



Black-throated Green Warbler, a typical March visitor to our area. Source: William H. Majoros (Wikimedia Commons).

Information Needed

Please submit your birding briefs, interesting photographs, rare sightings, or anything that may be of interest to KTOS members to Michael Plaster (KTOS.Editor@gmail.com).



Chimney Swift, a typical March visitor to our area. Source: Jim McCulloch (Wikimedia Commons).

March Program: “Environmental Man!”

KTOS is delighted to present at the March 5, 2014 meeting Oliver Lang as “Environmental Man!” Oliver reincarnated this magical presentation for the Hummingbird Festival last August, and it was such a hit, we are bringing him to our meeting to delight young and old alike as he talks through animals to impart environmental wisdom and tips. Join us for this educational and fun presentation by “Environment Man!” — and encourage any kids you know to come. A treat for all ages!

The meeting will be held in Room 118 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. For directions, please visit the meetings page on KTOS’ website at www.tnbirds.org/chapters/knoxvill/KTOS_Meetings.html.

Knoxville Christmas Bird Count Results

The Knoxville CBC was held on Saturday, Jan 4, 2014. Fifty observers in 27 parties identified 105 species which is a new record for this count (previous was 102). The highlight of the count was 20 species of waterfowl and a massive number of gulls which signaled the beginning of this winter's invasion due to record ice coverage on the Great Lakes. Surf Scoter is a new species for the historic record of this count which dates back to 1902. Record high counts were set for several ducks and gulls.

Uncommon species: Surf Scoter (1st), Peregrine Falcon (2nd), White-winged Scoter (3rd), N. Bobwhite (4th record in last 20 years), and Orange-crowned Warbler (7th).

Record high counts: N. Shoveler, Redhead, Lesser Scaup, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Rufous Hummingbird (tie), Eastern Phoebe, Orange-crowned Warbler (tie)

Common Yellowthroat.
Source: Wikimedia Commons



Presidential Perch

Spring is around the corner! We have had a great winter for birding. Lots of water fowl all over the place. Life birds for a lot of us, White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck and loons. Now we will start watching for the birds that will be headed north for the summer. So get out, invite a friend to tag along and have fun!

The Discover Birds program is heating up. Sevierville Primary has invited us back for a group of 260 kids! I am estimating that we will reach close to 400 kids by the end of this school season. I really appreciate all the volunteers that make this a great program.

We are planning on a bigger and better "Wonder of Hummingbirds" festival again on August 23, 2014 at Ijams Nature Center. We are planning on more kid activities, more speakers, more walks for birds and butterflies. If you have some ideas that you would like to share with us that would be great. Please remember that when you are doing your spring cleaning that KTOS is collecting items for the Bargain Barn. Items that we need are bird books, feeders, and anything that has to do with nature and birding.

I hope you had fun with the Great Backyard Bird Count, I did. It was a record breaking year for the number of countries reporting 110 last year and 127 this year! Preliminary results show that more than 2,500 snowy owls were reported in 25 states and seven Canadian provinces. Just wish one would come close to Tennessee!

Billie Cantwell



White-winged Scoter, Source: Len Blumin (Wikimedia Commons).

Get Out and Get Birding! February Field Trips

**Kyker Bottoms Refuge and Abrams Creek
Saturday, March 1, 2014 @ 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Tom Howe, thowe@lillyco.com**

Kyker Bottoms re-opens to the public on March 1, so this is our first chance of the year to bird large segments of this property. Early migrants, late winter sparrows, Red Crossbills, wrens, and rails may be some of birds that may be seen on this field trip. It may be possible that the fields may be wet, so please wear appropriate clothes. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the paved parking lot by the "old" observation platform on Big Gully Rd.

**American Woodcock Courtship Display
Sunday, March 9, 2013
Leader: Tom Howe, thowe@lillyco.com**

The location and time has not been determined. Additional details will be posted at groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/KnoxvilleTOS/info.

**Cades Cove Campground and Sewage Ponds
Saturday, March 22, 2014 @ 8:30 a.m.
Leaders: Warren Bielenburg (865) 681-7884 and
Tom Howe (865) 748-9610, thowe@lillyco.com**

This trip is a 3-mile walk over level terrain on paved roads and unpaved trails. Possible birds include Wood Ducks, Mallards, Bufflehead and Snipe on the sewage ponds; there may be other waterfowl or shorebirds as visitors change from day to day. Other birds expected would be woodpeckers (Pileated, Downy, Red-bellied, Hairy, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and N. Flickers), both kinglets, White- and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Pine Siskins and Am. Goldfinch, E. Bluebirds, Am. Crows, Blue Jays, E. Phoebe, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Palm Warblers and other migrants.

Meet at the parking area by the campground store at 8:30 a.m. Folks may wish to bring snacks, lunch and water.



American Woodcock, Source: Ronald Slabke (Wikimedia Commons)

Discover Birds Program

Ten Members of the Webelos Den Pack 73 in Norris, Tennessee, leaders and parents were invited to join the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society (KTOS) and [Discover Birds](#) volunteers on our birding field trip to Cove Lake State Park in Caryville, Tennessee, on November 9th. The pack was taught how to use binoculars by Tom Howe and the trip was documented by Vickie Henderson on the Discover Birds blog page.

On November 21, 2013 KTOS and the Discover Birds Program hosted 33 students and their parent-teachers from the Blount Home Education Association at Ijams Nature Center for a great afternoon of discovering birds! After the slide show and Paula's bird treasures, the group was entertained by Stephen Lyn Bales and a Red-tailed Hawk! The group was equipped with binoculars, scope and the pocket naturalist guide Tennessee Birds. The pocket guides were donated to KTOS by Waterford Press to use in our Discover Birds program. The guide highlights over 140 familiar species and is laminated for durability. KTOS really appreciates the guides as it helps the kids in identifying the birds they see. We do ask for the guides back as we plan on using them again. However, we are never upset when we come up short, it means someone is HOOKED on birds!

We have dates for three more groups: February 28, 2014 we will present to students attending Natures Way Montessori School; March 29, 2014 we will present to Brownie Troop 20869 of Oak Ridge, a group of 16 second and third graders; April 4, 2014 we will present to First Lutheran School in Knoxville; and May 9, 2014 we will present to Sevierville Primary School which has asked us to return and present to 260 second graders.



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

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