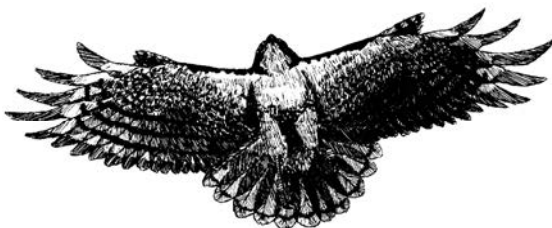




## March Program: Inspiring Art & Conservation

Join us on **Wednesday, March 7, at 6:45 p.m.** to hear artist Vickie Henderson present her program, "Bird Attitudes: Inspiring Art and Conservation." Birds are funny, fun, and fascinating. From the top of their heads to the pads on their feet, a bird's color patterns and shape offer many clues into its lifestyle and habits. Add to that the personality revealed through behavior and you have the inspiration for all kinds of bird-related pursuits. Join Vickie as she shares her photography, art and stories, and shows you just how birds inspire her to grab her brushes and paint.

The meeting will be held in Room 117 of the UT College of Veterinary Medicine. For directions, visit the Meetings page on our website at [www.tnbirds.org/KTOS.html](http://www.tnbirds.org/KTOS.html).



Red-tailed Hawk, Steven D'Amato.

## Board Members Still Needed

Looking for a way to become more involved in KTOS? With officer elections for the 2012-2013 year coming up quickly, now is the perfect opportunity to jump right in! We have board positions open at both the local and state level. Officers will be nominated in April, voted upon in May, and installed in June.

If you'd like to put forward a nomination for yourself or someone else, please contact Billie Cantwell at [bfcantwell@gmail.com](mailto:bfcantwell@gmail.com) or (865) 212-9797. The following positions need filled for the coming year:

- Newsletter Editor
- State Director (3 openings)

## Upcoming Vote on Hummingbird Event

After the immense success of our hummingbird event in 2009, the board has decided that it would like to organize another similar event for this summer. This year's hummingbird festival would again take place at Ijams Nature Center and feature hummingbird banding, a speaker, a vendor fair, and a "bird bargain" marketplace. Ijams is already on board, and Bob Sargent, hummingbird bander and speaker, has said he is available on Sunday, July 29.

At the March meeting, the board will be putting the event to a club vote to seek approval for it and any expenses it could incur. If you would like to know more about what we'd like to do or would like to voice your opinion one way or another, be sure to make it to the meeting on March 7.



Great Blue Heron, Steven D'Amato.



## Presidential Perch

I want to thank all the officers, directors, and volunteers who have stepped forward and put time and effort in to making KTOS a great organization. We have a great group of people who are willing to give of their time, talents, and ideas. We are moving forward with great activities and conservation ideas and becoming a more active club. If you would like to volunteer, we will have lots of opportunities coming up soon!

Speaking of opportunities, we need a newsletter editor for the coming year. Angela's commitments do not leave her enough time to continue her excellent work in this role, and we're looking for a replacement. We also still have positions open for state directors. If you're interested, please contact me (Billie) at [bfcantwell@gmail.com](mailto:bfcantwell@gmail.com) or (865) 212-9797 or David Johnson at [jjadmj@infionline.net](mailto:jjadmj@infionline.net).

I do have another request that we really need your help on. We have three Federal Duck Stamps left and we need to sell them. We are asking for an \$18 donation per duck stamp and keychain holder, of which \$15 goes to help buy more federal land for us to bird watch on and \$3 goes to KTOS. (In reality, all \$18 will go to KTOS because we have already bought the stamps!) So please step up at the March meeting and help us out!

A special thank you to Kathy Getsey, Wild Birds Unlimited, and Jim Turpin from Coveside Conservation who have donated several nesting boxes to KTOS. We will be discussing where these boxes could best be used.

Here's to a great spring and some great birding!

*Billie Cantwell*



Your purchase of a Federal Duck Stamp helps protect habitat for species like this American Black Duck!

American Black Duck, Steven D'Amato.

## Get Out and Get Birding! March Field Trips

### **Kyker Bottoms Refuge**

**Sunday, March 4 @ 8:30 a.m.**

**Leader: Mike Nelson, [madbirder@surfbirder.com](mailto:madbirder@surfbirder.com)**

Kyker Bottoms re-opens to the public on March 1, so this is our first chance to bird large segments of this property since our trip in November. Early migrants, late winter sparrows, wrens, and rails will be some of the target birds on this trip, and in order to see them, we will be walking in potentially wet fields. Wear old shoes and clothes, preferably waterproof ones. You don't have to walk through the fields but can stay to the sides, watching for any birds the rest of us flush into view.

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the paved parking lot by the "old" observation platform on Big Gully Road. Mike will be there at 7:00 a.m. to listen for owls, so if you'd like to join him for this "early bird special," please let him know by email. For more info and directions, visit [www.tnbirds.org/birdfinding/KykerBottoms.htm](http://www.tnbirds.org/birdfinding/KykerBottoms.htm).

### **Fort Loudoun Lake Loop**

**Saturday, March 17 @ 8:30 a.m.**

**Leader: Marcia Davis, (865) 558-1458**

This trip was originally planned for January but had to be rescheduled due to bad weather. So, if you're still hankering for some great water birds, join us on this morning and afternoon jaunt out to local bodies of water. The group will likely visit Louisville Point Park, Poland Creek, Phelps Dairy Pond, Scenic Point, Tellico Boat Launch, Ft. Loudoun Dam and Marina, Lenoir City, and Concord Park. We'll search for waterfowl, gulls, and all things avian. The trip will likely last until 2:00 p.m., and we will lunch at Calhoun's or you can bring your own.

To carpool, meet at 8:30 a.m. at the west end of the Kroger parking lot just east of the intersection of Northshore Drive and Pellissippi Parkway (9501 Northshore Drive SW, Knoxville, 37922).

### **River Bluff atop Cherokee Trail**

**Thursday, March 22 @ 9:00 a.m.**

**Leader: Tony King, (865) 988-6172**

This 70-acre woodland habitat includes two large ponds, a ridge top, and a low elevation trail along Fort Loudoun Reservoir, so we can expect a variety of bird species. The overlook also has a spectacular view of downtown Knoxville and the river.

Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking area. To reach the site from I-40, take U.S. Hwy 129 South and exit at UT Hospital/Cherokee Trail. Follow Cherokee Trail uphill past the condo complexes to the parking area on the left near the blue water tower.

## Nesting Bald Eagles on the French Broad

We've been tracking Bald Eagle nesting activities on and downstream of Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge on the French Broad River for several years. Last year, based on a tip from a local resident, an established nest was verified downstream of the refuge.

On February 15, Billie Cantwell, Colin Leonard, and I floated that section of the French Broad River and verified two adult Bald Eagles at the nest. One adult was seen initially on the rim of the nest and then disappeared into the nest (possibly incubating?). Its mate was seen roosting in a nearby hardwood. Here's hoping for successful hatching, fledging, and continued recruitment to our Knoxville-area eagle population!

*Contributed by Wayne H. Schacher*



*One of the adult Bald Eagles seen along the French Broad River on February 15.*



*Red-winged Blackbird, Steven D'Amato.*

## In Memoriam: Bill Yambert

Bill Yambert, career biologist with the Tennessee Game and Fish Commission and later TWRA, died in mid-February at age 87. Some of the older members in our Chapter may remember Bill; I had the pleasure of working with him when we were with TWRA and he was Nongame Biologist.

In Bill's obituary, specific mention was made of Bill's association with KTOS, and I'd like to repeat it here. Bill "was an avid birdwatcher and was a member of KTOS for more than 70 years, of which he served as President in 1950. In 2004, at the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party of the society (KTOS), he was the only member to be in both the 1940 and 2004 group pictures." Quite a tribute!

*Contributed by Wayne H. Schacher*

## Birding Briefs

After hearing about it at the February KTOS meeting, **Ron Hoff and Dollyann Myers** headed out to Sevier County on February 2 in search of a **Common Gallinule**. The pair found the bird hanging out with an **American Coot** in a very small pond off Highway 411, east of Sevierville. **Harold Howell** also saw the bird on February 5.

On February 21, the winds blew in a big gathering of birds under **Carole Gobert's** feeders. She observed more than **60 Red-winged Blackbirds** and **2 Common Grackles**.

**Ron Hoff and Dollyann Myers** visited Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery in Anderson County on February 23 to check for new arrivals. They succeeded by finding **one Tree Swallow, 3 Redheads, 22 Ring-billed Gulls, one Palm Warbler, 5 Red-winged Blackbirds, and a pair of Brown-headed Cowbirds**.

Also on February 23, **Mark Campen** reported a **Great Blue Heron nesting colony composed of 50 nests** just up river from Fourth Creek.

*Email your cool birds (species, number, date, location) to Angela Hoffman at [ahoffman07@bellsouth.net](mailto:ahoffman07@bellsouth.net) or leave a message at (865) 670-8822.*

**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](http://www.tnbirds.org/KTOS.html)

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## Cruisin' on the River!

Eleven KTOS members enjoyed an afternoon of boating, birding, and barbeque on Saturday, February 18, as part of the club's field trip to Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge aboard Blue Moon Cruises. Those in attendance included Gary and Alice Woody, Tony King and Denise Nauman, Michael and Maya Plaster, Ed LeGrand, Colin Leonard and Billie Cantwell, Fran Cantwell, and Kathy Blackwelder. Ed LeGrand kindly compiled the following list of birds seen that day and submitted them to eBird.

Species seen: Snow/Ross's Goose 1 (not confirmed as to species); Canada Goose 30; Gadwall 35; American Black Duck 4; Mallard 600; Northern Pintail 2; Green-winged Teal 40; Red-head 1; Ring-necked Duck 1; Buffle-head 25; Hooded Merganser 10; Pied-billed Grebe 12; Horned Grebe 18; Double-crested Cormorant 200; Great Blue Heron 60; Black Vulture 1; Turkey Vulture 8; Osprey 1; Bald Eagle 15; American Coot 70; Sandhill Crane 2500; Whooping Crane 2; Killdeer 30; Ring-billed Gull 400; Rock Pigeon 40; Belted Kingfisher 5; Red-bellied Woodpecker 1; American Crow 20; Carolina Chickadee 1; and Tufted Titmouse 1.



*Happy KTOS members aboard the Blue Moon Cruise boat on February 18, 2012.*