



biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

Restoring Habitat for Birds in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Our speaker is Kristen Johnson who will focus on the grasslands and wetlands of the Smokies. The National Park Service policies include directives to eliminate invasive exotic species and restore naturally functioning ecosystems.

The Park has completed several successful wetland restorations and continues to restore former agricultural leases to native grasslands. Fire is an important tool in this process, as well as in restoring pine and upland oak forests.

Kristine Johnson is a Supervisory Forester at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Kristen's work in the Park includes restoration, forest insect and disease management, and exotic plant control. She is a graduate of the University of TN with a M.S. in Forestry.

Come and learn what is happening in our neck of the woods and what you can do in your own area.

The meeting will be Wednesday evening, April 7th at 6:45 in room 117 of the UT Veterinary Building. Hope to see everyone there. Bring a friend or neighbor
~ Billie ~

KTOS FIELD TRIPS FOR APRIL

Saturday morning - April 10

Bluff Mountain,

Leader: David Trently - (Home 865-531-1473, Work 865-974-8664)

NatureTours@avianpursuits.com

Bluff Mountain is a Foothills Land Conservancy property located in Sevier County. It is actually the north end of Chilhowee Mountain and is the prominent mountain on the right with communications towers as you go toward Sevierville on Chapman highway. A 500 acre tract was donated to the Conservancy in 2009 to save the property and prevent further development. We suspect this property has never been birded before and for inventory purposes the Conservancy will be interested in our results. We hope this will be the first of several field trips to Conservancy properties so we can help landowners know what they have preserved. We can most likely expect early spring migrants on the trip. Participants should bring a drink and a snack since it will likely last until noon.

7:30 a.m. Meet at the Stokely Building parking lot (320 N.Cedar Bluff Rd, Knoxville)

8:00 a.m. Meet at the Kroger parking lot in Seymour

Remember, there will be field trips on the weekend of the Spring Meeting, May 1 & 2.



Thursdays, April 15, 22, and 29, and May 6

Time: 8:00 a.m.

Sharps Ridge, Knox County

Leader: Tony Headrick (cell 865-621-9836)

Meet at the ranger's house 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. Call Tony if you have questions or need directions. If you're new to birding, please come join us! This is a great place to immerse yourself in birds.

Sharp's Ridge Clean-up on Saturday, April 17
See next page for details.

KTOS FINANCIAL REPORT - CALENDAR YEAR 2010

	March	Feb	YTD
Income:			
Dues	\$ 78.00	\$ 336.00	\$1,326.00
Shade Grown Coffee	130.00	78.75	340.00
Interest	16.57	18.34	53.59
Silent Auction	0.00	0.00	0.00
Owen Memorial	0.00	0.00	2.00
TOS Spring Meeting	411.00	0.00	411.00
Total Income	\$ 635.57	\$ 433.09	\$ 2,132.59

Expenses:

Newsletter	\$ 64.95	\$ 64.95	\$ 129.90
Supplies	13.86	0.00	13.86
Shade Grown Coffee	85.49	90.98	248.91
Member Dues to TOS	590.00	0.00	2,126.00
TOS Spring Meeting	300.00	0.00	300.00
Total Expenses	\$ 1,054.00	\$ 155.93	\$ 2,818.37

Account Balances

Checking & Savings	\$ 4,671.69	\$ 5,106.32
J.B. Owen Memorial	\$ 6,948.02	\$ 6,931.82

Memberships	111	108
Paid 2010 Memberships	111	108

New Members:

- . Bonnie Hedrick
- . Judith Mallory
- . Jodi Stehmeyer

SHARP'S RIDGE CLEANUP

The Sharp's Ridge clean-up and invasive plant removal will be Saturday, April 17, from 9-11 a.m.

Bring your gloves and come help clean-up and spruce-up one of our favorite birding spots. Sharp's Ridge is one of the field trip destinations that Harold has planned for the Spring TOS meeting, so help us get it ready. If you want to remove some of the invasive, exotic plants, bring your loppers and/or hand saws.

SHADE GROWN COFFEE

Don't forget to see David Johnson and order your supply of shade grown coffee. Your purchases help to further this worthwhile cause.

Support the farmers who grow the coffee without destroying the forest the birds call home, help our Club and best of all enjoy (or give as a gift) good, robust coffee - either whole bean or ground.

Knox County Spring Count

The Knox County Spring Count will be held on Sunday, April 25, 2009.

As usual, parties will be counting birds throughout Knox County on this day. All are welcome and encouraged to participate by either joining a field party or counting birds in your own neighborhood (if you live in Knox Co) similar to Project Feederwatch or the Great Backyard Bird Count.

Submit your results to the compiler (Dean Edwards, 1615 Meadow Chase Lane, Knoxville TN 37931; kde@angst.engr.utk.edu) as soon as possible after the count. Results should include: checklist with numbers of each species observed; location covered; time of day you started and stopped counting; separate tallies of miles and hours traveled by foot, car, boat, etc.; tally of miles and hours spent owling; and names of all participants with contact information for at least one person in the party. You may also be asked to provide documentation for any rare or unusual species.

If you plan to participate or have any further questions, please contact the compiler (Dean Edwards, 865-660-9701).

Bird Trivia

Here is a list of some amazing facts about birds.

There are 109 species of birds that have become extinct, and ninety percent of all species that have become extinct have been birds.

Feathers make up 10% of a bird's total body weight.

If an average man had a metabolism comparable to that of a hummingbird he would have to eat 285 pounds of hamburger every day to maintain his weight.

Owls turn their heads in almost a circle because they cannot move their eyes. Their eyeballs are not round like ours. They are tubular.

The hummingbird is the only bird that can fly backwards.

A hummingbird's egg is the smallest of all bird eggs and is the size of a pea, while an ostrich egg is the largest of all bird eggs and is the size of a medium cantaloupe.

The American crow is found in every USA state except Hawaii.



Presidential Perch



TOS SPRING MEETING~

Hi Folks

Spring has to be my favorite time of year. I guess we all have our rituals at various times of year and mine have started. I closely watch the listserv to see when the first waterthrush and Blue-headed Vireo arrive. I hit my favorite spot in the Smokies but it was closed for road work. I tried other places but no luck. Both birds have been seen in Williamson and Hamilton counties, so I'm content.

I cleaned out my swift tower and removed the old nest. The most interesting thing about doing that was all the beetle parts that I found. Swifts eat beetles? Something to investigate. I'll uncap the tower after the rain this weekend. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are close to Tennessee, so I'll get my feeder out this weekend.

I'll be heading south very soon for a week of banding at Ft. Morgan, AL with Bob Sargent. Not only is the banding good but the birds are fantastic in fresh breeding plumage. I see things that I never see up here. One time while checking nets I encountered a flock of Scarlet Tanagers. They weren't singing, several bent down to look me over and kept moving quietly along. I assume they were taking a breather after crossing the Gulf. It was one of those moments that get sizzled in your brain that makes me glad I'm a birder.

Lots of good field trips are going on in April, and, of course, the state meeting at the end of the month. Robin has done a fantastic job organizing the event and arranging a substitute speaker. I think Scott will do a great job, and I'm looking forward to hearing him speak.

Have fun birding,
Mark

I would also like to thank Robin for the terrific job she has done planning the TOS Spring Meeting.

Some of you may not realize how much time Robin has spent in preparation for this meeting. She has done a lot of research in order for us to be able to offer an agenda that is both pleasing and economical. She has also been able to recruit some of the best in KTOS to help her.

My thanks to Robin and to all those who have agreed to give of their time and talents to help her.

Ginger

The Annual Meeting is to be held April 30 – May 2, 2010. Friday night registration, Saturday afternoon meetings, and the Saturday Annual Meeting and banquet will be held at the [Knoxville Zoo](#), located off I-40 at Exit 392. Half-price tickets to the zoo for Saturday afternoon are available by advance purchase only.

Field Trips

Field trips will be held Saturday, May 1, and Sunday, May 2. All trips will depart from the conference hotel, the Super 8 Knoxville/East, 7585 Crosswood Blvd., at the Strawberry Plains exit of I-40 (Exit 398).

Destinations include Sharps Ridge, Kyker Bottoms Wildlife Refuge, Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Cove Lake State Park and Cross Mountain, and Three Bend Wildlife Refuge.

Banquet

The speaker for the Saturday banquet will be our state ornithologist, Scott Somershoe, who will discuss the new Tennessee Watchable Wildlife website (<http://www.tnwatchablewildlife.org/>) as well as updates about Bald Eagle nests. The menu for the banquet includes chicken piccata, spinach lasagna, salad, and fresh fruit.

Registration

Registration for the meeting is \$10. Banquet tickets are \$20, and Saturday afternoon zoo tickets are \$8.50. Requests for banquet or zoo tickets must be received by April 15. When registering, indicate if you would like a vegetarian option at the banquet. Send checks to: Knoxville TOS, in care of Marie Oakes, 18 Rockingham Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

For additional information, contact Robin Barrow, braveladyrobin@gmail.com

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 dues are \$26 for an
individual, \$30 for a family, and \$13 for
a student. Sustaining memberships are
\$38 and Life membership with TOS is
\$450 with an annual fee of \$8 to the
local Chapter.

DEADLINE for May issue is Wed April 21

Due to cost and space restrictions,
please limit your article to 700 words.
For a color version of this newsletter or for
past issues, go to the TOS home page,
<http://www.tnbirds.org> and click on
"local chapters/Knoxville"



PRESIDENT Mark Armstrong
1440 Fawn Road
Seymour, TN 37865
(865) 577-5398

marmstrong@knoxville-zoo.org
woodthrush@bellsouth.net

VICE PRESIDENT Billie Cantwell
1613 Cove Creek LN
Knoxville, TN 37919

Cell 865-567-4273 Home 865-212-9797
Bfcantwell@gmail.com

TREASURER Marie Oakes
18 Rockingham Lane
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
(865) 483-9287

marieoakes@msn.com

SECRETARY Kathy Bivens
Post Office Box 84
Alcoa, TN 37701 (865) 983-7349
Cell (865) 250-6410

volkathy@yahoo.com

EDITOR Ginger Goolsby
1126 Heykoop Drive
Morristown, TN 37814 (423) 581-9439
Cell (423) 748-4632

vtgoolsby@musfiber.com

EDITOR (Distribution) Patty Ford
8404 Mecklenburg Court
Knoxville, TN 37923 (865) 719-8383

pattyford@pfordonline.com

FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR- Robin Barrow
Cell (865) 297-2572
braveladyrobin@gmail.com

through the biKNOXulars (USPS 697-010)
Published monthly, except January, July and August by the
Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society,
8404 Mecklenburg Court, Knoxville, TN 37923

Subscription Price \$8.00. Periodical Postage paid at Knoxville, TN 37901
POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to:
through the biKNOXulars, 8404 Mecklenburg Court, Knoxville, TN 37923

HAVE YOU CHECKED THIS SITE OUT YET??

Tennessee's Watchable Wildlife

I am proud to formally announce the launch of the new web site of Tennessee's Watchable Wildlife, www.tnwatchablewildlife.org. The web-site was developed by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency in partnership with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation. The new site features a wide range of information on wildlife, mostly birds at this point, and wildlife watching in Tennessee.

The website has information on the birds found in Tennessee that can be easily searched by a bird's habitat, color, use of backyards and feeders, or taxonomic group. Each species has a profile where you can find out about the occurrence of the bird in the state, see pictures, hear songs and calls, and find places to see it. Descriptions of more than 170 places to watch wildlife in Tennessee have been developed with information about habitat, wildlife to observe, detailed directions and interactive maps, and more.

Scott Somershoe
State Ornithologist
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Remember, Scott is going to be the speaker at the Spring Meeting.