



through the
BiKNOXulars

Volume 30
Issue 2
March 2007

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

Birds and Wildlife of Africa by Bob Steffy



The KTOS March 7th meeting will be presented by Bob Steffy. He and his wife ventured to Africa in the summer of 2006. It was filled with wildlife including of course many birds. Be sure to join us for a wonderful presentation at 7 p.m. in room 117 of the UT Veterinary Building across the hall from Pendergrass Library at on Neyland Drive.

Do not forget to order some shade grown coffee while at the meeting.

Up Coming Field Trip

Saturday, March 10

Field trip: **Kingston Steam Plant**

Leader: David Trently;

dtrently@utk.edu; 531-1473

Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Stokely Building on Cedar Bluff Road or at about 1:45 at the ball fields at the steam plant.

We'll search among the waterfowl, gulls, sparrows for anything unusual.

If anyone would like to lead field trips, please let me know. There are opportunities for more field trips every month!

-David Trently, Interim Field Trip Coordinator

Opportunities for Birding Trips.

If anyone is interested in expanding their birding beyond east Tennessee, I may have opportunities for you.

I frequently find myself planning trips to other states, as well as outside the US, and would like to have others join me on these adventures. Contact me if you would like more information about these trips and I will put you on my mailing list.

Currently, I am looking for 2 people for a trip to New England in mid-June (Bicknell's Thrush, Boreal Chickadee, Atlantic Puffin), and a few people to go to PERU for a couple weeks beginning around July 25. Also, there has been interest in a pelagic trip out of Cape Hatteras, NC, for Memorial Day weekend.

A lot of people love to go birding to new places, but many don't like to do the planning needed to make the most efficient use of their time. Let me do that for you! Contact me at avianpursuits@yahoo.com.

-David Trently

Avian Research Initiatives Underway at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge

By Wayne H. Schacher
whschacher@natreserv.com

Author's note: This newsletter article continues a series on Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge in Knox County. The Knoxville Chapter of Tennessee Ornithological Society has actively supported the concept and development of SIWR, and its membership is providing invaluable information on avian fauna usage of the Refuge, and other technical assistance. The partnership with KTOS at SIWR is most gratefully appreciated.

The vision that created Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge in 2001, guided by lands planning and 6 years of implementation, has led to significant improvement in grassland habitat quality and overall habitat diversity. Partnerships developed from the onset have enabled educational and demonstration values of SIWR far beyond the confines of the Refuge.

Unique to most habitat improvement projects, the original vision included research objectives that would inventory animal species' usage of the Refuge, and track shifts in animal communities as habitat change and maturity takes place. With the emphasis on grassland habitat improvements at SIWR, monitoring the avian community would underscore the natural community benefits of collective landscape and vegetative cover-type alteration, and validate the efficacy of similar efforts locally, statewide and regionally.

Qualitative monitoring of the avian community at SIWR was an original goal. With public birding forays led by past KTOS Presidents Dave Trently and Dan Mooney, and data from thousands of hours of individual surveys from many KTOS members, UT researchers and other contributors, the checklist of avian species grew rapidly. To date the year-round avian species list for SIWR stands at 150 documented species, with projections of up to 200 bird species over time.

With recognition of the avi-fauna at SIWR spreading, the original inventory goal was broadened to include seasonal and qualitative surveys. Jim Giocomo, a post-doctoral wildlife biologist at UT Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries began mist-netting in SIWR grasslands during winter months in 2003, to test methods and investigate migratory shifts in species usage.

Charlie Muise, yet another past KTOS President and Tremont Institute naturalist, set up a Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survival (MAPS) station at SIWR in 2005. With hundreds of hours of support from Jim Giocomo, Mark Armstrong, numerous KTOS, UT-FWF and Knoxville Zoological Park volunteers, within two years the station at SIWR has risen to stand as one of the most productive MAPS locations in the United States. MAPS surveys from May through August establish 10 passive mist-net stations in grassland and edge habitats. Continually monitored during dawn and morning hours, birds netted are removed and processed for protocol and supplemental data, banded and released. A long-term research initiative, recapture data is especially valuable. In the two years of MAPS work at SIWR, more than 1,000 individual birds over 30 species have been captured at SIWR. Additional research projects involving avian usage in native grassland and edge habitats have been initiated by Jim Giocomo and supported by UT-FWF students, volunteers and other partners at SIWR. These initiatives include a northern bobwhite quail.

The benefits of grassland and edge habitat quality at SIWR, and nearly simultaneous monitoring of avian species usage is an incredibly unique, short-term and long-term research opportunity. Management insights gained from this research should stimulate similar efforts in other locales across Tennessee and in the southeast. Collective knowledge applied will fine-tune native warm season grassland and edge habitat management to benefit statewide and regional avian species and natural resource conservation far beyond the boundaries of Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge.



Presidential Perch

Working on Sharps Ridge Memorial park earlier today, I realized that I haven't been birding in a while. I don't mean that I haven't watched birds as they have come my way, but I haven't really been *in search of birds* since the Christmas Bird Count. This is unacceptable.

Removing litter along the road and other trash (invasive, exotic plants) on the old trail that parallels the road along Sharps Ridge was in preparation of the spring migration that is just around the corner. In the next few weeks, migratory songbirds will be "dripping from the trees" at this premiere birding site in the north central part of Knoxville.

This is an active time for our chapter. Once again, I want to encourage you to get involved. The litter clean up, non-native, invasive removal on Sharps Ridge is a biannual event. Restoring the old trail is a long-term project. I think it will take at least a few years, but the fruits of our labor will produce an off-road trail that will allow us to observe birds and other wildlife, wildflowers and other natural wonders that call Sharps Ridge home. This is just one example of how you can get more involved.

I have asked the nominations committee to search out members who are willing to fill the positions of vice-president, field trip coordinator, newsletter editor and an interim treasurer. If you are interested in filling one of these positions, please let me know. To remain an active member your dues need to be in by the end of March. We need to keep our chapter going strong as we continue our mission of supporting avian education and conservation.

At the last planning meeting, which you all are welcome to join, a request was made to see about changing the day that we hold our monthly meeting. If you have a preference, please let me know. There are many members who have other obligations on Wednesdays and can't make it to our regularly scheduled meetings.

KTOS Financial Report – January and February 2007

KTOS Financial Report - Calendar Year 2007 Compiled by Marie Oakes

	February	January	YTD
Income:			
. Dues	\$380.00	\$206.00	\$586.00
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$143.00	\$0.00	\$143.00
. Interest	\$27.18	\$29.25	\$56.43
. Silent Auction	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Owen Memorial	\$0.00	\$59.00	\$59.00
. Miscellaneous	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Income	\$550.18	\$294.25	\$844.43
Expenses:			
. Newsletter	\$43.40	\$63.00	\$106.40
. Supplies	\$0.00	\$41.41	\$41.41
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$430.83	\$0.00	\$430.83
. Member Dues to TOS	\$0.00	\$1,444.00	\$1,444.00
. Miscellaneous	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$474.23	\$1,548.41	\$2,022.64
Other:			
J.B. Owen Award	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Account Balances			
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$3,975.62	\$3,926.05	
. J.B.Owen Memorial	\$7,090.02	\$7,063.64	
Memberships	143	142	
Paid Up Memberships	95		
New Members:			
Carol Gallagher Family			
Deanie Brown			

If you prefer a change or would like it to remain the same, please call or email me.

So, let's get out and go birding. This spring, make time to enjoy the birds in your backyard, a neighborhood park or any other of the great birding spots in our region. I plan to do just that.

KTOS MEMBERSHIP

Join or renew your membership
In KTOS by mailing your annual dues
to: Marie Oaks
18 Rockingham Lane
Oak Ride, 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
March 23rd. Due to cost and space
restrictions, please limit your
articles to 700 words.**

For a color version of this past issues
go to "local chapters/Knoxville"
starting at the TOS Home Page
<http://www.tnbirds.org>



President Mark Campen

1309 Adair Drive
Knoxville, TN 37918 (865)-414-5593
mark@tnike.com

Vice President...
(Currently Vacant)

Treasurer....Marie Oaks

18 Rockingham Lane
Oakridge, TN 37830 (865)-483-9287
marieoakes@mns.com

Secretary.... Kathy Bivens

114 Boulder Street
Maryville, TN 37804 (865)-983-7349
volkathy@yahoo.com

Editor.....Jon Mathson

6713 Crystal Lake Drive
Knoxville, TN 37919 (865)-765-6668
mathsonj@k12tn.net

Editor (Distribution)....Patty Ford

5525 Lonas Drive
Knoxville, TN 37909-3248
(865)-584-8473
pattyford@comcast.net

Membership Dues Deadline

The deadline for membership due in March 31st after that the
membership list will be purged of non-paying members

Volunteers needed

KTOS currently has two positions opens.

The Vice President's position is still open after Mark Campen took
over the presidency. The field trip coordinator also currently open.

The newsletter editor position will also be available in June.

NEW MEMBERS

KTOS would like to welcome:

Carol Gallagher,
Deanie Brown,
Shelley and Kevin Przewrocki



through the biKNOXulars

(USPS) 697-010)

Published monthly, except January, July, and August by the Chapter of
the Tennessee Ornithological Society, 5525 Lonas Rd., D-11, Knoxville, TN 37909.

Subscription Price \$8.00. Periodical Postage paid at Knoxville, TN 37901.

POSTMASTER: Send changes to:

through the biKNOXulars, 5525 Lonas Rd., D-11 Knoxville, TN 37909