



May 2014 France Trip

Southern France is rich in tradition and culture dating back to the times before Christ and the Roman Empire. Birding in this region is no less rich. With the Pyrenees harboring rocky, scree slopes, pine woodland and stunning granite cliffs, it gives us the chance for several highland species and a good chance to see one of the few breeding places for Lammergeier or Bearded Vulture in Europe. The woodlands lower down are also filled with classic species from literature like Common Blackbird, Common Chiffchaff, Blue Tit, Common Cuckoo, and many more. The open fields are home to Sky Lark, Common Nightingale, that sing all night, Corn Buntings and at night it is the hunting ground for Eurasian Nightjar and Tawny Owl. The Mediterranean ocean is close and gives us the chance for some more open, rocky habitat where we found Little Bustard, Red-legged Partridge, Eurasian Hoopoe, Ortolan Bunting and several pipits last time. The vineyards we'll visit date back to the time of the Romans and the rock walls are home to Woodchat Shrike, Wood Lark, and Eurasian Bee-eaters. We will visit the ancient walled city of Carcassonne, some Roman vineyards, a 15th century cathedral and village plus an 8th century abbey. We have a few places left for this tour so please join us for our May 20th KTOS France charity tour as proceeds from this tour will benefit the KTOS. For more details visit: <http://birdingecotours.co.za>.

February Program: TWRA

The February 5, 2014 presentation will be an update on the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, presented by Bill Reeves, who was appointed in 2012 to lead a new division in TWRA, the Biodiversity Division, a program that had existed in the agency before but was tucked within the Wildlife Division and answered to the Chief of Wildlife. With his background as the Chief of Fisheries for TWRA for 16 years, Bill has a long history with the wildlife in our state! He will update us on the TWRA organizational structure (including the commission), funding sources and how funding is spent. Come join us for a very educational program!

The meeting will be held in Room 118 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. For directions, please visit the meetings page on KTOS' website at www.tnbirds.org/chapters/knoxvill/KTOS_Meetings.html.



European Bee-eater (France), Source: Mike Nelson



Presidential Perch

It sure has been an exciting time with the birds and the cold weather especially trying to keep my hummingbird feeder from freezing. At first, I was just swapping it out every two hours but that got old fast. Once the temperature dropped into the 20s, a light had to be attached to keep the food from freezing. I used an aluminum reflector light with a 150 W bulb. It did a great job but when the temperature would drop to single digits, the light was moved closer to the feeder. Then when the temperature would rise the distance was increased so the food would not become too hot for the hummingbird. I did not realize how much heat these bulbs give off. I noticed that the hummingbird stayed closer to the house when it was the coldest. The Rufous Hummingbird is very cold hardy. But I guess hatching in Alaska with no feathers makes them one tough little booger!

I am excited about the "Wonder of Hummingbirds" festival and we are planning to have a lot more kids activities and speakers this year. Thanks to Paul James, Joel Greenberg will be speaking on the Passenger Pigeon and his new book that was just released, "**A Feathered River Across the Sky: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction**". If you have any ideas, want to lead a field trip or sponsor an event please let me know.

Billie Cantwell



Fox Sparrow (Tennessee), Source: Melinda Fawver

Get Out and Get Birding! February Field Trips

Concord Park

Saturday, February 8, 2014 @ 8:30 a.m.

Leader: Tom Howe, thowe@lillyco.com

We will meet at Concord Park (10909 S, Northshore Dr., Knoxville, Tenn.) boat launch looking for ducks and gulls with a possibility of moving down river to Ft. Loudon Dam.

Hiwassee Island Eco Cruise

Saturday, February 15, 2014 @ 9:30 a.m.

Coordinator: Michael Plaster,

KTOS.Editor@gmail.com.

KTOS will cruise the Tennessee River to Hiwassee Island via Blue Moon Cruises again this year. The cost is \$39 plus tax per person for the 3 ½ hour cruise and includes a naturalist interpreter and a full barbeque buffet. Last year we saw cranes, eagles, osprey, and other resident and migrating species.

On the day of the cruise, be sure to arrive at the dock of Sale Creek Marina no later than 9:30 a.m. (3900 Lee Pike, Soddy Daisy, TN, 37379). For specific directions, visit tinyurl.com/agvugu6. Please make your own reservations by calling Blue Moon Cruises and Tours at (888) 993-2583 or by using their website (www.bluemooncruises.org). Please identify yourself as a member of the KTOS when making your reservation.

Kyker Bottoms Refuge and Abrams Creek

Saturday March 1, 2014 @ 8:00 a.m.

Leader: Tom Howe, thowe@lillyco.com

Kyker Bottoms re-opens to the public on March 1, so this is our first chance of the year to bird large segments of this property. Early migrants, late winter sparrows, Red Crossbills, wrens, and rails may be some of birds that may be seen on this field trip. It may be possible that the fields may be wet, so please wear appropriate clothes. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the paved parking lot by the "old" observation platform on Big Gully Rd.

KTOS Financial Report Calendar Year 2013

	2012	2013
<i>Income:</i>		
•Dues	\$3,341.00	\$2,727.00
•Shade Grown Coffee	\$1,688.65	\$1,947.50
•Interest	\$90.28	\$62.53
•Owen Memorial Fund donations	\$170.00	\$203.00
•Duck stamp sales	\$436.00	\$0.00
•Projector lamp rental	\$10.00	\$0.00
•Wine-tasting event	\$1,190.00	\$490.00
•Hummingbird Festival	\$3,132.50	\$10,413.45
•Activity books/class sponsorship	\$163.00	\$80.00
•2013 Spring Meeting	\$0.00	\$2,840.00
•Donations	\$0.00	\$329.00
•Newsletter - USPS refund	\$0.00	\$191.17
Total Income	\$10,221.43	\$19,283.65

<i>Expenses:</i>		
•Newsletter	\$448.84	\$346.02
•Supplies	\$233.85	\$305.60
•Shade Grown Coffee	\$1,561.22	\$1,839.56
•Member Dues to TOS	\$2,190.00	\$2,498.00
•JB Owen Award	\$500.00	\$700.00
•Duck stamp program	\$300.00	\$0.00
•"Discover Birds"	\$200.00	\$1,250.00
•Wine tasting event	\$500.00	\$200.00
•Hummingbird festival	\$1,953.91	\$6,492.06
•Operation Migration	\$200.00	\$200.00
•TN Crane Fund	\$280.00	\$0.00
•2013 Spring Meeting	\$300.00	\$2,027.22
Total Expenses	\$8,667.82	\$15,858.46

Account Balances		
KTOS Checking & Savings	\$5,230.51	\$9,328.87
J.B.Owen Memorial	\$9,101.92	\$8,660.73

Memberships	131	137
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Financial reports are compiled each month though they are not printed in the newsletter. Anyone wishing to view the monthly reports, please contact the treasurer.

Donation to J.B. Owen Memorial Fund

Howard Chitwood has made a donation to the J. B. Owen Memorial Fund in memory of his mentor and friend, A. Boyd Sharp, a widely known and loved Knoxville birder who was a friend and inspiration to all the many local birders who had the privilege of knowing him.

Great Backyard Bird Count

The 2014 **Great Backyard Bird Count** (GBBC) will take place **Friday, February 14, through Monday, February 17, 2014**. Everyone is welcome—from novice birders to experts. It can take as little as 15 minutes on one day, or as long as you like each day of the event. The GBBC is free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds too.

Participants will tally the number of individual birds of each species they see during their count period. The data will be entered by each participant at the GBBC website. This year each participant must set up a free GBBC account to submit their checklists, even those who have participated in the past. For additional information and how to create a GBBC account please visit www.birdsource.org/gbbc/howto.html.



Bohemian Waxwing (Russia), Source: Michael Plaster

KTOS membership: Join or renew by mailing your annual dues to Carole Gobert, 1304 Barcelona Drive, Knoxville, TN 37923. Dues levels: \$26/individual, \$30/family, \$38/sustaining, \$13/student, or TOS life membership for \$450 with \$8 annual fee to Chapter.



www.tnbirds.org/KTOS.html

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From Top Left going clockwise, Black-billed Mountain Toucan, Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe, Scarlet-shouldered Parrotlet, Striped Owl (all Ecuador). Source: Warren Bielenberg.