

# through the biKNOXulars

Newsletter of the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

## Ecotourism leader Engblom scheduled for February meeting

Our tentative February program is a particularly special one. Our scheduled speaker is renowned ecotourism leader Gunnar Engblom of Kolibri Expeditions. It is titled "Conservation of Threatened Birds in Peru through Birdwatching Activities."

Gunnar was educated at Stockholm University, Sweden and first arrived in Peru in 1990 with Jon Fjeldså, to study the avifauna of relict forests of the Andes. He has since been involved in bird conservation issues evolving around the Red Data birds. He is president of a Peruvian organization called INCASPIZA, which is a network for the conservation of threatened birds.

Projects he has recently worked on include a survey of the Titicaca Flightless Grebe, managing a conservation project at Abra Malaga, Cusco to save Polylepis forest and a survey of the distribution of Peruvian Plant-cutter.

He is currently involved in a survey of the status of the threatened endemic White-bellied Cinclodes, whose habitat is being destroyed by peat extraction used by mushroom growers in Lima. They have

found two new sites for the species, bringing the total to five sites. The known world population is 24.

Additionally, he has led expeditions into areas where no ornithologists or birders previously entered, including Satipo where they found a new taxa (*ssp or sp*) of a Thryothorus Wren. On another such expedition last year they refound the Kalinowski's Tinamou after 100 years.

The Engblom program is tentative. Due to some changes in his flight schedule, he may be unable to be here for our February meeting. If this is the case, David Trently will present a slide show on "General Birding" designed by Bob Steffy. It is our plan to use this program to promote birding to various groups who request to have someone speak to them about birds. You will see pictures of some locally common birds, as well as some of the migrants you can find with a little more effort.

**The program is Wednesday, February 6 at 7:30 PM  
Room 117, UT Vet School.**

## It's time to count 'em! Backyard Bird Count is February 15-18

If you're like most of us, you probably spend a good part of your free-time watching the birds in your own backyard. Then why not take the time to count them? The fifth annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will be this February 15-18, 2002.

Here's what you do:

- Count the birds in your backyard, local park or other natural area on one or all four count days. You can count in as many different locations as you wish, just make sure to keep separate records and fill out a checklist for each site.

- Watch the birds for a least 15 minutes (half an hour or more would be better) on each day you count.

- Count the highest number of each species you see at one time. Example: If four House Finches come to your feeder and leave then later you see six House Finches, you use the number six in your final tally to insure that you don't count the same bird twice.



For more information or to report your tallies go online to BirdSource at [www.birdsource.org](http://www.birdsource.org). You also can go online to check the results for your city, state or any other location you like.

The GBBC is a joint project of the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. It is sponsored by Wild Birds Unlimited.



## Presidential Perch

It's still winter, but almost time to see the first returning migrants from south of here. Ducks and Sandhill Cranes will soon be moving north.

Purple Martins and Ospreys will be flying through the skies, checking out nesting sites. But...remember that winter often brings some unlikely birds to our area.

Hummingbirds are being banded in states all around us...west Tennessee has Trumpeter Swans and a Prairie Falcon...North Carolina has been hosting a Green-tailed Towhee and Black-headed Gull...Kentucky birders have had great looks at a Red-necked Grebe. Now is the time to get out there and look and listen for that next unusual bird. Be sure to report anything uncommon to the Rare Bird Alert! Harold Howell has

our birding phone line up and running at Ijams Nature Center. Let's try to make better use of it this year.

I am going to try to lead a field trip once a month, often going to the Smokies. We live so close to this great place, yet we don't go birding there as often as we should. While many of the places there can be a challenge to birders who are not as adept at identifying birds by sound, it is still worth going and hoping to run across something special. Maybe someone will find a Hermit Thrush or Red Crossbill nest there this spring...or an Olive-sided Flycatcher or Magnolia Warbler.

As always, be sure to let chapter officers know if you have any suggestions for birding activities, and requests for particular field trips. But most important... be sure to get out there and tell us what you find!

David Trently, President KTOS

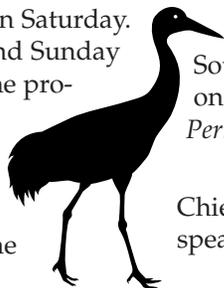
## Sandhill Crane Viewing Days - February 2 & 3

The tenth annual Cherokee Indian Heritage & Sandhill Crane Viewing Days will be Saturday and Sunday, February 2 and 3, 2002. The indoor program will be in the Birchwood School on Saturday. The crane viewing will be both Saturday and Sunday at the nearby Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge. The programs are free to the public. Buses will run between the school and the refuge to help alleviate parking at the crane viewing site.

Of special interest this year will be the possibility of viewing the return flight of the juvenile Whooping Cranes that passed through the refuge last fall and wintered in Florida. If the birds are present, they should be highly visible in their snow-white plumage as they mix with the more abundant gray-clad Sandhills.

This year's Saturday speakers are:

- **9:15 AM - Dick Conley**, TWRA; will speak on *The Surprising Resurgence of Dormant Prairie Vegetation After 100 Plus Years*
- **9:45 AM - Troy Ettel**, TWRA; will speak on *The Future of Bald Eagles*
- **10:15 AM - Allan J. Trently**, Northeast State Technical Community College; will speak on *The Enigmatic Raven in Tennessee*
- **10:45 AM - Dr. David Aborn**, PhD, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga; will speak on *Radio Tracking Whooping and Sandhill Cranes: The Hiwassee Refuge Story*



- **1:00 PM - Dr. Nick Honerkamp**, PhD, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga; will speak on *The Prehistoric Southeastern Ceremonial Complex*

- **1:30 PM - Dr. Rowena McClinton**, PhD, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville; will speak on *Early Nineteenth Century Cherokee Concepts Pertaining to Land and Ownership*.

- **2:00 PM - Hasting Shade**, Deputy Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation from Oklahoma; will speak on *After the Trail of Tears: Then and Now*

- **2:30 PM - Driver Pheasant**, Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians; will speak on *Cherokee, North Carolina: Yesterday and Today*

- **3:00 PM - Shirley Lawrence**, Friends of the Cherokee Memorial; will speak on *The Cherokee Memorial and Park: A Progress Report*

People from the Tennessee Aquarium, TWRA and TOS will be present both days with telescopes to assist visitors in viewing the thousands of cranes, waterfowl, eagles and other wildlife in the area.

Birchwood is located off I-75 on TN Highway 60, midway between Dayton and Cleveland and is only three miles from the crane viewing site. The Birchwood School PTA will sell food and drinks at the school on Saturday only.

For more information contact Meigs County Tourism (423) 334-5850. For specific program information call event coordinator Ken Dubke (423) 499-3584.

## Upcoming Field Trips - Let's go birding!

### Sunday, February 3, 8:00 AM

#### Trip to Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge, Birchwood, TN

Coordinator: Tony King. Meet in the Stokley Building parking lot at 320 North Cedar Bluff Rd. The group will go to Birchwood for Sandhill Crane viewing days sponsored by the Chattanooga Chapter of the TOS. Sandhill Cranes are the target bird, but a good number of ducks are possible.

### Saturday, February 16, 8:00 AM

#### Walker Springs Park, Knoxville, TN

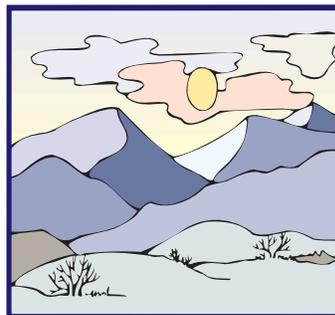
Leader: Harold Howell: howellh2@bellsouth.net or 690-6183. Meet in the Stokley Building parking lot at 320 North Cedar Bluff Rd. This will be a relatively short trip to view the progress of the Greenway being built along Ten Mile Creek. We should see a good number of winter resident birds, including field sparrows. Snipe and Wood Ducks are possible.

**Plus** Additional trips are planned in February, but plans are not final. If you have suggestions, comments or wish to lead a particular hike, please call Harold Howell at 690-6183 or e-mail him at howellh2@bellsouth.net. These trips and any updates on planned trips will be posted on the KTOS hotline at Ijams Nature Center, phone 577-4717, extension 80.

### Saturday, March 2, 7:15 AM

#### Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Birding hike along Big Creek Trail, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, North Carolina. Leader: David Trently: 531-1473 h; 974-8664 w; or e-mail at dtrently@utk.edu.



We will leave at 7:15 a.m. from the K-Mart parking lot on Asheville Highway (Exit 394 off I-40 onto US Route 11E, north of the interstate). It will be about an hour drive on I-40 to reach the trailhead, not far across the state line.

This trail rises gradually (around 1000 feet in 4 miles) so it should be considered an easy to moderate hike, beginning at an elevation of 1750 feet. We will probably not go above 3000 feet. Bring lunch and water as we will be eating on the trail. We should return to Knoxville in late afternoon.

Since the birds expected are not different from those you could find without going so far, you should look at this as good excuse to see more of the Smokies.

## Birding on the Web (Interesting??)

By David Trently

Several people have been asking questions about using the Internet to access birding information.

In order to make this an easier task for everyone, we will try to publish regular articles about what is available for birders on the web.

First of all, you should all have the website of the Tennessee Ornithological Society bookmarked on your computer: <http://www.tnbirds.org/>. This web site contains loads of information about TOS. There is information about all the TOS chapters throughout the state. Sometimes there are updates on upcoming meetings and field trips. You can send an e-mail message to officers here as well.

One of the points of confusion among birders has come because of something called a listserv or listserv. This is an e-mail discussion group about Tennessee birds. When you subscribe to the list, you will begin to receive

messages, via e-mail, from other subscribers who send information on such things as rare birds, birding trip reports, field trip announcements, questions about identifying birds and much more. You can send your own messages to this group. There is no charge for joining this listserv. To join, go to the TOS web site and click on "Birding in Tennessee."

Look under "Recent Sightings" for the word "TN-bird" and click on it. This will take you to the archives of this listserv, where you can look over past messages to get an idea of the kind of information that is found there. If you click on "Join or leave the list...", you will be taken to a page where you enter your e-mail address and your name.

Go to the bottom and click on "Join the list." Then check your e-mail for a message to which you must respond

to finalize your subscription.

Next month...managing your subscription to TN-bird...What about other states' listservs?



**NOTICES****Planning Meeting**

There will be a KTOS Planning Meeting on Wednesday, February 20 at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting will be held in the Ellington Plant Sciences Building, room 128, on the UT Agriculture Campus. All members are invited to attend and help us discuss plans for upcoming months.

Special Thanks goes to  
**Christine Tankersley**

for serving as editor of this newsletter for the past two years. Christine, you were so efficient it's taken two people to replace you!

Our deepest condolences to the families of  
KTOS Member

**John Thomas Alley, Jr**

from Alcoa who recently passed away.

KTOS Member

**Louise McLeroy**

who also recently passed away.  
Louise served as KTOS president in 1967-68.

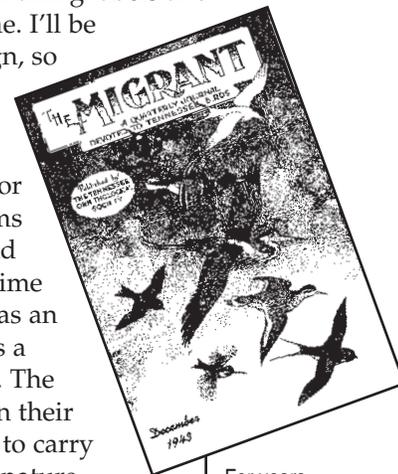
**Hello from Ijams**

**H**ello. My name is Lyn and I'll be one of the new editors for this newsletter. I'll be sharing the responsibilities with Cindy Day. Cindy will be handling the distribution. It'll be she that makes sure the newsletters get proper mailing labels and get to the post office on time. I'll be handling the text and design, so if you find a typo, it's my fault and not hers.

As some of you know, I'm a naturalist and educator at Ijams Nature Center. Ijams gets its name from Alice and H.P. Ijams who were long-time nature enthusiasts. Alice was an avid gardener and H.P. was a birdwatcher and illustrator. The nature center got its start on their former homestead and seeks to carry on their strong tradition of nature education. For years local scout troops came to the Ijams' home and 20-acre woodland to work on their birdwatching and other merit badges.

H.P. was also one of the founding members—along with J.B. Owen—of the local chapter of TOS. I sincerely believe that H.P. would have been pleased to see an Ijams staff member serving the club in this capacity.

Now, let's go for a walk!



For years, the cover of *The Migrant* featured an illustration by H.P. Ijams

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