 6 parties

**Walking:** 31 hours; 31 miles

**Driving:** 8.5 hours; 99 miles

**Owling:** 2 hours; 8.5 miles

**Species:** Canada Goose 53, American Black Duck 2, Mallard 43, Ring-necked Duck 16, Bufflehead 15, Ruddy Duck 1, Ruffed Grouse 5, Wild Turkey 18, Great Blue Heron (Blue form) 4, Black Vulture 18, Turkey Vulture 29, Northern Harrier 1, Accipiter sp. 1, Red-shouldered Hawk 6, Red-tailed Hawk 3, American Kestrel 1, American Coot 2, Killdeer 11, Wilson's Snipe 2, Ring-billed Gull 1, Rock Pigeon 3, Mourning Dove 102, Eastern Screech-Owl 3, Belted Kingfisher 6, Red-headed Woodpecker 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker 14, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 9, Downy Woodpecker 23, Hairy Woodpecker 11, Northern Flicker 7, Pileated Woodpecker 24, Eastern Phoebe 11, Blue Jay 26, American Crow 87, Common Raven 4, Carolina

Chickadee 94, chickadee sp. 2, Tufted Titmouse 68, Red-breasted Nuthatch 9, White-breasted Nuthatch 39, Brown Creeper 2, Carolina Wren 37, Winter Wren 13, Golden-crowned Kinglet 57, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 7, Eastern Bluebird 35, Hermit Thrush 14, American Robin 37, Northern Mockingbird 5, Brown Thrasher 1, European Starling 78, American Pipit 1, Cedar Waxwing 3, Pine Warbler 1, Palm Warbler 1, Eastern Towhee 1, Field Sparrow 1, Fox Sparrow 5, Song Sparrow 74, Swamp Sparrow 14, White-throated Sparrow 7, Dark-eyed Junco 206, Northern Cardinal 24, Red-winged Blackbird 1, Eastern Meadowlark 15, Purple Finch 1, Red Crossbill 1, American Goldfinch 38, House Sparrow 1

**Total Individuals Counted:** 1456

**Total Species Reported:** 68

**Notes:** New species added to count: Ruddy Duck, Ring-billed Gull

**Uncommon species:** Wilson's Snipe, American Pipit, Red-headed Woodpecker, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler  
**Missed species:** Pied-billed Grebe, Yellow-rumped Warbler, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Savannah Sparrow

**Observers:** Mark Armstrong, Lyn Bales, Deedee Blane, Patty Ford, Madeline Hassil, Tom Howe, Susan Hoyle (compiler), Kris Johnson, Charlie Muise, David Trently

## SIWR: The Partnerships: Governmental, Educational and Conservation - Part One

By Wayne H. Schacher • wwschacher@natreserv.com

*Author's note: This is the seventh in a series of newsletter articles on Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge in Knox County. The Knoxville Chapter of Tennessee Ornithological Society has actively supported the concept and development of SIWR, and its membership is providing invaluable information on avian fauna usage of the Refuge, and other technical assistance. The partnership with KTOS at SIWR is most gratefully appreciated.*

**E**arlier newsletter articles have described the rationale behind the establishment of Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge and examined the ecological potential of the Refuge. We've presented the emphases on improving the quality of grassland habitats, and described efforts to enhance and diversify woodland, riparian, fencerow, wetland and other habitats present on SIWR. Far from a singular effort, these initiatives involved participation by a growing list of principles, partners and stakeholders. Who are they? How have they participated and lent critical support?

The vision of a wildlife refuge or nature sanctuary on the French Broad River began with Pete Claussen, a Knoxville businessman and President of the Seven Islands Foundation, in the 1990's. Pete held ownership of 220 acres of the Kelly Bend peninsula property and approached Knox County Executive Tommy Schumpert with the proposal to donate his property to the project if Knox County acquired the remaining acreage. In 2001 and 2002, SIF contracted to have the Ecological Assessment and the Lands Management Plan written for the property. To date, SIF is supporting the implementation of the lands management plan and the cost-share agreements on SIWR.

With the remaining land acquired by Knox County, the land transfer agreement went forward, with the EA and LMP documents binding in the agreement to ensure that land use would remain as a refuge and natural area, in perpetuity. SIWR was formally dedicated in 2002, and is now under the jurisdiction of

Knox County Department of Parks and Recreation. With development and management of a wildlife refuge new to P&R, most of the habitat enhancement work is driven by SIF, with P&R responsible for the trail system and infrastructure maintenance.

With SIF and P&R as principles in a coordinated effort, two other major partners immediately came on board. Wildlife Biologist Dick Conley of TWRA has provided technical advice and guidance, equipment loan, and donation of seed and supplies instrumental to the success of the project. TWRA also donated 25 nesting structures for wood ducks, 2 nesting structures for common barn-owls, and 2 bat-roosting structures.

The NRCS district office in Knoxville enrolled SIF in two cost-share agreements valued at \$80,000.00 to help defray costs for NWSG seed, herbicide application, tree seedlings, equipment and other costs. Additionally, NRCS field engineer the water control structure, will guide its construction, and has provided additional technical assistance.

TVA contracted bioengineering along 1,200 feet of French Broad River to provide shoreline stabilization and protect water quality. TVA also has provided tree seedlings for riparian restoration and donated an osprey-nesting platform. TDEC, Water Pollution Control conducted a site and soil survey and approved the SIF permit application for construction of the water-control structure, levee and impoundment, as "wetlands enhancement." Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry has provided assistance with controlled burning issues, tree seedlings, and forestry technical assistance. Knox County, Air Quality Management annually permits controlled burning for NWSG establishment and management. Tennessee Department of Transportation has donated use of its NWSG planting drills for use at SIWR. This cooperation and partnership is ongoing.

*[Next Newsletter – The Partnerships, Part II – Non-Governmental Participants]*

 MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## Tennessee to celebrate 'State Natural Areas Week' April 3-9

**G**overnor Phil Bredesen has proclaimed the week of April 3 through April 9, as "State Natural Areas Week in Tennessee." The event will be celebrated with guided walks and volunteer stewardship activities throughout the state with hikes, canoe floats and interpretive programming at many of Tennessee's 69 State Natural Areas. Totaling nearly 105,000 acres, these unique lands are preserved in perpetuity under the

Natural Areas Preservation Act of 1971.

If you have general questions about the week call TDEC's Division of Natural Heritage: (615) 532-0431. You may also call the contact number included in the Natural Areas Week schedule of events. For a complete schedule of activities and further information about Natural Areas Week go online to:

[www.tennessee.gov/environment/nh/natareas/NAweek.php](http://www.tennessee.gov/environment/nh/natareas/NAweek.php)



## Presidential Perch - By Charlie Muise

Don't forget that April is Earth Month! Attend the annual EarthFest, April 23, at Knoxville's World's Fair Park.

I am happy to say that planning is nearly complete for the Friday, April 22 Dogwood Arts Festival event. A silent auction will be conducted 6-7 p.m. Sam and Mary Ann Venable will speak at 7 p.m. The silent auction will benefit both Ijams Nature Center and the J.B. Owen Fund. We are still looking for donated items. If you have anything, please Contact Kathy or Lyn (*contact info on page 6*).

While a lot of the work is covered, we still need folks to help with various functions. If you'd like to help set up on Thursday and/or Friday, Contact Lyn. If you can help park cars on Friday, contact Mark Campen. If you can help clean up after the event, contact Charlie. Vienna Coffee has offered to donate shade-grown, organic, Fair-Trade coffee for the night. We would like some folks to bring some home-made baked items to go with the coffee. We also need two or three people to cover the coffee station that night. If you can do that, please contact Charlie or Tracey.

And don't forget that the following morning is the annual Sharps Ridge bird walk. This is once again an official Dogwood Arts Festival event, so we hope to

meet a lot of new people, in addition to seeing old friends.

Many of you have heard that there has been some issue regarding birders at the UT Plant Science Farm. I'm still working on obtaining permission to visit there, so until you hear otherwise, please don't go there as that would be considered trespassing.

Our coffee sales continue to be strong. Please bring some money to the club meeting to order coffee to be delivered in May. Shade-grown coffee is better for the birds!

I urge all of you to read the excellent article by state Treasurer Mac McWhirter in *The Warbler*. The state finance committee has recommended raising dues, and they have some strong reasons for doing so. As Chair of the State Conservation and Research Fund Committee, I have been involved in some of the discussion, and I fully support their proposal. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions. By the way, a similar discussion on the chapter level ended with the Executive Committee deciding that local dues do not need to be adjusted at this time.



### OF NOTE!

## KTOS Financial Report • April 2005

Compiled by Marie Oakes, Treasurer

	March	February	YTD
<b>Income:</b>			
. Dues	\$252.00	\$538.00	\$1,076.00
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$102.00	\$142.00	\$392.00
. Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$62.54
. Dividend	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Spring Meeting	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Owen Memorial	\$0.00	\$71.00	\$71.00
. Miscellaneous	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Income	\$354.00	\$751.00	\$1,601.54
<b>Expenses:</b>			
. Newsletter	\$65.25	\$67.50	\$132.75
. Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18.00
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$135.31	\$100.13	\$235.44
. Member Dues to TOS	\$376.00	\$0.00	\$1,262.00
. Miscellaneous	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$576.56	\$167.63	\$1,648.19
<b>Other:</b>			
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Account Balances</b>			
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$3,289.23	\$3,511.79	
. J.B. Owen Memorial	\$6,550.80	\$6,550.80	
<b>Memberships</b>			
	160	158	

Paid Memberships to Date = 114

## Welcome New KTOS Members

Gerald Armel, Warren Bielenberg

## Congratulations!

To new parents Jim and Stephanie Giocomo. Their new son, Lanz James Giocomo, weighing seven pounds nine ounces was born on February 13. Reports have it that the newborn's favorite bird is the Cedar Waxwing (the first bird heard when the family was leaving the hospital).

## TOS Spring Meeting • April 29-May 1

The Memphis Chapter will be hosting the TOS Spring Meeting, April 29, 30 and May 1, 2005. The chapter will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary and the 90th Anniversary of TOS itself.

The speaker scheduled for the event is well-known birder and author Paul Baicich. A former member of the board of the American Birding Association, Baicich edited 14 ABA Birding Guides and co-wrote *A Guide to Nests, Eggs, and Nestlings of North American Birds* (1997).

For information about lodging and registration go online to:

<http://www.tnbirds.org/events.htm>

## KTOS Membership

Join or renew your membership in KTOS by mailing your annual dues to: **Marie Oakes**, 18 Rockingham Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

Membership fees 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.

**DEADLINE** for May issue is April 23. Due to cost and space restrictions, please limit your articles to 600 or 700 words.

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

**HTTP://www.tnbirds.org**



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## Venables to speak on 'Birds & Blooms' - April 22

Join *Knoxville News-Sentinel* columnist and humorist Sam Venable and his wife Mary Ann as they share stories and personal insights into the area's birds and blooms. Sam is the author of *A Handful of Thumbs and Two Left Feet*, *Two or Three Degrees Off Plumb* and other books of outdoor misadventures. He also knew and worked with bird columnist J. B. Owen for many years. Mary Ann will talk about gardening and attracting birds to your home. Together, their unique perspective on local flora and fauna is always informative and highly entertaining. The "Birds and Blooms" program will be at Ijams Nature Center on Island Home Avenue. KTOS coordinates this event in conjunction with the 45th Annual Dogwood Arts Festival. The Venable's program begins at 7 p.m. Prior to their presentation, a silent auction will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. with proceeds going to the J.B. Owen Memorial Fund and Ijams.

## Ijams 'Run/Walk' to feature Bill Lishman

In order to raise funding and local awareness of "Operation Migration," Ijams will be hosting "Run/Walk. So the cranes can fly!" on Sunday, April 17. Operation Migration is the non-profit organization that's teaching endangered Whooping Cranes how to migrate from Wisconsin to Florida. Participants in the Run/Walk will either run 10K (6.2 miles) or walk 4K (2.4 miles) on the trails of Ijams. People that pre-register by April 9 will get a free souvenir T-shirt. For more info: call 577-4717, ext. 18 or go to: [www.ijams.org](http://www.ijams.org)

If you don't feel like running or walking, then come to the nature center to meet special guest Bill Lishman, co-founder of Operation Migration. Lishman, an internationally known artist, is perhaps most famous for his early flights with Canada Geese. The same techniques used to teach the geese to migrate in the early 1990s are used with Whooping Cranes today. His early exploits inspired the movie, *Fly Away Home*. Lishman will be on hand to sell and autograph his book, *Father Goose*, plus talk about what it's like to fly with the whoopers. For more info on Lishman go online to: [www.williamlishman.com](http://www.williamlishman.com)

Coming to this special event is a great way to show your support for the effort that's returning whooping cranes to our skies!

*through the biKNOXulars*

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