

VOLUME 27 • NUMBER 4

**MAY 2004**

# through the **biKNOXulars**

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

•1924-2004. Celebrating 80 years!•

## **'Breeding Grassland Bird Populations at Fort Campbell' is the topic of May 5 program**

**B**ander, UT Doctoral Candidate and KTOS member, Jim Giocomo will present "Breeding Grassland Bird Populations At Fort Campbell And Other Interesting Bird Observations" at the Wednesday May 5 meeting at 7 p.m. in room 117 of the UT Vet building.

Giocomo has been researching grassland birds at Fort Campbell (located in Montgomery County, Tennessee and Hopkinsville-Christian County, Kentucky) for three years now (2001-2003), piggy-backing on the work conducted by Daniel Moss during the previous two years (for a total of five years of data, 1999-2003). This work at Fort Campbell is the basis for Giocomo's PhD dissertation in Natural Resource Management.

Fort Campbell, best known as home to the 101st

Airborne Division, covers 105,068 acres. It contains some of the most significant native grasslands in the eastern United States. Grassland bird decline makes this area, as well as other military installations with large native grassland tracks, of special interest. The research project, which was initiated in 1999, has three main objectives:

1) Document population density and reproductive success of grassland birds and relate those parameters to habitat characteristics and management practices,

2) Propose a design for land management on military bases with grasslands that optimizes the management of grassland habitats for wildlife and military training, and

*(Continued on page 2)*

 MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### **Saturday May 1, 7:30 AM**

*Cross Mountain, Caryville, TN. See page 1.*

### **Thursday, May 6, 8:00 AM**

*Sharps Ridge, Knox County. See page 3.*

### **Saturday, May 8, 2004**

*International Migratory Bird Day. See page 3.*

### **Sunday, May 16, 9:00 AM until ?**

*Janet McKnight's home - Greenback. See page 3.*

### **Saturday, May 22, 8 AM**

*Field trip to Monroe County and the Cherohala Skyway. See page 3.*

### **Sat, May 1; Tues, May 4; Sat, May 8**

*American Museum of Science and Energy Field Trips in Oak Ridge. See page 3.*

## **May field trips.**

### **Saturday May 1, 7:30 AM**

*Cross Mountain, Caryville, TN*

**Leaders:** Harold Howell (865) 828-6302;

howellh2@bellsouth.net, Tony Headrick, 687-9956

For those members not attending the State TOS meeting, meet at Ingles parking lot at I-75 and Emory Road at 7:30 a.m. for car pooling to the site or at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the restaurant at Cove Lake State Park. Target birds are locally breeding warblers including Swainson's, Prothonotary, Cerulean and Chestnut Sided as well as many other warblers, orioles, tanagers, flycatchers and spring migrants. Bring insect repellent, lunch and a drink.

*(Continued on page 3)*

*"For man, as for flower and beast and bird, the supreme triumph is to be most vividly, most perfectly alive."*

- D. H. Lawrence, English novelist (1885-1930)

## Breeding Grassland Bird Populations

(Continued from page 1)

3) Use the knowledge gained through this project to promote grassland bird conservation in the region, in conjunction with state and federal wildlife agencies and Partner's In Flight.

During the past five years, Giacomo and Moss have monitored over 1,400 nests of 43 species. Nest success has ranged from 8% to 84% yearly for all target species and most nest failures (>90%) were due to predation. Between 2000 and 2003, they banded 109 Henslow's Sparrows and 115 Grasshopper Sparrows. Utilizing all of that data, they are currently developing a model land management system to meet military training and wildlife conservation objectives for Fort Campbell, as well as other military installations.

In addition to all of that work, Giacomo has found time to band Northern Saw-whet Owls (primarily

Blount County) and study winter and early spring grassland birds at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge (Knox County). He regularly invites KTOS members along for banding at Seven Islands. If you haven't taken advantage of this opportunity I encourage you all to do it. Giacomo goes out of his way to make sure that KTOS members are fully engaged in the process. When I went out with him, KTOS members were able to release the processed birds, a wonderful chance to hold a wild bird in your hands. I find the birds often look remarkably different when you see them that up close.

During his presentation, "Breeding Grassland Bird Populations At Fort Campbell And Other Interesting Bird Observations," Giacomo will present background information on grassland habitats and birds, particularly focusing on Fort Campbell. He will then discuss the current research and explain its implications for wildlife and grassland management.

- Tracey Muise, program coordinator

### CLUB HISTORY

1924-2004

 MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## KTOS celebrates 80th Birthday - June 2

**D**on't forget: it's KTOS's octogenarian birthday and we're having a party! Our traditional June potluck picnic will be held again at Ijams Nature Center on Wednesday, June 2, but this time we'll be celebrating our 80th birthday at the site where it all started.

The party will be in the Visitors Center Multi-purpose Room and Back Terrace.

If you know any former members or anyone that might like to become a member please invite them to attend.

As is tradition, everyone should bring a covered dish to share. We also hear there will be a birthday cake. Plans are still a bit tentative but the following timetable should be close.

**5:30 PM** - Begin early to have time to socialize, do some birding at Ijams and take a leisurely stroll to the Homesite.

**7 PM** - (Weather permitting) Assemble as a group at Ijams Homesite for a group photo of all KTOS members present.

**7:30ish** - Reassemble at Visitor Center for food and a short business meeting.

**Group Photo** We want to recreate (in the same location) a group photo taken in 1940.

**Silent Auction Items NEEDED!** We hope to have a silent auction to raise money for the planned new raptor enclosure at Ijams, so that the nature center can adopt two more large disabled and nonreleasable birds of prey. But, in order to do that we need donations of auctionable items. If you have any bird or nature related items (photos, prints, books, old bird journals, magazines, etc.) you can donate or if you have a business and can donate an item or gift certificate please contact Lyn at lynbales@comcast.net or 577-4717, ext. 24 w or 577-6978 h.

**Bird ID table** Ijams has a small collection of stuffed birds believed to have belonged to H. P. Ijams. The birds are not identified so bring your knowledge of world birds and exotic field guides.

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



80th  
Birthday Party  
and  
Homecoming

JUNE 2, 2004

## May field trips. Let's get together! *(Continued from page 1)*

### Thursday, May 6, 8:00 AM

*Sharps Ridge, Knox County*

**Leader:** Tony Headrick, 687-9956.

Meet at the ranger's house at 8:00 a.m. The walk will be along the road in Sharps Ridge Memorial Park. Spring migrants are the objects of this field trip. Orioles, grosbeaks warblers and other spring migrants are expected.

### Saturday, May 8, 2004

*International Migratory Bird Day*

**Coordinator:** Ron Hoff, 435-4547, rondolly@esper.net

Pick your spot and count birds all or part of the day. Keep track of the time spent and the distances covered and separate these by foot travel and automobile travel. Report your findings to Ron soon thereafter.

### Sunday, May 16, 9:00 AM until ?

*Home of Janet McKnight in Greenback, TN*

**Leader:** Janet McKnight (865) 856-8332 h, (865) 856-2229 w

Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Janet McKnight in Greenback, TN. (Please call Janet for directions.) Janet would like to share the many birds that visit or live on her 12-acre property in Greenback. David Trently will lend his expertise in studying the fine details and field marks of the birds we observe. Expect the usual feeder visitors as well as Purple Martins, other swallow species, several sparrow species (Grasshopper?), hummingbirds and many meadowlarks. There will be a big pot of homemade chili simmering on the stove for those who want to stay for lunch.

### Saturday, May 22, 8 AM

*Field trip to Monroe County and the Cherohala Skyway*

Joint trip with the Chattanooga Chapter of TOS

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

PLEASE contact me (David) at least two days before the trip (I will be birding elsewhere if I don't hear from anyone planning to attend!) Meet Harold Howell at 8:00 a.m. at the Stokely Bldg on Cedar Bluff Rd, or alternatively, you may meet us at 9:00 a.m. at the Hardees in Tellico Plains OR join me at Chota Waterfowl Refuge at 6:00 a.m. for Whip-poor-will, Chuck-will's-widow, owls, low elevation warblers... before heading to Tellico Plains. Along the skyway we can expect to see and hear breeding warblers, tanagers, flycatchers, thrushes. Target birds include

Canada, Black-throated Blue, Chestnut-sided, Blackburnian Warblers, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Common Raven, Brown Creeper, Black-capped Chickadee, Veery, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, plus butterflies and a few dragonflies. Bring lunch. We'll be birding well into the afternoon. There will not be much walking, only a few short trail hikes on possibly wet paths. Insect repellent may be useful as there is sometimes gnat swarms at the mid-elevations.

### AMSE Nature Walk Schedule - Spring 2004

In addition to the KTOS Field Trips, the American Museum of Science and Energy (AMSE) in Oak Ridge has graciously extended an invitation to KTOS to participate in their field trips.

Please call them at (865) 576-3200 to reserve a spot on any of these trips. The following walks have been scheduled in Oak Ridge, TN:

#### 1. Bird Walk - Solway Bend, Three Bends Scenic and Wildlife Refuge

**Date:** Saturday, May 1, **Location:** Meet at south parking lot of ORAU's Scarboro Operations Site, **Time:** 7 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., **Leader:** Jim Evans (TWRA) **Limit:** 25 (children allowed), **Recommendations:** Walking will be over level dirt roads (distance 1-2 Miles). Dress in layers, bring bug spray, wear sturdy shoes, bring field guide to birds, bring binoculars and water.

#### 2. Floodplain Walk - North Boundary Greenway

**Date:** Tuesday, May 4, **Location:** Meet at west guard-house, Oak Ridge Turnpike, **Time:** 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., **Leader:** Mark Peterson (ORNL), **Limit:** 25 (children allowed), **Recommendations:** Walking will be up and down hill with a short off-trail trip (overall distance 1-2 miles). Dress warmly in layers, wear sturdy shoes, bring bug spray and water.

#### 3. Bird Walk - Lower East Fork Poplar Creek

**Date:** Saturday, May 8, **Location:** Meet at west guard-house, Oak Ridge Turnpike, **Time:** 7 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., **Leader:** Jim Evans (TWRA), **Limit:** 25 (children allowed), **Recommendations:** Walking will be over level dirt roads (distance 1-2 miles). Dress in layers, bring bug spray, wear sturdy shoes, bring field guide to birds, bring binoculars and water.

Call me at (865) 828-6302 if you have questions.

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

---

**Catch a wave!** "One of the great, uniquely American, birdwatching experiences is a spring "warbler wave" when hundreds—occasionally thousands—of wood warblers of many species, all clad in gorgeous nuptial plumage, descend from their nocturnal migration to rest and feed in favorable areas." - Christopher Leahy, *The Birder's Companion*

## KTOS mourns the loss of Barbara Finney – *By Marcia Davis*

Longtime Knoxville and Columbia Chapter Tennessee Ornithological Society member Barbara Wayman Finney passed away April 7, 2004 in Knoxville. Barbara contributed to TOS in many ways including serving as state president from 1989 until 1991.

Barbara was one of the founding members of the Columbia TOS Chapter around 1973. It was while living in Columbia that Barbara became interested in birds. The late George R. Mayfield, Jr. and his wife Cleo were Barbara's close friends and birding companions. George, a prominent TOS member, passed along his enthusiasm and great knowledge of Tennessee's birds to Barbara. Barbara wrote bird columns for the Columbia newspaper.

Around 1980, Barbara and her late husband, James "Jim" I. Finney, Jr., moved to Knoxville with their three children, James III "Buddy", John and Virginia. Barbara soon shared her many talents with the Knoxville TOS Chapter when she was elected to the offices of Secretary in 1982 and President in 1984.

During her presidency of the Knoxville Chapter, Barbara worked with the late Louise Fuller and other chapter members for the eventual establishment of House Mountain State Natural Area. She also was responsible for planning the very successful 1986 joint meeting in Gatlinburg with TOS and the Wilson Ornithological Society.

Barbara was elected state secretary in 1983. She served as state president from 1989 until 1991.

Barbara also shared her financial knowledge by serving on the TOS State Finance Committee and later by serving as state treasurer during 1995.

After Jim's death Barbara continued to travel, always accompanied by binoculars and a field guide. Captiva and Sanibel Islands in Florida were her yearly winter vacation and birding destinations for many years. She drove through the refuge at Ding Darling nearly everyday to check out the birds. She enjoyed trips in recent years to France, Italy, Austria and Newfoundland. She was always looking forward to her next trip and the next opportunity to see new birds and places.

Barbara served other organizations as ably as she served TOS. She was Elder and Chairman of the Board of Trustees at Knoxville's Westminster Presbyterian Church and past president of both Knoxville's Blount Mansion Association and Columbia's James K. Polk Memorial Association.

The Tennessee Ornithological Society and its members benefited greatly from Barbara's dedicated service. Those who knew her will remember her for her conscientiousness and perseverance in everything she undertook, her love of birds and nature and her great generosity in the sharing of her talents and spirit.



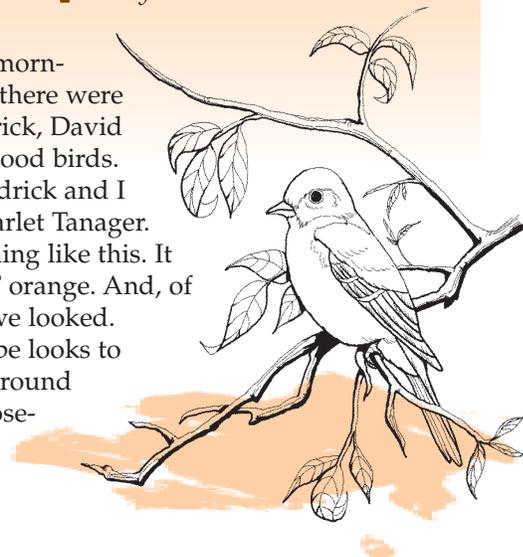
## UT Orange Tanager highlight of field trip – *By Dean Edwards*

KTOS held a field trip to Sharps Ridge in Knoxville on Saturday morning, April 24. People came and went and I didn't do a good count but there were probably 40-50 birders present. Thanks to Harold Howell, Tony Headrick, David Trently, Dan Mooney and the others that helped everyone find some good birds.

There were several good looks at great birds but I think Tony Headrick and I are in agreement that the "bird of the day" for us was a UT-orange Scarlet Tanager. I've seen Scarlets that were less red and more orangy-looking but nothing like this. It looked to be the same color as a Baltimore Oriole. I'm talking BRIGHT orange. And, of course, I left the camera at home. Scarlet Tanagers were everywhere we looked.

In addition to a Cerulean Warbler that gave some great in-the-scope looks to those that stayed late, we had a very co-operative Cape May that sat around singing, letting us get the scopes on him as well. Baltimore Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings and a Blackburnian Warbler were all big hits as usual and apparently the Wild Turkeys put on a show just before I got there.

*(Reprinted from TN-BIRD listserv)*



**MEMBERS OF KNOXVILLE CHAPTER OF TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, 2003-2004***Last name, first names (as of April 1, 2003):*


---

Armstrong, Marcus W.  
 Baker, Carolyn P.  
 Bales, Stephen Lyn  
 Baylor, Lelia B.  
 Beintema, Jane  
 Benard, JoAnne  
 Berry, Lee and Linda,  
 Bills, Frank and Bostic, Sharon  
 Blane, Dianne  
 Borden, Sandra E.  
 Boys, Ruth  
 Brumett, Palmira and Fitzgerald, James  
 Buehler, David  
 Burkhardt, John M. and Powers, Laura B.  
 Burkhardt, Patrick and Fae  
 Campbell, Jim and Betty Reid  
 Carpenter, Mary  
 Chitwood, Howard  
 Clebsch, Edward and Meredith  
 Clendenen, Steve and Gail  
 Collier, Clay and Laura  
 Collier, Robert and Louise  
 Cottrell, Otey and Ines  
 Cox, Harold and June  
 Crowe, C. Randall  
 Cutsinger, Ken  
 Davis, Marcia  
 Davis, Richard  
 Day, Norman and Cindy  
 Dean, James M, and Laura M.  
 Denton, Roseanna  
 Dubke, Ken  
 Edwards, K. Dean and Hensley, Amber  
 Fisher, Frank and Jacqueline  
 Fitzgerald, Thomas E and Marian  
 Ford, Patricia  
 Foster, Grace K.  
 Freeberg, Todd  
 French, Elizabeth  
 French, Mary Laura  
 French, Susan  
 Gammage, Richard B.  
 Gilmer, Brice and Beverly  
 Godwin-Kogelschatz, Beth  
 Gobert, Carole P.  
 Goolsby, Ginger  
 Gray, Claude and Barbara  
 Gurd, Dave  
 Hadder, Jerry and Oakes, Marie  
 Halko, Lovina  
 Harb, Jim  
 Harmon, Patricia L.  
 Hartigan, Paul  
 Hassil, Madeleine  
 Haynes, Dianna  
 Headrick, Tony, Dawn and Lee  
 Henry, Kim and Steve  
 Hoff, Audrey  
 Hoff, Ron and Myers, Dollyann  
 Howe, Thomas  
 Howell, David  
 Howell, Harold and Harriet  
 Howie, John and Carol  
 Hoyle, Susan  
 Ihle, Elizabeth  
 Jamerson, Reece D.  
 James, Wesley K. and Norma  
 Johnson, David and Alexander, Jean  
 Johnson, Kristine  
 Jones, Andrew  
 Jordan, Sara  
 Joslin, Dev and Harriet  
 Kaserman, Alice M.  
 Keebler, Joel  
 King, Tony  
 Koella, Jon A.  
 Kolak, Alvin and Sandra  
 Krauss, Stephen  
 Lacy, Beth  
 Lambdin, Gerald and Debra  
 Lammers, Carol E.  
 Leith, Donald G. and Kathleen M.  
 Leki, Ilona  
 Levy, Henri and Bettie  
 Long, Patricia  
 Long, Pennie and John  
 Loveday, Robert & Leigh  
 Manous, Edward L.  
 Mason, James and Bettie  
 Massey, Judy F.  
 McGown, George and Maryrose  
 McKnight, Janet and Timothy  
 McLean, Donald  
 McMahan, Dennis W. and Brenda F.  
 McNew, Bridgett Colleen  
 McNutt, William and Alison  
 Mercer, Alice and Charlie

*(Continued on page 6)*

**2003-2004 MEMBERS OF KTOS** *(Continued from page 5)*


---

Milligan, Brenda	Spiegel, Harriette L.
Mooney, Daniel and Laurie	Steffy, Robert and Diane
Moore, Nell and Jimi	Stephenson, Lee
Morgan, Rhea	Sullivan, William and Mary
Muise, Charlie and Tracey L.	
	Tallent, Ann
Newman, H. Bruce and Betty	Tanner, Nancy
Nicholson, Charles P.	Tate, Virginia B.
	Taylor, Vickie
Owen, Frances	Teal, Cecilia and Roger
	Terry, Bob and Jean
Patterson, Patricia A.	Thompson, Robert L. and Frances
Pearl, Laurie S.	Tipton, Samuel R.
Perry, Alfred M. , Jr.	Torbett, Alice and David
Perry, Sandy and Wolford, Herbie	Trently, Allan
Petrey, Karen	Trently, David and Mia
	Trice, Mary
Quinter, Curt and Elaine	
	Uyehara, Christine
Reeves, Melody M.	Uziel, Mayo and Mary
Robbins, G. D.	
Roy, Kelly W.	Vaughen, Janet and Vic
Rozek, John	Verhulst, David C. and Karen
Rudolph, Martha	Von Gruenigen, Rodney and Phyllis
	Vornehm, Richard and Marita
Satterfield, Stephen and Rebecca	Vowell, Donald K. and Tabor, Mary Alice
Saunders, Paul J.	
Schaff, Frank	Welch, June D.
Schilling, Elizabeth	Welsh, Christopher and Deborah
Scott, Robert and Julia	Wilson, Eileen P.
Sharp, Boyd and Mary Jane	Wilson, Jane
Sheliga, Sharon	Wilson, Kay
Simms, Sarah Beth Stanford	Wong, Elizabeth Mei
Smith, Johneta L.	Woody, Alice and Gary
Snow, Tim and Angela	
Sledjeski, Michael Sylva and Gibbens, Leslie	Yares, Jerry and Rhea
Snyder, Dee	
Snyder, Susan	Zaslow, Alan

**NOTE:** Any current TOS member who would like a list of contact information for all KTOS members should contact chapter president Charlie Muise at [cmmbirds@yahoo.com](mailto:cmmbirds@yahoo.com)

# J. B. Owen Memorial Endowment Annual report 2003-04

- May 1, 2004

The purpose of the J.B. Owen Memorial Endowment is to honor the memory of J.B. Owen, longtime Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS) member known to thousands in East Tennessee through his columns in Knoxville newspapers. The Endowment provides funds for projects that promote the welfare and conservation of birds in Tennessee.

Guidelines for the J.B. Owen Memorial Endowment require the J.B. Owen Endowment Committee to present a report at the General Meeting of the Knoxville Chapter of TOS (KTOS) in May of each year as to the projects funded, the KTOS contribution, operating expenses, and other pertinent information as to the status of the Endowment and its administration.

## New Project Funded

Jennifer Powers, a graduate student at East Tennessee State University, received a J.B. Owen Award of \$500 to support research on the reproductive success and natal dispersal of American Kestrels. The backbone for Jennifer's project is the American Kestrel nestbox trail along Interstate 181 in Sullivan, Washington and Unicoi Counties. The trail has been active for six nesting seasons but never evaluated for nesting and fledgling success. Jennifer will determine how successful the trail is and how it compares with other trails across the country. Fledglings from the previous season were banded and she will be watching to see if they return to the area in which they were raised. In its review of Jennifer's proposal, the J.B. Owen Endowment Committee concluded that Jennifer's project provides an outstanding opportunity for use of J.B. Owen Funds to promote the welfare and conservation of birds in Tennessee.

## Financial Summary

J.B. Owen Memorial Endowment Financial Summary	
Fund Balance (May 1, 2003)	\$4,405.76
KTOS Contributions	\$2,147.70
Other Contributions	\$66.00
Interest	\$138.04
Distributions	\$500.00
<b>Fund Balance (April 30, 2004)</b>	<b>\$6,257.50</b>
Operating Expenses (paid from the treasury of KTOS as part of the general business of KTOS)	\$9.12

## Other Accomplishments

- Diane Steffy joined the J.B. Owen Endowment Committee.
- To archive records of Fund-related activities, the Committee began a Memory Book project.
- Solicitations were widely distributed for proposals for the J.B. Owen Award (posted on TOS Website, TOS chapter newsletters, *The Tennessee Warbler*, *The Tennessee Conservationist*, *Friends of Roan Mountain Newsletter*).

Submitted by J.B. Owen Endowment Committee  
 Jerry Hadder, Chairman  
 Jean Alexander  
 David Johnson  
 Marie Oakes  
 Bob Steffy  
 Diane Steffy

## TOS Bird Foray, Polk County, May 29-31

Please see the April issue of *The Tennessee Warbler* for details on this event or see [www.tnbirds.org](http://www.tnbirds.org) (Click "Publications and other literature," "The Tennessee Warbler" and then "here" for that issue on-line)

Please contact me soon if you plan to take part in this event. There has been no interest in it so far, so if I don't hear from anyone by May 7, it will be cancelled.

This is a beautiful part of Tennessee and offers some good birding, as well as tourist activities. You may not see any birds that you can't find around here, but we won't know for sure unless we spend some time birding down there. Common Raven and Red Crossbills may be possible in the forests!

- David Trently

## Nestbox builder available for cheap – By the "Jazzed" Janet McKnight

I have just completed the huge undertaking of making a 40-box bluebird trail around the perimeter of my property. But I prefer to call it a cavity-nesting trail, since I'm in love with all the birds, not just the blue ones. Because of the high number of boxes I needed, I knew I couldn't spare the expense of buying pre-made boxes. I found a box I really liked at Lowe's, and paid \$20 for it. (Yikes!). So now I had a prototype. I asked a friend who enjoyed woodworking if she would be willing to cut the pieces for 40 bird boxes if I provided the lumber and assembled the boxes myself. Once she said yes, I felt much better about beginning the project. When I got the first round of box components, I found that turning six pieces of wood into a nest box was harder than I thought—Amy Win from *Trading Spaces* I am not. But I soon got the hang of it, and soon I was urging my friend to "Cut more wood! Cut more wood!"

I was all a process of questions...What do I put the boxes on? How do I fasten them? What about a baffle? I eventually figured it all out, but it would have been very nice to have some hands-on help. So here's the

help for anyone who wants a cavity-nester trail. I want to assist others who are in the same situation I was...wanting a nest trail, but not quite sure where to begin. If you buy the supplies, my friend will cut the lumber for \$3 a box and I will volunteer my help to assemble the boxes and get them up. I would thoroughly enjoy helping the birds and the bird lovers as well, so don't hesitate to take me up on my offer.

Now that my 40 cavity-nester boxes are up, I am excited to see how the occupancy plays out in all the springs to come. The boxes run along a variety of habitats: woods, tall grass, short grass and hedgerow.

I look forward to keeping records on each box and sending the data to Cornell. I can't resist peeking into the boxes when I come home from work. So far, one box has a neat nest of grass; a pair of bluebirds are my first tenants. And the box near my mailbox had a bit of moss in each of its four corners; the chickadees have come to call! I'm jazzed! This is the stuff of life! Well, my life anyway.

–Janet McKnight (865) 856-8332 H, (865) 856-2229 W



### OF NOTE!

## KTOSer Patty Ford guests on 'Style'

Patty Ford, KTOS member and owner of Five Sisters Garden Gifts, is a regular guest on WBIR's *Style* program. Her usual topics of discussion are birds, gardening and other backyard related items.

Five Sisters is located in Marketplace Center, across from Home Depot, next to Marshalls in West Knoxville.

## Sharps Ridge cleanup not first for KTOS

Dan Mooney reminds us that the recent cleanup of Sharps Ridge was not the first. KTOS actually cleaned up the city park about three years ago.

## Get Ready! Cicada Brood X is coming!

The seventeen-year cicada population known as Brood X is about to rise from the ground and fill the trees with buzzing males. All the insect-eating birds will have a feast. The last time we saw this group in the Tennessee Valley was in 1987. Since then, the root sucking larva have been underground quietly waiting for their day in the sun, and that day will come in a few weeks.

Periodical cicadas look like the familiar "dog days" harvestflies except they're bluish with red eyes and trim along the wings. They'll also be here in biblical proportions, so be prepared.

## KTOS Financial Report • May 2004

Compiled by Marie Oakes, Financial Committee

	April	March	YTD
<b>Income:</b>			
. Dues	\$206.00	\$114.00	\$1,318.00
. Mugs & Patches	\$0.00	\$14.50	\$14.50
. Interest	\$40.12	\$0.00	\$81.16
. Dividend	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$26.38
. Owen Memorial	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4.00
. Fuller Memorial	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Income	\$246.12	\$128.50	\$1,444.04
<b>Expenses:</b>			
. Newsletter	\$0.00	\$204.40	\$320.40
. Supplies	\$0.00	\$9.06	\$47.56
. Member Dues to TOS	<u>\$106.00</u>	<u>\$176.00</u>	<u>\$1,400.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$106.00	\$389.46	\$1,767.96
<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	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
. Memorial Books	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Other	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
<b>Account Balances</b>			
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$3,730.31	\$3,624.71	
. J.B. Owen Memorial	\$6,257.50	\$6,222.98	
<b>Memberships</b>	167	168	

## Great horned owl rescued from barbed-wire – *By Lyn Bales*

It was one of those phone calls we hate to get at Ijams. A great horned owl had been found entangled in a barbed-wire fence; could we help? The Saturday afternoon caller was exasperated. She had phoned every agency she knew of but no one could do anything about it. "It's the largest owl I've ever seen," said Lisa White, "What can I do?"

Ijams Nature Center is a non-profit organization with a small weekend staff and tight budget. Sadly, we don't have the resources to do animal rescue because it would be a full time job. But in this case, how could we say no?

Pam Petko-Seus, the nature center's part-time wildlife biologist, and I drove to the White's home in Blount County. At the site, we found the owl splayed out vertically on a neighbor's fence in the hot sun. The ruffled bird was standing on the middle rung of spiky wire with one wing flipped up and over the top rung. Every time it flapped its wings to escape the barbs became even more embedded.

Approaching the bird from the back I grabbed each thigh to stabilize the victim, preventing it from flailing around and doing itself more harm. As I knelt on my knees below the owl, it leaned back, resting its weight on my forearm. The great bird calmed as if it sensed we were there to help. Pam moved in from the top to inspect and get a sense of the damage.

Barbed wire has spiked wires wrapped in tight bundles roughly every 18 inches apart. The owl had managed to catch its right "armpit" on one of these barbed bundles. All four spikes were embedded, but there was only a little bleeding, a good sign.

Using a pocketknife, Pam slowly began to gently

cut away feathers and flesh, knowing that if she cut too deeply, she'd do more damage than the fence. In time, a Blount County sheriff's deputy arrived. He helped by holding the top strand of fencing steady,

moving it up or down as Pam needed. As she worked, she'd say, "I've got one barb free, three more to go," announcing her slow progress to the gathered neighbors watching from a safe distance.

The delicate operation took close to 30 minutes, but at last Pam whispered, "It's free." The deputy lifted the wire and I pulled straight back. As I stood with the bird, it whirled around

to look me, blinking its large yellow eyes. I nodded and said, "Well, hello there."

The injured bird was rushed to UT Veterinary Hospital. Luckily, they found no broken bones, just a wide wound and damaged feathers. After a stay at UT, Katie Cottrell and Kathy Strunk of the Clinch River Raptor Center kept the owl for a few weeks until it completely healed and its strength returned.

Finally, on April 19, I drove the owl back to its home, releasing it in the White's front yard with a dozen or more well-wishers there to watch its return to freedom. They were thrilled to see it fly away.

This story had a happy ending. The Raptor Center has taken in four birds of prey that have become entangled in barbed-wire in the past six weeks. One, a red-tailed hawk, was so mangled it had to be put down immediately; two others are still in recovery.

To make barbed-wire or electric fencing more seeable, property owners are advised to tie strips of cloth or plastic flagging every few feet along its length.



*Photo by Lisa White*

## Local bird rehabilitators need your donations!

The above story is all too real. Each year dozens of birds are injured and end up at one of the local licensed rehabilitators. There they receive tender loving care and a safe place to heal. Most recover and are returned to the wild. Some are so badly hurt they have to be put down and some are judged to be disabled and nonreleasable. These ultimately have to be adopted by a zoo, nature center or some other organization. (See "Silent Auction" page 2.)

The local rehabilitators receive NO funding. They

spend hundreds of dollars from their own pocket to take care of the injured birds. Your donations would be most helpful! In addition to Katie and Kathy of the Clinch River Raptor Center, other local avian rehabers are: Foothills Raptor Center, Phylis Rollins (Killdeer), Joanne Thompson (Songbirds), Katie Cottrell and Lynn McCoy (Crows), Gina Bathey (Songbirds and Waterfowl) and Duree Snapp (Herons, Gulls and Songbirds). Other rehabers do mammals and reptiles.

For contact information e-mail Lyn at Ijams.

## 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 June newsletter is May 22.

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

**HTTP://www.tnbirds.org**



**PRESIDENT.....Charlie Muise**  
2632 Montvale Rd.,  
Maryville, TN 37803 (865) 977-8429  
cmmbirds@yahoo.com

**VICE-PRESIDENT.....Tracey Muise**  
2632 Montvale Rd.,  
Maryville, TN 37803 (865) 977-8429  
muise@esknnoxville.org

**TREASURER.....Jerry Hadder**  
18 Rockingham Lane  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830 (865) 483-9287  
marieoakes@msn.com

**SECRETARY.....Don Vowell**  
6909 Quail Dr.  
Knoxville, TN 37919  
don@vowell-law.com

**EDITOR.....Stephen Lyn Bales**  
1801 Kemper Ln.  
Knoxville, TN 37920  
(865) 577-6978  
lynbales@comcast.net

**EDITOR (Distribution)...Cindy Day**  
11417 N. Couch Mill Rd.  
Knoxville, TN 37931-2908  
(865) 927-1417  
n.c.day@worldnet.att.net



## Presidential Perch - By Charlie Muise

Hello Friends. The end of April sure is a busy time, isn't it? As a professional naturalist, I have been constantly zooming around from program to program, field work to class. I'm sure many of you have been experiencing the same. I am fortunate to spend much of that time outside, though, and often the sound of birds singing helps to reduce the stress just a little bit. So does the company of friends. So I hope that all of you will join us at ljam's for the 80th Birthday Party and Homecoming on June 2.

Jim Campbell and Nancy Tanner have helped us identify many of the people in the KTOS group picture of 1940 (published in the last newsletter), and we hope that a copy of that picture, along with names, will be available for everyone to look at, shortly before we make an 80th birthday party picture. Just think of the fun people will have picking all of us out of a photo in 20, 30 or maybe even 80 years!

Sadly, one of our friends will not be there to join us in the picture. Many of us learned at the beginning of our April meeting that Barbara Finney passed away the previous night. We will certainly all miss her. A motion will be made at the May meeting to memorialize her in an appropriate way.

Work is progressing on the chapter bylaws. A rough draft is circulating among the Executive Committee members and may be available soon. Please contact any one of us if you have comments or suggestions.

Elections will be held during the June meeting. Please contact the Dean Edwards, Chair of the Nominations Committee, if you have any comments. We are still waiting for an ambitious member to step up and volunteer to run as treasurer.

How many of you have checked out the newsletter on-line? Lyn has done a great job with all the extra work associated with that, and I hope that everyone will look at it from time to time – even those of you who prefer to receive the paper version. It's nice to see Lyn's work in color! Speaking of on-line, Jerry reports that we have saved some money already in this endeavor. While he's not yet been able to make a full report, it's nice to see the extra effort "pay" off. This is money we can use elsewhere, like land preservation, research or other worthwhile projects.

*through the biKNOXulars*

(USPS 697-010)

Published monthly, except January, July and August by the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, 11417 N. Couch Mill Rd., Knoxville, TN 37931-2908. Subscription Price \$8.00. Periodical Postage paid at Knoxville, TN 37901.

POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to: *through the biKNOXulars*, 11417 N. Couch Mill Rd., Knoxville, TN 37931-2908.