



# biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

## *Guest Speaker to be Paul James*

Our guest speaker will be **Paul James**, Executive Director for Ijams Nature Center, a 275 acre wildlife sanctuary and environmental learning center, providing community-wide connections and experiences through education, conservation, recreation and responsible environmental stewardship for all people.

Paul will be speaking on the “**Ijams Family Legacy**”. This year Ijams Nature Center celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ijams Family legacy when H.P and Alice Ijams first purchased the 20 acres of land in 1910. Over the years, the Ijams family developed the land into a nature showplace known as the Bird Sanctuary, which attracted birders and nature lovers everywhere. H.P. Ijams, a talented commercial artist and serious bird watcher, spearheaded Knoxville’s first ornithologist movement and hosted annual bird counts at Ijams.

This program will feature vintage photographs from the Ijams Family archives featuring past members of East TN ornithological Society in action and more! Paul will also sign copies of his new book. Ijams Nature Center featuring many memorable photos of the Ijams family and legendary bird-watchers.

Planning Meeting, Thursday, February 17

Those officers present discussed the request to help fund the reward for information leading to the arrest of the person or persons responsible for shooting Whooping Cranes recently. After much discussion, the general consensus was that first of all, the group felt we probably did not have extra money in the treasury to make this donation; and secondly, the group felt that if there was any additional money available, it would be better spent by donating directly to the Mile Maker fund which would go directly to the Operation Migration crane project.

*Then the little Hiawatha, Learned of every bird its language, Learned their names and all their secrets,  
How they build their nests in summer, Where they hid themselves in winter, Talked with them when'er he met them...*

- *The Song of Hiawatha*, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, American writer/poet, 1807-1882

**KTOS FINANCIAL REPORT - CALENDAR YEAR 2010**

	December	November	YTD
Income:			
. Dues	\$702.00	\$ 958.00	\$3,180.00
. Shade Grown Coffee	114.75	152.50	1,104.25
. Interest	15.04	18.65	216.08
. Silent Auction	0.00	0.00	0.00
. Owen Memorial	10.00	245.00	257.00
. TOS Spring Meeting	0.00	0.00	2,509.00
. Donation to KTOS	0.00	0.00	100.00
Total Income	\$841.79	\$1,374.15	\$7,366.33

Expenses:			
. Newsletter	\$ 97.45	\$ 97.45	\$ 822.58
. Supplies	0.00	24.48	227.26
. Shade Grown Coffee	0.00	231.38	995.79
. Member Dues to TOS	0.00	0.00	2,292.00
. TOS Spring Meeting	0.00	0.00	2,060.98
. UT Garden Rental	0.00	0.00	25.00
. J.B. Owen Award	\$0.00	300.00	300.00
. Operation Migration	\$0.00	400.00	400.00
. bank fee	2.00	0.00	2.00
Total Expenses	\$ 99.45	\$1,053.31	\$7,125.61

Account Balances

. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$3,974.08	\$3,256.50
. J.B.Owen Memorial	\$8,561.43	\$8,536.67

Memberships	122	119
Paid 2011 Memberships	56	37

New Members:

Cathy Carl  
 Carol Jacobson & George Musil, Jr.  
 Ben & Beth Mooney

The above year-end financial report was inadvertently left out of the January newsletter. ~ Editor ~

**SERVICE OPPORTUNITY  
 IJAMS NATURE CENTER**

The Ijams 22nd Annual River Rescue will be Saturday, April 2, 2011, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteer by calling 865-577-4717, ext 24 or email [sbrobst@ijams.org](mailto:sbrobst@ijams.org). This is not a KTOS birding trip but a chance to help clean up some of our favorite birding spots.

Alice Woody

**A NOTE FROM JANET**

I got my 111th yard bird on 1-11-11, when a huge flock of Rusty Blackbirds found the seed I scatter in front of the woodpile for the juncos. There were 111 of them!!! (lots, anyways!)

Janet Lee McKnight  
 Wood Thrush Ridge  
 163 Hammontree Lane  
 Greenback, TN 37742  
 865-271-8337



Field Trips for  
 March



**Saturday, March 19, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Woodcock Walk & Owl Prowl, Forks of the River WMA**  
**Leader: David Trently (Home 865-531-1473,**  
 Work 865-974-8664, [NatureTours@avianpursuits.com](mailto:NatureTours@avianpursuits.com))

Meet at the parking area of Forks of the River (past Ijams Nature Center, first left onto McClure Lane, end of road). We'll start with a review of the mating display of the American Woodcock, and discuss the plan for viewing the birds. It's about a half mile walk to the viewing area. Please dress appropriately for after dark temperatures, a potentially muddy trail and bring a flashlight. On the return walk, we will listen for owls.

Sunset is at 7:48, and we'll probably be back at the parking lot after 9:00.

**Sunday, March 20, 8:30 a.m.**  
**Kyker Bottoms WMA, Blount Co:**  
<http://tnbirds.org/birdfinding/KykerBottoms.htm>  
**Leader: David Trently (Home 865-531-1473,**  
 Work 865-974-8664, [NatureTours@avianpursuits.com](mailto:NatureTours@avianpursuits.com))

Meet at the paved parking lot on Big Gully Road at 8:30. (I'll be out there earlier- if you want to go early, contact me). We'll start out birding the brushy areas there, then wander the nearby fields and wetlands looking for early spring migrants, sparrows, hopefully rails, and wrens, too. Eventually we'll make our way to the area near the barn where we'll have more chances at water birds. We should finish around noon, though if there is interest, we can also visit the 'back entrance' on Lanier Road. (bring lunch if interested in this option).

Waterproof boots suggested.

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

**Sunday, March 27, 9:00 a.m. - noon.**  
**William Hastie Park**  
**Leader: Mark Campen**  
 Phone 865-414-5593

From I-40, take the James White Parkway exit 388; follow James White Parkway over the Tennessee River; take the Moody Ave. exit (last exit); turn left onto Sevierville Pk; stay on Sevierville Pk for approx. three miles; pass Marie Myers Park on your right; remain on Sevierville Pk; shortly thereafter, follow the sign to turn right onto Margaret Rd. which leads into William Hastie Natural Area.

Mark will be at nearby Sam Duff Park at 8:45 for those that would like to rendezvous and carpool or caravan.



*Presidential  
Perch*

Hi Folks,

The winter hummingbird season is really winding down. If birds haven't departed already they will very soon. I banded four Rufous Hummingbirds this winter season, but there have been a number of folks in the eastern US that have been lucky enough to band Anna's Hummingbirds this year.

There have been a record number of Anna's in the eastern US this year. Birds have either been banded or photographed at feeders in Arkansas, Mississippi, South Carolina, Michigan (2), Illinois, Pennsylvania, Louisiana (3) and Newfoundland. The bird in Newfoundland was thought to be a young male from the pictures but it was never banded. It arrived in the fall and quit going to a feeder in early February. The Anna's in South Carolina left about February 11. Something different about Anna's is their molt and breeding seasons are different than other hummingbirds. In California, which is the heart of their breeding range, they breed from December to May. The departure of the two birds fits with the early departure you would expect from this species.

I think I'll put my feeder back out, you never know when a hungry bird from Newfoundland may show up.  
~Mark~



**DON'T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR COFFEE**

See David Johnson to order your supply of shade grown coffee.

It tastes better, is grown with less pesticides, promotes healthy environment, provides bird habitat and greater biodiversity and helps sustain rainforests. All of these things make for a better world for our diminishing songbirds.

When you buy the coffee, it also financially helps our club.

**Ghost Birds by Stephen Lyn Bales**

I have heard the charming story several times: author Bales and Nancy Tanner were having lunch during the huge Ivory-bill/Arkansas hoopla of 2005, when Nancy said that she feared her late husband Jim Tanner's work would be forgotten. And Bales said, "Well. Someone needs to write a book about Jim's work," followed by an immediate after-thought, "I need to write a book about Jim's work!" And so it began. And today, we have "Ghost Birds," the biography to ensure that Jim Tanner's fieldwork will not be forgotten, thanks to Stephen Lyn. Not only will Jim Tanner's historical study of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker not be forgotten, but we now have a very detailed, very intimate look at Jim's days as he searched for every last existing ivory-bill in the country.

Over the years I have heard pieces of Jim's tale because I am fortunate enough to know Nancy Tanner, and from living in the area where Jim Tanner lived, worked and raised his family. I have seen Nancy give her Ivory-bill lecture, which is so informative and entertaining, it brings me to tears of laughter and sadness every time. But in "Ghost Birds," the author does something different, something more. He gives the entire story of Jim's study, from start to finish, in the order in which the events occurred. The effective result: you may as well be in Jim Tanner's used 1931 Model A Ford right next to him, because you have been taken along on the journey. Bales does a masterful job of chronicling Tanner's work, so that one gets the true sense of what this man went through to learn all that he could about these vanishing birds while there was still time.

Now a confession: this book was not easy for me to read. It was a fascinating page-turner, so that was not the problem. The book was hard for me to read because I already knew how it ended. With every page turned, I grew ever more sullen. The Ivory-billed Woodpeckers were vanishing, quickly, and although Jim knew exactly why the birds were in trouble, he was ultimately powerless to save them. It seemed every star was out of alignment for the ivory-bill, and the unfolding facts were devastating for me to read.

My tender heart aside, I am very grateful to Bales for creating this book. He has given a priceless gift to all of us: a precise compilation of Tanner's invaluable work with the ivory-bill, all wrapped up in the author's linguistic artistry. I think all nature lovers hold out hope that the Ivory-billed Woodpecker still flies some place, But if they are gone, then "Ghost Birds" follows Tanner as he followed these birds to their extinction, and the heartbreaking tale is sealed by Stephen Lyn Bales for all of posterity.

Janet Lee McKnight  
Wood Thrush Ridge  
163 Hammontree Lane  
Greenback, TN 37742  
865-271-8337

## KTOS MEMBERSHIP

Join or renew your membership in KTOS by mailing your annual dues to: Carole Gobert  
1304 Barcelona Drive  
Knoxville TN 37923  
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 April issue is Fri March 25  
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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The Knoxville CBC was held on Sunday, 2 January 2011. Some notes and highlights follow with full details below.

A total of 99 species were found on count day, our 3rd highest tally for this count. Quite good considering that the center of the 15-mile diameter count circle is centered at Kingston Pike and Ebenezer Rd in the heart of West Knoxville.

We had 45 observers in 27 parties (that includes 5 observers in 4 feederwatch parties) which is a typical level of participation over the past few years.

Highlights were a SUMMER TANAGER and SEDGE WREN, each recorded for only the second time on this count. The Summer Tanager has been coming to the suet feeder at Hugh Morgan's home... which was formerly owned by long-time TOS member Holly Overton. The Sedge Wren was found at the UT Plant Science Farm where one was also found on the Knoxville Fall Count in September (as a reminder, UTPSF is now OFF-LIMITS to the public... KTOS has special permission to conduct bird counts here).

Other good finds included 4 Snow Geese found by 2 different parties, Loggerhead Shrike at our last (somewhat) reliable spot in the circle on Roy Goddard Rd in Blount Co, and 2 Fish Crows found by 2 different parties.

Blackbirds made an impressive showing compared to recent years with our highest number of Common Grackle and Red-winged Blackbird since 1993-94. Good numbers of Rusty Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds were also found. These species were once common in the count circle when much of the area consisted of large farms, but they have become rather scarce in winter with increased suburban development.

The only species recorded in record high numbers were Wild Turkey and Northern Harrier.

Our biggest misses included American Wigeon, Ruddy Duck, Sandhill Crane, Eastern Screech-Owl, Barred Owl, Rufous Hummingbird (3rd consecutive year), and House Wren. Northern Bobwhite was missed as well, but, unfortunately, that has come to be expected.

Thanks to everyone that participated!

Dean Edwards  
Compiler, Knoxville CBC