



Great Backyard Bird Count

The 2016 Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will take place **Friday, February 12**, through Monday, **February 15, 2016**. 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. For additional information please visit gbbc.birdcount.org.



Whooping Crane, up to eight were seen together at the recent TOS Winter Meeting at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge in Decatur, Ala on 24 January 2016. Source: By U.S. Department of Agriculture (Flickr: 20110214-USDA-JN-0001) [CC BY 2.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0) or Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

New Member

Please welcome the following new member: Rose Thorn.



Golden-winged Warbler. Source: By Andrew C (Golden-Winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*)) [CC BY 2.0 (creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0)], via Wikimedia Commons

February Meeting: “New Insights Into Golden-winged Warbler Migration”

Please join us on **Wednesday, February 3, 2016** for a special presentation by Dr. David Buehler, Professor of Wildlife Science Department of Forestry at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He will share some exciting new insights into the migration of Golden-winged Warblers. His ongoing research interests are focused on understanding factors that affect declining bird populations using GIS and other monitoring systems. For more information about his graduate students and their fascinating research projects, please visit web.utk.edu/~buehler/research.html.

The KTOS meeting begins at 6:45 pm in Room 118 of the University of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Medicine. For directions, visit the KTOS webpage at www.knoxvillebirding.org.



Presidential Perch

Well, winter finally arrived this week with snow and cold temperatures. And it brought with it a flurry of bird activity at our feeders. When it snows, Towhees that normally stay out on the ground near the woods, actually come to the window feeder and take sunflower seeds. Juncos also seem to magically appear. Every patch of open ground and has a gathering of robins, hermit thrushes and occasionally even bluebirds. How about your stories? I'd love to hear what the change has brought for you. If you get many blackbirds in your yard, be on the lookout for Rusty Blackbirds and even the Brewer's Blackbird, more regular in north Alabama and quite rare in these parts but have just been seen in Marion County to the south and other points west.

Many thanks from all the compilers to all who worked the Christmas counts this season. The mostly warm weather spread out the birds making it a greater challenge to find them, and without many waterfowl, the final species tallies were about average. Knoxville had 97, Norris had 69, Cades Cove had 62 and the Great Smoky Mountains had 55. Most reported high numbers of Bald Eagles—always good to hear. Another opportunity to count is coming up February 12-15—The Great Backyard Bird Count sponsored by Cornell.

In the news, from an article dated January 20, 2016 on E-bird's website, "For the first time, scientists at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology have documented migratory movements of bird populations spanning the entire year for 118 species throughout the Western Hemisphere" using E-bird data to which many of us have contributed. Please visit E-bird at www.ebird.org to view this animated map and see the fruit of your labors. (You can learn a great deal more and greatly enhance your birding experience by also visiting Cornell's website directly at www.birds.cornell.edu.) If you are not yet contributing your observations to E-bird, I highly recommend you start for both its scientific value and your own pleasure. It's a good venue for keeping track of your records and it continues to grow in its service to birders, plus it's free. You can also support them financially for as little as \$8 per month. It's a very worthy cause that serves both the birding and scientific communities. Another great online resource is the American Birding Association's website at www.aba.org. You can find great articles, book reviews, bird quizzes, blogs for birders young and old and much, much more.

The other day I was out walking while it was snowing. Not only was it very peaceful, but the birds were also very busy feeding and drinking. Birds are often more active in snowy and blustery weather, so don't miss the next opportunity, just bundle up and go treasure hunting.

Presidential Perch (cont.)

It wasn't easy trying to get decent bird pictures in the snow however, as they were often darker than their surroundings. But I did catch a glimpse of a woodpecker in a pose we often encounter seen in a picture below. Can you identify it by this partial view? In fact, if you are looking at this in color, you can also tell if it's a male or female.

Keep an eye on Facebook and our calendar at www.knoxvillebirding.org for upcoming spur of the moment field trips. Jay and Jimmy led one to Cades Cove and succeeded in finding the Short-eared Owl with about 20 others. Great job! If you have any field trip desires, pass them on to me at blountbirder@gmail.com or Jay at flowerpetalsonthecreek@yahoo.com.

Thanks, and Happy Birding

Tom Howe



Get Out and Get Birding! February Field Trip

Gupton Wetlands

Thursday, February 18, 2015 @ 9:00 a.m.

Leader: Tony King, (865) 966-6172

Go west on I-40 from Knoxville, take the Midtown exit, exit 350, turn left under the interstate, left on Route 1, and then left onto Swan Pond Rd. After arriving at Swan Pond Rd., turn right at the second intersection with Swan Pond Circle Rd., then the first right into a gravel lot.

2015 Annual Report

A few out of the ordinary items appearing on the 2015 year end financial report may benefit from explanation:

The \$577.35 expense for the **Discover Birds** program was for the purchase of binoculars from Eagle Optics in March. Our \$200 sponsorship of **Operation Migration** was sent on December 19 but did not clear the bank in 2015 and thus will be included on the 2016 financial report. The July planning meeting was so well attended that it was necessary to rent a room from Panera to accommodate all the attendees (\$50). The speaker at our November meeting traveled from Nashville to be with us and was reimbursed \$50 to cover his expenses. Finally, the report reflects a \$10,000 anonymous donation to the **J.B. Owen Memorial Fund**, earmarked for the **International Crane Foundation** for the protection of Whooping Cranes. I will be glad to respond to any questions regarding this report and, as always, monthly financial statements are available upon request.

Carole Gobert, K TOS Treasurer

	2014	2015
Income:		
• Dues	\$4,006.00	\$2,935.00
• Shade Grown Coffee	\$1,539.55	\$1,209.50
• Interest	\$49.63	\$44.66
• Owen Memorial Fund donations	\$182.00	\$11,125.00
• Hummingbird Festival	\$5,548.35	\$9,587.00
• Activity books/class sponsorship	\$118.00	\$86.00
• Donations	\$36.00	\$47.80
• T-shirt sales	\$1,200.00	\$1,209.00
• TOS meeting	\$0.00	\$100.00
• Total Income	\$12,679.53	\$26,343.96
Expenses:		
• Newsletter	\$161.61	\$178.86
• Supplies	\$533.54	\$409.74
• Shade Grown Coffee	\$1,540.45	\$1,424.12
• Member Dues to TOS	\$2,354.00	\$2,452.00
• J.B. Owen Award	\$500.00	\$750.00
• "Discover Birds"	\$0.00	\$577.35
• Hummingbird Festival	\$6,036.45	\$6,641.07
• Operation Migration	\$200.00	\$0.00
• T-shirts	\$887.40	\$426.23
• TOS meeting	\$0.00	\$537.50
• Room Rental - Panera	\$0.00	\$50.00
• Harmony project nest boxes	\$327.00	\$0.00
• Crane donation to TOS	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
• Weebly Website	\$0.00	\$132.90
• Speaker travel	\$0.00	\$50.00
Total Expenses	\$12,540.45	\$23,629.77
Income-Expenses	\$139.08	\$2,714.19
Account Balances		
• KTOS Checking & Savings	\$13,048.10	\$15,584.87
• J.B. Owen Memorial	\$8,382.03	\$8,797.74
Memberships	139	134

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 (high school or younger), or TOS life membership for \$450 with \$8 annual fee to Chapter.



www.tnbirds.org/KTOS.html

**2015 — 2016
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