



THROUGH THE BIKNOXULARS

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KNOXVILLE CHAPTER OF THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Birds of Costa Rica Presented By Harold Howell



Sandwiched between deployments to Russia, Harriet and Harold spent a wonderful 10 days in Costa Rica beginning the last week in January 2006. The trip was not specifically a birding trip, but they did see and photograph a good assortment of birds. A lot of territory was covered in a short time, from the modern capital city of San Jose to Los Chiles on the Nicaraguan border and from Manuel Antonio National Park on the Pacific to Tortuguero National Park

on the Caribbean. Habitat included lowlands rainforest, cloud forest and the top of the mountains, with a couple of volcanoes thrown in for good measure. Harold will present the birds in the order in which they saw them, and discuss a bit of the habitat where they were found. Be sure to join us for a wonderful presentation on May 2nd at 7 p.m. in room 117 of the UT Veterinary Building across the hall from Pendergrass Library at on Neyland Drive.

Upcoming Field Trips

Sunday, May 27, 7:30 a.m.

Frozen Head State Park

Leader: David Trently (dtrently@utk.edu); 531-1473

Meet at the Stokely Building parking lot on North Cedar Bluff before 7:30 a.m.

It's about an hour drive to the park, so this is actually a bit late to start, but I hope that more birders will take part by leaving at this time. Bring food as we may still be in the field at lunch time. We will be walking fairly easy trails, listening for Acadian Flycatcher, warblers (Ovenbird, Worm-eating, Cerulean and Black-throated Blue are among the possibilities) and tanagers.

Saturday, May 12, 2007, 8:00 A.M.

Fort Loudon Dam Area

Leaders: Tony King 865-988-6172 and Harold Howell (howellh2@frontiernet.net; 865-828-6302)

Meet at 8:00 am in the lower Ft. Loudon Dam overlook parking area. This area is reached by taking the marked exit off U. S. Route 321 on the north (I-75) side of the dam. We will visit both overlooks at the dam, looking for Gulls, wading birds, waterfowl and raptors. We will also visit the area south along the river, where we can see an active Bald Eagle nest. With time permitting, we will cross the dam and check the area of the beaver ponds. There are major beaver pond areas to visit as well as the open water areas of the reservoirs and tail waters. There is also a lot of early succession "sparrow" habitat. We could finish up before lunch time. Walking should be fairly moderate. Bring water.

Amphibian Inventory and Research at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge

By Wayne H. Schacher
wschacher@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.

To date, this series on Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge has pertained primarily to habitat restoration efforts and diversification opportunities with emphasis on grasslands and other early successional communities, and improved habitat quality for representative bird species. These habitat enhancement efforts, though, are providing and improving habitat quality for other vertebrate species as well.

Baseline vertebrate species inventories at SIWR have recorded species presence not only for birds, but also resident or transient mammals, reptiles and amphibians. While field observations of the animal or their 'sign' (tracks, scat, bones, fur, etc) are an important pillar of this vertebrate species inventory, specific survey methods are required to detect the presence of more secretive, fossorial, nocturnal or less abundant members of these vertebrate classes. Besides general field observations, let's summarize what techniques have been used to inventory target species within the Class Amphibia at SIWR.

Amphibians

Amphibians can generally be grouped as salamanders, toads and frogs, with sub-groups including salamanders that are aquatic, semi-aquatic or upland, toads that have wetland and/or upland affinities, and frogs that are semi-aquatic, wetland or arboreal. Habitat requirements can often be very specific, critically-linked to life cycle stage or size and degree of permanence of water body or habitat moisture and humidity.

A very popular inventory technique for toads and frogs is to listen for their *vocalizations* during peak periods of breeding activity. Populations of chorus frog, spring peeper, green frog, bullfrog, treefrogs, American toad and Fowlers toad are easily detected without the need for capture. Setting *minnow traps*, *dip-netting* or *shallow water seining* are also techniques used to

sample for aquatic adults, breeding adults, larval forms or tadpole stages in waterbodies.

Another technique used at SIWR is *detrital searches*, lifting rocks or rolling logs in upland or lowland habitats, or

examining leaf-packs for amphibians hiding beneath or within. To augment natural rocks and logs, 37 cover-board stations have been placed in potential habitats using arrays of 2x4 and 4x4-foot sections of roofing tin, plywood and waferboard. Periodic monitoring over three years has identified woodland salamanders (northern slimy salamander, southern red-backed salamander) at SIWR, and gives insight into their habitat preferences, distribution and relative abundance.

A formal research technique funded through UT-Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries and completed last summer, involved erecting *drift fence and pitfall arrays* at four pond, riparian zone and upland habitats at SIWR, and monitoring them weekly for over a year. The drift fences are silt-fence in hundred-foot lengths, staked upright with the bottom edge buried in the ground. Plastic buckets with predator guards were buried at intervals, open at ground-level, along each side of the drift fence. As frogs, toads, salamanders or other small vertebrates and invertebrates moved within these habitats and encountered the drift fence, they would be forced to move along it, eventually falling into a capture bucket.

Another technique used at SIWR is to *survey very unique or specialized habitats* for amphibian species. In the small cave on the refuge, cave salamanders, zigzag salamanders and pickerel frog have been identified during wet intervals. In the future, searches will be made along the wooded, limestone rock outcrops or in other micro-habitats to inventory for additional species.

These inventory techniques and research efforts will continue at SIWR for the foreseeable future to give a complete picture of what amphibian species reside in the existing habitats at the refuge. With habitat enhancement efforts ongoing or planned at the pond, the wetland sites and in the stream and river riparian zones, habitat quality and diversity will both be expected to improve over time. If native species of amphibians are not found, or have been eradicated from suitable habitat due to past land use decisions, introduction or re-introduction of those native species will be contemplated.



Presidential Perch
-Mark Campen

This is just a quick perch about a couple of up coming events.

The GO EXPO is at Victor Ashe Park in Northeast Knox Co. We will have a table at this exhibition promoting "the bird club." It will be May 12th.

Call for Silent Auction donations! We will be taking donations for the silent auction to be held at the June picnic at Ijams Nature Center.

J.B. OWEN MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2006-2007

May 1, 2007

The purpose of the J.B. Owen Memorial Endowment is to honor the memory of J.B. Owen, longtime 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. This annual report summarizes projects funded, the KTOS contribution, operating expenses, and other pertinent information as to the status of the Endowment and its administration during 2006-2007.

Award History

Previous Owen Award winners were:

2002: Foothills Land Conservancy of Maryville, Tennessee, for the Conservancy's work in the acquisition of wetlands - for the welfare and conservation of cranes and other birds - in the area between the Yuchi and Hiwassee Island Refuges.

2003: Jennifer Powers, of East Tennessee State University, for support of graduate research on the reproductive success and natal dispersal of American Kestrels.

2004: Samuel deMent of Greenwood, SC, David Vogt of Chattanooga, and Keith Hobson of Saskatoon, SK Canada for support of the project on *Stable-isotope feather analysis and foreign band encounter comparisons of wintering American Kestrels in similar habitats west and east of the Southern Appalachians*.

2005: Lyn Bales for support of outreach programs at Ijams Nature Center of Knoxville.

NEW PROJECTS FUNDED

KTOS selected two projects to receive the 2006 Owen Awards. Former KTOS member Jim Giocomo received \$400 to determine the presence of migrating/wintering Saw-whet owls in his project on *Northern Saw-whet Owl Monitoring in Knox County, Tennessee*. The second 2006 Owen Award provided a \$265 grant to KTOS member Mark Armstrong for support of *The MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity Station) at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge*.

Project Progress

Project leader Samuel deMent of Greenwood, SC, reports the following progress on *Stable-isotope feather analysis and foreign band encounter comparisons of wintering American Kestrels in similar habitats west and east of the Southern Appalachians*: "The field study has been completed and we are in the analysis phase. Dr. Hobson is currently working on the stable isotope interpretations and when completed will forward to Dr. deMent for presentation. Dr. Hobson is preparing a manuscript for publication which includes our American Kestrel data."

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

As interest rates have risen, we have taken advantage of options to increase the yield of certificates of deposit. Compared to last year, interest has increased 11 percent.

Other Accomplishments

The J.B. Owen Endowment Committee maintained a Memory Book to archive records of Fund-related activities. The Committee distributed thirty solicitations for research proposals, mostly to college and university biology chairpersons.

Submitted by J.B. Owen Endowment Committee

Marie Oakes, Chairman, Jean Alexander, Jerry Hadder, David Johnson, Bob Steffy, Diane Steffy



J.B. OWEN MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FINANCIAL SUMMARY	
FUND BALANCE (MAY 1, 2006)	\$6,963.70
KTOS DONATION	\$400.00
OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS	\$208.65
INTEREST	\$256.60
DISTRIBUTIONS	\$665.00
FUND BALANCE (APRIL 30, 2007)	\$7,163.95
OPERATING EXPENSES (PAID FROM THE TREASURY OF KTOS AS PART OF THE GENERAL BUSINESS OF KTOS)	\$0.90

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 June Issue is
May 25th. 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>



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KTOS Financial Report – April and March

Compiled by Marie Oaks, Treasurer

KTOS Financial Report - Calendar Year 2007

	April	March	YTD
Income:			
. Dues	\$296.00	\$1,294.00	\$2,176.00
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$148.00	\$191.00	\$482.00
. Interest	\$29.48	\$24.55	\$110.46
. Silent Auction	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
. Owen Memorial	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$109.00
. Miscellaneous	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Income	\$473.48	\$1,559.55	\$2,877.46
Expenses:			
. Newsletter	\$77.00	\$201.80	\$385.20
. Supplies	\$0.00	\$31.66	\$73.07
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$76.59	\$74.69	\$582.11
. Member Dues to TOS	\$1,539.00	\$0.00	\$2,983.00
. Miscellaneous	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>	<u>\$50.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$1,692.59	\$358.15	\$4,073.38
Other:			
J.B. Owen Award	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Account Balances			
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$3,856.30	\$5,103.09	
. J.B.Owen Memorial	\$7,191.63	\$7,163.95	
Memberships	146	145	
Paid Up Memberships	146		

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