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February 2010

biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Butterflies, Moths, Birds and Backyard Ecology: John Froeschauer

While it may be February and a time to look at waterfowl, it's not too early to begin thinking about establishing a butterfly garden come early spring. Our speaker this month is John Froeschauer; he will cover kinds of plants which provide food for larvae and nectar for adult butterflies and moths, and general backyard ecology, which applies to birds as well.

John Froeschauer began working with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation as a survey archaeologist in 1982 and transferred to State Parks in 1985 as an Interpretive Ranger at Radnor Lake State Natural Area in Nashville, where he became a birder.

In 1989, he took the position as Middle Tennessee Regional Interpretive Specialist. In addition to administering the seasonal naturalist program and overseeing interpretive and educational activities for a 16-park region, he reviews and assists with a number of natural and cultural resource management activities and administers the State Park Iris Fund - the license plate fund for landscaping and invasive plant removal projects in state parks.

The meeting will be Wednesday, February 3rd at 6:45 p.m. in room 117 of the UT Veterinary Building.

Hope to see everyone there!

KTOS FIELD TRIPS FOR FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 6, 2 p.m.
Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge, Birchwood, TN
Leader: Robin Barrow, 865-297-2572
braveladyrobin@gmail.com

Meet at the Stokely Building parking lot at 320 N Cedar Bluff Rd. for carpooling from Knoxville. We can also stop at Lenoir City to pick up some folks—call me if you need this. We'll arrive late in the day to catch the birds as they come in to feed and stay until after sunset, then grab a fast-food dinner before returning to Knoxville by 8:30 p.m. Sandhill Cranes are the target birds, but a good number of ducks are possible, and there is good sparrow habitat nearby. We will stop along the Hiwassee River to scan for shore birds and snipe on the way down. Spotting scopes are recommended.

Saturday, February 27, 8:30 a.m.
Cades Cove Campground and Sewage Ponds, Blount Co.
Leader: Warren Bielenberg, 865-681-7884
Birdglass44@aol.com

This trip is a 3-mile walk over level terrain on paved roads and unpaved trails. Possible birds include Wood Ducks, Mallards, Bufflehead and Snipe on the sewage ponds; there may be other waterfowl or shorebirds as visitors change from day to day. Other birds expected would be woodpeckers (Pileated, Downy, Red-bellied, Hairy, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and flickers), both kinglets, White- and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Pine Siskins and Am. Goldfinch, E. Bluebirds, Am. Crows, Blue Jays, E. Phoebe, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm Warblers and other migrants.

If you wish to carpool from Knoxville, meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Stokely Building on the northeast side of the Cedar Bluff exit, in the parking lot closest to Cedar Bluff. Otherwise, meet at the parking area by the campground store at 8:30. The store and the heated restrooms will NOT be open. There are vending machines with snacks and hot and cold drinks. Folks may wish to bring snacks, lunch and water, especially if they want to explore the Cove after birding.

SOME UPCOMING IJAMS EVENTS:

Bald Eagles: Sat., Feb. 6, 10 a.m.

Join author Stephen Lyn Bales as he revisits the last chapter in his book "Natural Histories" that deals with the recovery of our National Symbol.

Program includes a carpool trip to Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge, the site of the first documented successful bald eagle nesting in Knox County. Fee: \$10 for non-members, free for members. To pre-register, call Sheila at 577-4717, ext. 10.

Living Clean & Green! Bluebirds: Sat., Feb. 27, 1-2 p.m.

This workshop will help you create a backyard haven for birds. We'll cover feeders, food, nest boxes and birdbaths. Please call 577-4717 ext. 10 to register.

Living Clean & Green! Bluebird Box Workshop: Sat., Feb. 27, 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Invite bluebirds to your yard. Build them a home at our informative workshop. The only cost is that of the bluebird box itself. Please call 577-4717 ext. 10 to register.

KTOS FINANCIAL REPORT CALENDAR YEAR 2010

	Jan	Dec 09	YTD
Income:			
Dues	\$ 912.00	\$	\$ 912.00
Shade Grown Coffee	131.25		131.25
Interest	18.68		18.68
Owen Memorial	2.00		2.00
Miscellaneous	0.00		0.00
Total Income	\$ 1,063.93	\$	\$ 1,063.93
Expenses:			
Newsletter	\$ 0.00	\$	\$ 0.00
Supplies	0.00		0.00
Shade Grown Coffee	72.74		72.74
Member Dues to TOS	1,536.00		1,536.00
Miscellaneous	0.00		0.00
Total Expenses	\$ 1,608.74	\$	\$ 1,608.74
Other:			
J.B. Owen Award	\$ 0.00	\$	\$ 0.00
Account Balances			
Checking & Savings	\$ 4,847.05	\$ 5,411.72	
J.B. Owen Memorial	\$ 6,913.93	\$ 6,894.07	
Memberships	96	128	
Paid 2010 Memberships	96	61	
New Members:			
Phil and Carolyn Snow			

KTOS FINANCIAL ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2009

	Dec	Nov	YTD
Income:			
Dues	\$ 560.00	\$ 916.00	\$ 3,229.00
Shade Grown Coffee	70.00	204.25	1,144.00
Interest	17.58	18.08	228.87
Owen Memorial	2.00	0.00	39.00
Misc.(Inc. Hummer Event)	0.00	0.00	1,425.08
Total Income	\$ 649.58	\$ 1,138.33	\$ 6,065.95
Expenses:			
Newsletter	\$ 63.60	\$ 63.60	\$ 787.05
Supplies	0.00	0.00	111.58
Shade Grown Coffee	71.45	185.92	1,005.97
Member Dues to TOS	0.00	0.00	2,256.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	90.00
Total Expenses	\$ 135.05	\$ 249.52	\$ 4,250.60
Other:			
J.B. Owen Award	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 600.00
Account Balances			
Checking & Savings	\$ 5,411.72	\$ 4,916.41	
J.B. Owen Memorial	\$ 6,894.07	\$ 6,874.85	
Memberships	128	127	
Paid 2010 Memberships	61	40	
New Members:			
Reid Gerhardt			

Join the Great Backyard Bird Count February 12-15, 2010

Bird watchers coast to coast are invited to take part in the 13th annual Great Backyard Bird Count, Friday, February 12, through Monday, February 15, 2010. Participants in the free event will join tens of thousands of volunteers counting birds in their own backyards, local parks or wildlife refuges.

Each checklist submitted by these "citizen scientists" helps researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society learn more about how the birds are doing and how to protect them. Last year, participants turned in more than 93,600 checklists online, creating the continent's largest instantaneous snapshot of bird populations ever recorded.

Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from novice bird watchers to experts. Participants count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and report their sightings online at www.birdcount.org. Counts may be conducted from your backyard or your favorite birding site.

On the www.birdcount.org website, participants can explore real-time maps and charts that show what others are reporting during the count. The site has tips to help identify birds and special materials for educators. Participants may also enter the GBBC photo contest by uploading images taken during the count. Many images will be featured in the GBBC websites photo gallery. All participants are entered in a drawing for prizes that include bird feeders, binoculars, books, CDs, and many other great birding products.

Knoxville has a great tradition of participating in the GBBC. We have submitted the most checklists in TN the last 4 years and have been in the Top 5 for submissions in the state every year since the count began. In 2008, 264 checklists were submitted from Knoxville and we ranked 9th in the entire US in number of checklists submitted. Let's continue that great tradition in 2010.
~ Dean Edwards

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 website 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.

Thanks and enjoy!
Scott Somershoe

State Ornithologist
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency



Presidential Perch
Mark Armstrong

Since winter has set in on us with cold temperatures and rain, I am unable to band birds in either rain or extreme cold. While I can't talk about anything interesting that I have banded recently, I can tell you why I enjoy banding birds.

It is challenging on a lot of levels since one has to know how to operate nets, extract birds from nets, identify what has been caught and put the right band on them. These are all skills that take time to develop so that you can do them efficiently and move birds along that you have caught. I always feel like I'm contributing something to our knowledge about birds in our area when I'm banding. Banding and birding go hand in hand and give us an idea of what birds are out there and how many there are and good information is always valuable. I have had to total up birds that I have banded for another project; and since 2007 when I started banding at Seven Islands, 2260 birds have been banded at the refuge. The most common bird banded is Field Sparrow at 351 birds followed by 322 Song Sparrows, 306 Indigo Buntings, 146 American Goldfinches, 128 Common Yellowthroats and 81 Yellow-breasted Chats. I have had a lot of help from some very dedicated volunteers to accomplish that, plus financial support from KTOS.

In the big adventure department, I will never forget two banding sessions at the end of September last year when Indigo Buntings took over the Seven Islands. We had all kinds of youngsters out there plus a few females as well as brown males with blue & black wings. We caught a lot of birds those days, but you could watch the fields and see thousands more moving around and feeding. Two weeks later they were almost gone.

I'm really excited about Bill Clabough's talk in January concerning the work of the Foothills Land Conservancy. We'll plan a birding trip some time early this spring to one of their properties and share the results so they know what birds they have. The Conservancy only holds development rights and the land is still privately owned, so we'll have to be invited to properties. I would bet there are a lot of areas that have never been birded and we may find neat stuff.

Elections will be coming up this spring for club officers. Please consider serving the club. A treasurer is our most pressing need especially with the spring meeting coming up.

Occasionally folks email me at work; however, my address has changed to marmstrong@knoxville-zoo.org.

Thanks, Mark

Mark Armstrong, Bird Curator
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AviSys Birding Software and the Clements Checklist Update

It's update time for all birders who use AviSys birding software to record their sightings!

In December, the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology published a new update to the 6th edition of Clements Checklist of the Birds of the World (<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/clementschecklist/corrections/Dec09>) and in January the changes were made available to AviSys users. If you have not already done so, you should go to <http://www.avisys.net/upg9.htm> and follow the directions to get your data up to date.

In addition, and the reason I am writing this note, be aware that (unless it is fixed by the time you do this) some of the changes are not being recorded correctly after you install the update. I have informed the creator of AviSys and hopefully he will correct them, but if you have already installed this, you need to check certain sightings.

The problem deals with species that have been split into two or more species. Normally, AviSys prompts you to choose which of the split to assign your sightings. For some species, it is now not doing that. The ones of which I am aware are: White-tailed Trogon/Green-backed Trogon: e.g., all my sightings were switched to Green-backed and I had to change them back.

Gartered/Violaceous Trogon
 Andean/Yellow-billed Teal

As there may have been more, you should review the update list and compare any splits with your AviSys data. If you need any help with this, feel free to contact me.

David Trently
naturetours@avianpursuits.com
 Avian Pursuits Nature Tours....come see the real world!
<http://avianpursuits.com/>

****ANNUAL DUES****

If you have forgotten to pay your annual dues, please make your payment as soon as possible.

Membership dues are \$26 for an individual, \$30 for a family and \$13 for a student. You can either pay Marie or David Johnson at the February meeting or you can mail your check to Marie Oakes, 18 Rockingham Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

Also, when you pay your dues this year, please include your address, phone number and e-mail address so Marie can update her files to enable us to have your most current information.

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 March issue is Sat., Feb. 20

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"



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IN MEMORIAM

VORNEHM, RICHARD GLENN - age 68, died suddenly Wednesday, January 13, 2010, while in Colorado. Dick was employed at two Oak Ridge plants, K-25 and Y-12 for 27 years and cheerfully accepted early retirement at age 53. He was a loving, patient husband, father and grandfather. He was deeply loved by family, friends, and fishing buddies. His stories will be missed by all he knew. Dick lived life to the fullest and died a very happy man. He loved people and never met a stranger. He is survived by his loving wife of 47 years, Marita; daughters, Beth (Steve) Peters, Cindy (Charlie) Barker, Sara (Casey) Sexton; grandchildren, Lindsey, Christian, Adam, Daniel, Katherine and Margaret; brother, David (Nancy) Vornehm; and sister, Carolyn Buzash.

Dick and Marita joined KTOS in 1991.