



VOLUME 27 • NUMBER 5

June-July 04

# through the biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

• 1924-2004. Celebrating 80 years! •

## KTOS celebrates first 80 years at Ijams Picnic Wednesday, June 2, 5:30 PM

**W**ednesday, June 2, help us continue KTOS tradition and celebrate the chapter's 80th birthday! As has happened recently, the June meeting will be a potluck dinner at Ijams Nature Center. We will meet in the Visitor's Center Multi-Purpose Room and Back Terrace. We hope to have as many present as possible for a group KTOS photograph, recreating the photo taken in 1940. So come one and all, and bring a friend. Kathy Bivens and Lyn Bales have organized a silent auction. Items include photographs taken by some of our talented members, autographed books, used scope and tripod. The proceeds will benefit the J.B. Owen Fund and Ijams' new raptor enclosure. (See page 3.) Be ready to spend some money and go home with some cool items.

The statewide Tennessee Ornithological Society was founded on October 7, 1915 by six amateur ornithologists meeting at Faucon's French Restaurant in Nashville. A historical marker commemorates the TOS' founding. Not surprisingly, the first chapter was formed in Nashville.

Here in Knoxville, the state's second chapter was created on January 13, 1924. KTOS' founding members include officers H.P. Ijams (president),



G. M. Bentley (vice president), Paul J. Adams (secretary-treasurer), and S.A. Ogden (curator), as well as members Brockway Crouch, C.L. Gibson, Charles Seacress, George A. Knopt and Gus L. Burdett.

**WHAT TO BRING:** Cash/checks for the silent auction. Also please bring a covered dish to share and a personal cup (KTOS mugs will be available for purchasing). Charlie Muise will bring plates and silverware so we can avoid disposables. Birthday cake will be provided for dessert. You may also wish to bring a chair.

### The evening's schedule:

**5:30 PM** Birding, socializing, begin Silent Auction

**7:00 PM** Assemble at Ijams Homesite for group photo of all KTOS members present. (*If rain is in the forecast bring appropriate attire.*)

**7:30ish** Reassemble at Visitor Center for food, short business meeting and elections (See page 2.)

**Need a lift?** If you need a ride to Ijams contact Lyn, 577-4717, ext. 24 or 577-6978.

- Tracey Muise, program coordinator

 MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Saturday June 5, 7:30 AM

Mossy Creek Wildlife Viewing Area,  
Jefferson City, TN.

### Sunday, June 6, 6:00 PM

Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge.

### Summer field trips.

For complete details see page 2.

Or check our Ijams hotline, 577-4717, extension 80 for the latest news.

*"Do you think I was born in a wood to be afraid of an owl?" - Jonathan Swift (1667-1745), Polite Conversation. Dialogue i.*

## Summer Field Trips

### Saturday June 5, 7:30 AM

*Mossy Creek Wildlife Viewing Area, Jefferson City, TN*

**Leaders:** David Trently (dtrently@utk.edu;

865-974-8664 w; 865-531-1473 h)

and Harold Howell (865-828-6302)

Leave at 7:30 a.m. from the Comcast parking lot (formerly the K-Mart parking lot) on US Highway 11E. Take the first exit from I-40 east of the junction of I-40 and I-640, turn left on US 11E and the lot is on the right at the top of the hill just before the construction for the Holston River Bridge.

Alternately, meet at the parking lot for Mossy Creek Wildlife Viewing Area in Jefferson City, TN at 8:00 a.m. Our target birds will be the nesting Warbling Vireos reported by Dean Edwards, plus possible rails, other water birds and sparrows. When we finish at Mossy Creek, we will tour some other spots around the area, such as Cherokee Dam. At the conclusion of these activities, all are invited to the country estate of Harold Howell for some more birding and a glass of lemonade.

### Sunday, June 6, 6:00 PM

*Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge*

**Leader:** David Trently (dtrently@utk.edu; 865-974-8664 w; 865-531-1473 h)

Leave at 6:00 p.m. from the Comcast parking lot (formerly the K-Mart parking lot) on US Highway 11E. Take the first exit from I-40 east of the junction of I-40 and I-640, turn left on US 11E and the lot is on the right at the top of the hill just before the construction for the Holston River Bridge. Alternately, meet at the parking lot Seven Islands at 6:20 p.m. We will be birding for the summer residents and also looking at any other wildlife that may be available.

Other field trips may develop during the course of the summer. Check with our Ijams hotline, 577-4717, extension 80 for the latest news.

Avian Pursuits Nature Tours is planning another trip to southern Illinois July 9 through 11, 2004. See Davis Trently for details. Please call Harold Howell at 865-828-6302 if you are planning anything that needs to go on the hot line. Relax and live well, summer will be over before you know it!

-Best regards, *Harold Howell, field trip coordinator*

## KTOS Officer Nominations

The KTOS Nominating Committee has selected the following people as nominees for the respective positions within the club. The general body will vote on whether or not to accept and elect these nominees at the June meeting. While no formal procedure has been adopted for renominating the newly formed Executive Committee, it was decided that we would take this opportunity to renominate those willing to serve another year. Also, those positions on the Executive Committee held by club officer and director positions which are changing hands needed to be renominated.

**KTOS officers:** President - Charlie Muise, Vice President - Tracey Muise, Secretary - Kathy Bivens, Treasurer - Marie Oakes

**Directors to TOS:** Ron Hoff, David Trently

### Executive Committee:

Charlie Muise (KTOS President)  
Tracey Muise (KTOS Vice President)  
Kathy Bivens (KTOS Secretary)  
Marie Oakes (KTOS Treasurer)  
Dan Mooney (Director)  
Laurie Mooney (Director)  
Chris Welsh (Director)  
David Trently (Director)  
Jean Alexander (at-large)  
Kim Henry (at-large)

Our thanks to those who have agreed to serve.

KTOS Nominating Committee  
Dean Edwards, Chair  
David Johnson  
Allan Trently

## KTOS breaks with tradition and plans August 4 meeting

Even an organization steeped in tradition must occasionally break with said routine. Mark your calendars. We're going to have an August 4 meeting, the first Wednesday in the month, (a tradition we can't possibly break since we've been doing it that way for 71 years.) There will also be an August newsletter, so watch for it!

## Barn Owl plays role in bird club's early years

The following is an excerpt from J.B. Owen's *Our First 70 Years*. "A barn owl nesting in 1923 on Dickinson Island, now the Knoxville Downtown Island Airport, may have speeded formation of the Knoxville ornithological group by making their study of birds even more exciting. [H.P.] Ijams banded the young owls on July 1, 1923. That winter one of the bands was returned



from southern Alabama, establishing what the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Biological Survey told them was a national record for long distance migration for the species.

The men took pride in the owl, and the official letterhead for ETOS (later KTOS) in its first year featured the head of a barn owl with the number 365♀236102 and with "East Tennessee Ornithological Society" in a circle around the owl. Very likely Ijams did the art work. Observation of the owl continued and it is referred to in the [club] minutes for several years."

Photographed in later years, H.P. Ijams with three owlets.



Photographed in later years, H.P. Ijams with three owlets.

## Silent Auction to help build new raptor enclosure



Architectural drawing of proposed new raptor enclosure at Ijams Nature Center.

A portion of the proceeds generated by the silent auction at the KTOS 80th Birthday Party will go to the planned new raptor enclosure at Ijams. This will allow the nature center to adopt two additional large disabled and non-releasable birds of prey. (Most often it's wing injuries that keep the birds from being returned to the wild.)

Currently Ijams has four small birds cared for by the staff. The new free-standing structure will house two larger birds (hawk, owl, vulture). The enclosure will be located near the parking lot so casual visitors will be able to view the adopted raptors up close.

## Purple Martins find a home at Seven Islands

Purple Martins (PUMAs) have been reported in the nesting house relocated from the UT Trial Gardens to Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge. The PUMA condo was moved by Wayne Schacher, Jim Giocomo and Mark Campen on February 7, 2004. It's located by an old home site and storage barn on the edge of a recently burned native grass field, not too far from the French Broad River.

## Help the Smokies

Want to help East Tennessee's greatest treasure? Learn more about the three biggest issues affecting the Great Smoky Mountains National Park: [www.cadescoveopp.com](http://www.cadescoveopp.com), [www.northshoreroad.info](http://www.northshoreroad.info) and [www.elkmont-gmpa-ea.com](http://www.elkmont-gmpa-ea.com) are web sites that give information and solicit opinions on them. - *Charlie Muise*





### Charter Members

**H. P. Ijams**

President

**G. M. Bentley**

Vice President

**Paul J. Adams**

Secretary-Treasurer

**S. A. Ogden**

Curator

**Brockway Crouch**

**C. L. Gibson**

**Charles Seacress**

**George A. Knopt**

**Gus L. Burdett**

**Elizabeth Ijams**

Junior Member

*Along with*

*H. P. Ijams, Samuel*

*Arthur Ogden and*

*florist Brockway*

*Crouch were the*

*early moving forces*

*behind the bird club.*

### 12-years of service!

*Curator S. A. Ogden,*

*Treasurer*

*Johneta Smith and*

*Newsletter Editor*

*Bettie Mason all*

*served in those*

*positions for*

*twelve years.*

## Our First 80 Years: officers 1924-1963

| YEAR | PRESIDENT        | VICE PRESIDENT   | SEC/TREAS        | CURATOR         |
|------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 1924 | H. P. Ijams      | G. M. Bentley    | Paul J. Adams    | S. A. Ogden     |
| 1925 | ---              | ---              | ---              | S. A. Ogden     |
| 1926 | Louis Hofferbert | John J. Hay      | Brockway Crouch  | S. A. Ogden     |
| 1927 | S. A. Ogden      | Ev'n Willoughby  | Mrs. Hofferbert  | S. A. Ogden     |
| 1928 | Ev'n Willoughby  | Mrs. Hofferbert  | John Bamberg     | S. A. Ogden     |
| 1929 | Barton Ressler   | John J. Hay      | Katherine Owen   | S. A. Ogden     |
| 1930 | Dr. E. B. Powers | Katherine Owen   | Earl O. Henry    | S. A. Ogden     |
| 1931 | John Bamberg     | James Trent Jr.  | H. P. Ijams      | S. A. Ogden     |
| 1932 | John Hay         | Barton Ressler   | S. A. Ogden      | Brockway Crouch |
| 1933 | Wm. M. Johnson   | James Trent Jr.  | Mary Ruth Chiles | Brockway Crouch |
| 1934 | John Bamberg     | Dr. H. D. Wiles  | Mary Ruth Chiles | S. A. Ogden     |
| 1935 | H. P. Ijams      | Wm. M. Walker    | Mrs. F. Leonhard | S. A. Ogden     |
| 1936 | Wm. M. Walker    | Earl O. Henry    | George Foster    | S. A. Ogden     |
| 1937 | Earl O. Henry    | ---              | Mrs. F. Leonhard | S. A. Ogden     |
| 1938 | S. A. Ogden      | Mrs. F. Leonhard | Mary Ruth Chiles | Wm. M. Walker   |
| 1939 | Henry Meyer      | Dorothy Williams | Mary Ruth Chiles | Wm. M. Walker   |
| 1940 | Brockway Crouch  | A. R. Tuell      | Mary Ruth Chiles | Wm. M. Walker   |
| 1941 | Wm. M. Johnson   | Earl O. Henry    | Elise Morrell    | Wm. M. Walker   |
| 1942 | Dorothy Williams | Ed. W. Dougherty | Elise Morrell    | Wm. M. Walker   |
| 1943 | Ed. W. Dougherty | Henry Meyer      | Elise Morrell    | Wm. M. Walker   |
| 1944 | ---              | ---              | ---              | ---             |
| 1945 | ---              | ---              | ---              | ---             |
| 1946 | ---              | ---              | ---              | ---             |
| 1947 | Wm. M. Johnson   | Robert Dunbar    | Muriel Monroe    |                 |
| 1948 | Robert Dunbar    | Elise Morrell    | Muriel Monroe    |                 |
| 1949 | Muriel Monroe    | Dale W. Yambert  | Holly Overton    |                 |
| 1950 | Dale W. Yambert  | Andy Meyerriecks | Holly Overton    |                 |
| 1951 | Andy Meyerriecks | J. B. Owen       | Clara Dunbar     |                 |
| 1952 | J. B. Owen       | Holly Overton    | Clara Dunbar     |                 |
| 1953 | J. B. Owen       | Holly Overton    | Muriel Monroe    |                 |
| 1954 | Holly Overton    | Isabell Tipton   | Mary Enloe       |                 |
| 1955 | Holly Overton    | Brockway Crouch  | Mary Enloe       |                 |
| 1956 | Paul Pardue      | David Highbaugh  | Mary Enloe       |                 |
| 1957 | Paul Pardue      | David Highbaugh  | ---              |                 |
| 1958 | David Highbaugh  | ---              | ---              |                 |
| 1959 | David Highbaugh  | John Elson       | ---              |                 |
| 1960 | David Highbaugh  | John Elson       | ---              |                 |
| YEAR | PRESIDENT        | VICE PRESIDENT   | SECRETARY        | TREASURER       |
| 1961 | John Elson       | Mary Enloe       | Holly Overton    | Johneta Smith   |
| 1962 | John Elson       | Mary Enloe       | Holly Overton    | Johneta Smith   |
| 1963 | Mary Enloe       | Bob Dunbar       | David Highbaugh  | Johneta Smith   |

### Early Bird Club Highlights

- TOS was founded in 1915
- Originally known as the East Tennessee Ornithological Society, KTOS formed in January 1924

- In 1928, bird club dues were \$1, and 14 people paid
- In May 1928, the first newsletter (in the form of a penny postcard) was sent to notify members of meetings and field trips

- The Migrant began publication in 1930 with the first mention of the Knoxville Chapter minutes appearing in January 1934

## KTOS officers 1964-2003

| YEAR | PRESIDENT       | VICE PRESIDENT  | SECRETARY       | TREASURER               |                       |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1964 | Mary Enloe      | Jim Campbell    | David Highbaugh | Johneta Smith           |                       |
| 1965 | Jim Campbell    | Maxie Swindell  | Terry McGown    | Johneta Smith           |                       |
| 1966 | Jim Campbell    | Louise Nunnally | Terry McGown    | Johneta Smith           |                       |
| 1967 | Louise Nunnally | Wm. F. Searle   | Terry McGown    | Johneta Smith           |                       |
| 1968 | Louise Nunnally | Wm. F. Searle   | Terry McGown    | Johneta Smith           |                       |
| 1969 | Fred Alsop III  | Bill Williams   | Terry McGown    | Johneta Smith           |                       |
| 1970 | Fred Alsop III  | Bill Williams   | Terry McGown    | Johneta Smith           |                       |
| 1971 | Fred Alsop III  | Morris Williams | Julia Moore     | Johneta Smith           |                       |
| YEAR | PRESIDENT       | VICE PRESIDENT  | SECRETARY       | TREASURER               | NEWSLETTER EDITOR     |
| 1972 | Morris Williams | Terry McGown    | Winnifred Brown | Johneta Smith           | John Elson            |
| 1973 | Morris Williams | Terry McGown    | Winnifred Brown | Ed Griffith             | John Elson            |
| 1974 | Don DeFoe       | Chuck Nicholson | Frances Owen    | Ed Griffith             | John Elson            |
| 1975 | Boyd Sharp      | Fae Andrews     | Winnifred Brown | Maurice Grigsby         | John Elson            |
| 1976 | Boyd Sharp      | Holly Overton   | Winnifred Brown | Maurice Grigsby         | Lavada Harris         |
| 1977 | Boyd Sharp      | Holly Overton   | Winnifred Brown | Katherine Foster        | Lavada Harris         |
| 1978 | Chuck Nicholson | Linda D. Turner | Winnifred Brown | Katherine Foster        | Chuck Nicholson       |
| 1979 | Chuck Nicholson | Linda D. Turner | Winnifred Brown | Katherine Foster        | Marcia Davis          |
| 1980 | Linda Turner    | Marcia Davis    | Audrey Hoff     | Paul Hartigan           | Marcia Davis/Ron Hoff |
| 1981 | Linda Turner    | Marcia Davis    | Audrey Hoff     | Paul Hartigan           | Ron Hoff              |
| 1982 | Marcia Davis    | Mark Armstrong  | Barbara Finney  | Paul Hartigan           | Ron Hoff              |
| 1983 | Marcia Davis    | James Mason     | Barbara Finney  | Paul Hartigan           | Bettie Mason          |
| 1984 | Barbara Finney  | James Mason     | Louise Fuller   | Paul Hartigan           | Bettie Mason          |
| 1985 | Barbara Finney  | Mark Reeves     | Louise Fuller   | Mary Trice              | Bettie Mason          |
| 1986 | Mark Reeves     | Audrey Hoff     | Louise Fuller   | Mary Trice              | Bettie Mason          |
| 1987 | Mark Reeves     | Frank Bills     | Louise Fuller   | Mary Trice              | Bettie Mason          |
| 1988 | Louise Fuller   | Jane Beintema   | Kate Johnston   | Rebecca Satterfield     | Bettie Mason          |
| 1989 | Louise Fuller   | Tony Koella     | Kate Johnston   | Rebecca Satterfield     | Bettie Mason          |
| 1990 | Robert Collier  | Sharon Adams    | Andrew Core     | Carol Coleman           | Bettie Mason          |
| 1991 | Robert Collier  | Tim Snow        | Andrew Core     | Carol Coleman           | Bettie Mason          |
| 1992 | Tim Snow        | Andrew Core     | Sharon Adams    | Leslie Shannon          | Bettie Mason          |
| 1993 | Tim Snow        | Andrew Core     | Sharon Adams    | Leslie Shannon          | Bettie Mason          |
| 1994 | Tim Snow        | Andrew Core     | Eileen Wilson   | Sharon Bostick          | Bettie Mason          |
| 1995 | Audrey Hoff     | Joel Keebler    | Eileen Wilson   | Jane Beintema           | David Trently         |
| 1996 | Audrey Hoff     | Joel Keebler    | Eileen Wilson   | Jane Beintema           | David Trently         |
| 1997 | Joel Keebler    | Andy Jones      | Angela Snow     | Beth Buckles            | David Trently         |
| 1998 | Joel Keebler    | Andy Jones      | Angela Snow     | Jerry Hadder            | David Trently         |
| 1999 | Chris Welsh     | David Trently   | Daniel Moss     | Bob Steffy              | Christine Tankersley  |
| 2000 | Chris Welsh     | David Trently   | Jean Alexander  | Bob Steffy              | Christine Tankersley  |
| 2001 | David Trently   | Charlie Muise   | Don Vowell      | Bob Steffy              | Christine Tankersley  |
| 2002 | David Trently   | Charlie Muise   | Don Vowell      | Bob Steffy/Jerry Hadder | Lyn Bales & Cindy Day |
| 2003 | Charlie Muise   | Tracey Muise    | Don Vowell      | Jerry Hadder            | Lyn Bales & Cindy Day |



- *The first year, the bird club met on Sunday afternoons; later changed to Thursday evenings. In 1933, meetings were moved to the first Wednesday of every month largely because "Wednesday night is a bum radio night."*
- *In 1937, the club voted to join Arthur Stupka for his Christmas Bird Count in the Smokies. The count was moved from Cades Cove to a 15-mile circle centered on Bullhead*
- *During World War II, formal meetings of KTOS were apparently suspended for a variety of reasons*
- *All historical information from J. B. Owen's Our First 70 Years*

## Chattanooga hosts Spring TOS meeting – By Tracey Muise

**A**pril 30 – May 2, Chattanooga hosted the TOS spring meeting. Although TOS sponsors meetings throughout the year, as many of you know, the spring meeting is the "big one." Spring meetings generally consist of lots of birding and socializing. You have the opportunity to catch up with old friends from around the state and make new ones. This year's Saturday evening dinner was held on the Southern Belle, the Chattanooga riverboat. Following dinner, keynote speaker Scott Weidensaul treated us to a talk. Although Weidensaul has written many natural history books, in the birding world he is best known for his book on migration, *Living on the Wind*. If you have not read this, I highly recommend it. It is fascinating, gives lots of interesting details about migration, and it's written in a friendly, non-technical manner.

In addition to the birds and friends, the State Board of Directors met and conducted business. Several important votes were taken. State Treasurer Chris Sloan has resigned, and Mac McWhirter will be filling his shoes. McWhirter comes to TOS with lots of experience and credentials with finances and non-profit environmental organizations; he is a CPA. Danny

Gaddy, of CTOS, was nominated to fill Virginia Reynold's shoes as the next TOS president.

Conservation Policy Committee chair Melinda Weldon reported that they had written and sent comments on several issues in the state. These include TVA's proposal to change seasonal lake levels, mountain top mining, TVA coal mining on Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area and the proposal to remove introduced species from protection via the Migratory Bird Act. The Board voted to donate \$500, from the general fund, to support Chattanooga State's proposal to install a webcam, which will provide live pictures of the Peregrine Falcon's nest on the train trestle at the Chickamauga Dam.

Upcoming meetings: The Fall meeting will be held in Cookeville. There is no host meeting, president Virginia Reynolds is coordinating the meeting. Traditionally, the fall meeting provides the opportunity for a poster presentation for statewide bird research. Next year's spring meeting will be held in Memphis. The dates are set for April 29 – May 1. Paul Baicich, former editor of the American Birding Association's *Birding*, will be the keynote speaker.



### OF NOTE!

### Contribution made for Barbara Finney

In memory of Barbara Finney, KTOS contributed \$100 to the Nature Conservancy's Tapoco Project to protect areas affected by the Calderwood and Chilhowie impoundments of the Little Tennessee River.

A longtime Knoxville and Columbia Chapter TOS member, Barbara passed away April 7, 2004. She contributed to TOS in many ways, including serving as state president from 1989 to 1991. Barbara had a great love of birds and nature and strongly supported the preservation of areas for birds in Tennessee.

### KTOS member Otey Cottrell passes away

Our condolences go out to the family of long-time KTOS member and dedicated birder Otey Cottrell who recently passed away. -Submitted by Bob Collier.

### Best wishes for speedy recoveries

Our warmest regards go out to Betty Reid Campbell who's recovering from back surgery. And to Howard Chitwood's wife JoAnn who's recovering from hip replacement surgery. We hope both recover quickly.

### KTOS Financial Report • June 2004

Compiled by Marie Oakes, Financial Committee

|                           | May             | April           | YTD               |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Income:</b>            |                 |                 |                   |
| . Dues                    | \$116.00        | \$206.00        | \$1,434.00        |
| . Mugs & Patches          | \$0.00          | \$0.00          | \$14.50           |
| . Interest                | \$0.00          | \$40.12         | \$81.16           |
| . Dividend                | \$0.00          | \$0.00          | \$26.38           |
| . Owen Memorial           | \$2.00          | \$0.00          | \$6.00            |
| . Fuller Memorial         | <u>\$0.00</u>   | <u>\$0.00</u>   | <u>\$0.00</u>     |
| Total Income              | \$118.00        | \$246.12        | \$1,562.04        |
| <b>Expenses:</b>          |                 |                 |                   |
| . Newsletter              | \$229.10        | \$0.00          | \$549.50          |
| . Supplies                | \$88.53         | \$0.00          | \$136.09          |
| . Member Dues to TOS      | <u>\$84.00</u>  | <u>\$106.00</u> | <u>\$1,484.00</u> |
| Total Expenses            | \$401.63        | \$106.00        | \$2,169.59        |
| <b>Other:</b>             |                 |                 |                   |
| . Foothills Conservancy   | \$0.00          | \$0.00          | \$0.00            |
| . Friends of UT Gardens   | \$0.00          | \$0.00          | \$0.00            |
| . Fuller Memorial         | \$0.00          | \$0.00          | \$0.00            |
| . Owen Award : J. Powers  | \$0.00          | \$0.00          | \$500.00          |
| . Transfer to J.B. Owens  | \$0.00          | \$0.00          | \$1,000.00        |
| . Memorials               | <u>\$100.00</u> | <u>\$0.00</u>   | <u>\$100.00</u>   |
| Total Other               | \$100.00        | \$0.00          | \$1,600.00        |
| <b>Account Balances</b>   |                 |                 |                   |
| . KTOS Checking & Savings | \$3,344.68      | \$3,730.31      |                   |
| . J.B.Owen Memorial       | \$6,259.50      | \$6,257.50      |                   |
| <b>Memberships</b>        | 168             | 168             |                   |

## Notes for the traveling birder – By David Trently

**Y**ou get a call from an Australian friend who will be arriving tomorrow on a business trip. He will have one day for birding in East Tennessee before leaving for a week in New England. He has never birded in the U.S. before and wants to see or hear as many species as possible in this country. You don't want to spend a lot of time tomorrow looking for birds he'll have an easier time finding up north, so...on what birds do you concentrate?

If you don't do much birding outside your local area, you may not realize which birds common to you may be sought after by someone from another part of the world, or even this country.

Look at your backyard feeder. Do you realize that Carolina Chickadees (endemic to the USA) and Red-bellied Woodpeckers would be prime targets for your friend, a lot easier to see here than in New England?

Look at range maps in your field guide and you'll find plenty more birds for which you should spend your time searching: Black Vulture; Chuck-will's-widow; Acadian Flycatcher; Brown-headed Nuthatch; Carolina Wren!; Prothonotary, Yellow-throated and Kentucky Warblers; Blue Grosbeak and Orchard Oriole are some of the "Southern Specialties" I try to

show birders when they visit this area.

If you concentrate on these species your guest will likely go home with a longer list of life birds than if you just took him to do some general birding, however enjoyable that would be.

Studying the distribution of birds before going on your own trip can be helpful – both to yourself and to birders in the area you are visiting. Suppose you find yourself birding around St. Louis and you discover a Black-throated Green Warbler nest. These are abundant, right? I sure hope you report it to someone!

Whenever I lead birding tours I am sure to be aware of what is expected in an area. It's nice to know something about a bird's expected presence where you see them. On an upcoming Avian Pursuits Nature Tour to Illinois and Missouri (July 9-11), in addition to looking for special birds like Eurasian Tree Sparrow and Sedge Wren, we will be targeting birds that reach the northernmost parts of their range in the central U.S., e.g., Black Vulture, Mississippi Kite, Fish Crow. These can easily be found in West Tennessee, but it's good to find something where it is not quite so common. If you are interested in joining me on this tour (or one to north Florida Sept. 10-13), contact me at [avianpursuits@yahoo.com](mailto:avianpursuits@yahoo.com)

### BOOK REVIEW

## 'The Big Year' by Mark Obmascik – By Janet McKnight

**A** big year is when one attempts to see more species of birds from 12:01 a.m. of a given January 1st until 11:50 p.m. of the following December 31st, than any other Big Year record holder has seen. The book *The Big Year* follows the attempts of three birders who independently decided to do a big year in 1998. All three men plunged into counting their species without knowing about each other until well into the year. Each man had a very different strategy and means to accomplish their attempt and I found the race fascinating.

Other publications give a blow-by-blow of big year attempts, such as *Call Collect*, *Ask for Bird Man* by Jim Vardaman, which is a book that proves one can do a big year by buying the expertise of others. And there is one of Lyn's favorite books, *Kingbird Highway* by Kenn Kaufman, which is a book that proves that one can do a big year for under \$2,000, if one subsists on "Little Friskers" cat food.

One aspect of *The Big Year* by Mark Obmascik that I really liked was the inclusion of the natural history of the big year and all the details of whom, how and why.

When *The Big Year* author reviewed Kenn Kaufman's attempt at a big year, he remarked that Kaufman looked like he lived out of a dumpster and smelled like it too. I was lucky enough to bird with Kaufman last Saturday in Nashville and I asked him how he appreciated this comment. Kenn said, "Well, I was hitchhiking all over he country and had very little opportunity to shower, so I probably smelled pretty bad. I probably smelled worse than I do now. Now, I just wear dumpster aftershave." Such is the quirky sense of humor of Kaufman.

It's interesting to ponder the author's conclusions that the man who ultimately broke the big year record is likely to hold that record for perhaps forever, since 1998 was a year of many rarities due to El Nino. Also, the success of a big year depends on hopping an airplane at a moment's notice to see a rare species and plane hopping is much harder to do post 9/11 than it was in 1998.

I found myself entertained by this book, but keep in mind that I devour books about birding and derive great pleasure and information from them more often than not. If you're a bit on the obsessive side about birds like I am, *The Big Year* is a fun account of those even more obsessive about birds than myself.



## KTOS Membership

Join or renew your membership in KTOS by mailing your annual dues to: **Jerry Hadder**,  
18 Rockingham Lane,  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

Membership fees are \$18 for an individual and \$20 for a family. Sustaining memberships are \$28 and a Life membership with TOS is \$200 with an annual fee of \$8 to the local chapter.

### DEADLINE for the August newsletter is July 24.

For a color version of this or past issues go to "local chapters/Knoxville" starting at the TOS Home Page:

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## Presidential Perch - By Charlie Muise

Hi Everyone. As per the unanimous vote at the May meeting, Treasurer Jerry Hadder mailed a \$100 check to the Nature Conservancy in Barbara Finney's name to help preserve land as part of the Tapoco deal.

Nominations are in and we'll be voting on officers at the June picnic. I'm happy to report that Marie Oakes has agreed to be nominated as Treasurer – a job she has been assisting her husband Jerry with for some time. Kathy Bivens has agreed to be nominated as Secretary. Thanks to the nominating committee of David Johnson, Allan Trently and Chair, Dean Edwards.

KTOS is a club with great history and tradition, and we all value this. But in what I hope to be a good break from tradition, we will not go dormant this summer. We will have a meeting in August! And you'll also receive a newsletter approximately a week prior. Thanks to Lyn Bales for agreeing to take on this extra work, and to Tracey Muise for looking for a program for that day. Stay tuned.

Kathy Bivens is doing a great job collecting donations for the silent auction at our picnic. I've heard about autographed books by several authors. Come bid often and bid well. Keep in mind that the proceeds are for a good cause.

Good birds have been showing up. I've been lucky to be among a group that found Black-necked Stilts, and a different group that re-located the pair of Dickcissels Janet McKnight found on May 8. Keep your eyes open! And please let the rest of us know through TN-birds. If you're not on the internet, I'd be happy to receive phone calls and post them for you. I'm sure a number of other club members would, too.

How can you help birds? Help us monitor them. If you are able to identify birds by ear, we need you. Tennessee has a number of Breeding Bird Survey routes that are currently not being conducted. Chuck Nicholson is the state coordinator for USGS, and I'm sure he would like to hear from potential surveyors. I have done two for the last three years, and it's been a fun, educational way to explore local spots that I'd never have found, otherwise. This year, I am taking on two more. I can't wait!

*through the biKNOXulars*

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