



# biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

## Robert (Bob) Hatcher, Eagle Consultant to the American Eagle Foundation, will present May Program

Our guest speaker for May is Robert (Bob) Hatcher, Eagle Consultant to the American Eagle Foundation. His presentation will show how the American Eagle Foundation's eagle ambassador, Challenger, opens doors and eyes to our national symbol and the need to address not only America's eagles and other birds of prey but also the critical wild habitats that must be preserved so the species can survive.

Challenger, a non-releasable bald eagle has served as an educational ambassador for eagles since 1989 and has free-flown during the National Anthem at over 280 major conferences and events.

The American Eagle Foundation cares for and possesses eagles and other birds of prey for educational, rehabilitation, exhibition, breeding and release purposes. They breed non releasable adult eagles and release the eaglets they hatch

into the wild. The foundation presently has six breeding pairs of non-releasable, permanently disabled bald eagles and the staff has successfully released 44 eagle chicks into the wilds of the Great Smoky Mountains area during the past six years. They also finish raising and release eagle chicks that are born in major zoos and have been a party to releasing more than 200 bald eaglets in the State of Tennessee in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency since their founding in 1985.

**The meeting is Wednesday May 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:45 PM in room 117 of the UT Veterinary Building.** Bring a friend, tell a neighbor and come on out for a great spring evening. See you there!

~Billie~

### KTOS FIELD TRIPS FOR MAY

**Thursdays,  
April 29, and May 6  
Time: 8:00 a.m.**

Sharps Ridge, Knox County  
Leader: Tony Headrick (cell 865-621-9836)

**Saturday, May 15, 8:30-11:30 a.m.**

River Bluff Atop Cherokee Trail in South Knoxville-  
Leader: Wayne H. Schacher (whschacher@natreserv.com,  
Home 865-457-4355)

This past December we visited the River Bluff property, part of the Legacy Parks Foundation "Urban Wildlife & Historic Corridor" project, to hike and bird. We documented 29 bird species wintering in the woodland habitats that also include a couple of large ponds and a low elevation trail along Fort Loudon Reservoir. Since LPF's Carol Evans spoke to KTOS this winter, there has been good interest in a return visit to this gem along the South Knoxville waterfront. The birding inventory done this nesting season will continue to lend support and value to LPF's completion of this project. We will also view downtown Knoxville and the river from the spectacular River Bluff overlook. Roadways offer good hiking, with many route options.

Directions: From I-40, take US Highway 129, and exit at UT Hospital/Cherokee Trail. Follow Cherokee Trail uphill past condo complexes to a parking area (on the left) near the blue water tower

**Saturday morning - May 15  
10:30 a.m.**

Knoxville Botanical Garden  
Leader: Mark Campen  
mcampen7@hotmail.com  
Mobile 865-414-5593



Mark will lead a field trip/ Bird Watching 101 walk at the Gardens at 10:30 a.m. and Noon in conjunction with a Covenant Health event being hosted by the Knoxville Botanical Garden. Feel free to join Mark in getting others interested in watching birds. We may even garner some new members

**Saturday, May 29, 8 a.m. to noon**

Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge  
Leader: Robin Barrow (braveladyrobin@gmail.com,  
Cell 865-297-2572)

This is the weekend of Bioblitz II at Seven Islands, organized by David Trently. Participants will gather lists of all species observed over the weekend. Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot at the end of Kelly Lane. If there are enough members, we may split into two groups. Expect to see water fowl, raptors, woodpeckers, vireos, swallows, warblers, and sparrows. We should finish up about noon. Please bring sunscreen, water, and a snack.

**More trips may be announced at the May meeting.**

**KTOS FINANCIAL REPORT - CALENDAR YEAR 2010**

	April	March	YTD
Income:			
. Dues	\$ 168.00	\$ 78.00	\$1,494.00
. Shade Grown Coffee	0.00	130.00	340.00
. Interest	18.74	16.57	72.33
. Silent Auction	0.00	0.00	0.00
. Owen Memorial	0.00	0.00	2.00
. TOS Spring Meeting	<u>1,895.00</u>	<u>411.00</u>	<u>2,306.00</u>
Total Income	\$2,081.74	\$ 635.57	\$4,214.33

Expenses:			
. Newsletter	\$ 232.93	\$ 64.95	\$ 362.83
. Supplies	62.99	13.86	76.85
. Shade Grown Coffee	147.00	85.19	395.91
. Member Dues to TOS	0.00	590.00	2,126.00
. TOS Spring Meeting	<u>0.00</u>	<u>300.00</u>	<u>300.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 442.92	\$1,054.00	\$3,261.59

Account Balances		
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$6,292.49	\$4,671.69
. J.B.Owen Memorial	\$6,966.04	\$6,948.02

Memberships	118	111
Paid 2010 Memberships	118	111

**New Members:**

- . Mark Labig
- . Edward & Jane Livingston
- . Kristine Johnson
- . Rebecca Judy

**J.B. OWEN MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2009-2010  
May 1, 2010**

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 2009-2010.

**Award History** -Previous Owen Award winners were:

- 2002: Foothills Land Conservancy of Maryville, Tennessee, for acquisition of wetlands in the area between the Yuchi and Hiwassee Island Refuges.
- 2003: Jennifer Powers for support of graduate research on the reproductive success and natal dispersal of American Kestrels.
- 2004: Samuel Dement, David Vogt, and Keith Hobson 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.
- 2006: Jim Giocomo for support of the project on *Northern Saw-whet Owl Monitoring in Knox County, Tennessee*; and Mark Armstrong for support of *The MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity Station) at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge*.
- 2007: Keith Watson for support of the project on Breeding Bird Survey of Soak Ash and Cattail Wetland Habitats in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee.

•2008: Than Boves for support of the project on *Relationships between Cerulean Warblers, Timber Harvest, and Ornamentation*. Mark Armstrong for support of *The MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity Station) at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge*.

**New Projects Funded**

Than Boves of the University of Tennessee Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries received a 2009 Owen Award of \$300 for support of his project on *Relationships between Cerulean Warblers, Timber Harvest, and Ornamentation*. Jessica Owens of the University of Tennessee Psychology Department received a 2009 Owen Award of \$300 for support of her project on *“Chick-a-dee’ calling behavior of tufted titmice (Baeolophus bicolor): A test of the effects of habitat structure and body condition.”*

**Project Progress**

2004 Owen Award winner Samuel Dement reports that “Our study was published in *Journal of Raptor Research* 43:325-337, 2009. We did acknowledge Owen Grant.”

2005 Owen Award winner Lyn Bales reports “The two carriers provided to Ijams with funds from the JB Owen Memorial Endowment provide invaluable emergency housing and transport for our red tailed hawk and our barred owl. We could use the larger one for our turkey vulture if necessary. The smaller box has been used on numerous occasions to transport our barred owl to programs offsite. As the cages for our large birds are in proximity to trees, in the event of cage storm damage, we would be able to safely contain the birds. We sincerely appreciate the gift of the boxes.”

**Financial Summary**

Compared with last year, interest earnings fell (by \$55.38), as the average rate of return on certificates of deposit fell from 3.6 percent to 2.9 percent. Interest earnings are expected to be lower next year. Therefore, donations and other contributions are increasingly important to the financial health of the Endowment. Because KTOS treasury funds were being held in reserve for the TOS 2010 Spring Meeting in Knoxville, KTOS did not make a donation to the Owen Fund. If those reserve funds are not needed, the Committee will request KTOS to make a substantial donation to the Owen Fund after the TOS Spring Meeting.

**J.B. Owen Memorial Endowment  
Financial Summary**

Fund Balance (April 30, 2009)	\$7,334.78
KTOS Donation	0.00
Other Contributions	21.00
Interest	210.26
Distributions	(600.00)
Fund Balance (April 30, 2010)	6,966.04
Operating Expenses (paid from the treasury of KTOS as part of KTOS general business)	3.25

**Other Accomplishments**

The J.B. Owen Endowment Committee maintained a Memory Book to archive records of Endowment-related activities.

**Committee Chairperson Change**

After eight years of chairing the Committee, Marie Oakes will retire. During her service as Chairperson, a cumulative total of \$4,433.00 was awarded to 11 different projects to promote the welfare and conservation of birds in Tennessee, and the Year-end Fund Balance grew from \$4,388.47 in 2002 to \$6,966.04 in 2010. Carole Gobert will be the new Chairperson.

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



Hi Folks,

Our spring migration continues and every morning I'm out listening to see what new birds may have come into my woods overnight. I am very fortunate to live in a really quiet wooded hollow with few cars and fewer neighbors. I never have a big movement of birds, but it is sure fun finding what new migrants have arrived.

In addition to watching migration, it is also time to prepare for the coming field season. At the end of May MAPS will be starting at Seven Islands. An inventory needs to be done of nets, nets repaired; net poles counted and band supply checked and an order prepared. There are Breeding Bird Surveys and Nightjar surveys to be run in late May to early June. Even though I have been doing them for a few years, I still need to do a dry run of each route to make sure I know where the turns all are and the location of the stops. It really throws you off early in the morning when you expect to find a green mailbox at a stop and it has suddenly turned white or even disappeared. The nightjar routes are only 9 miles long instead of 25 like the BBS, but it is interesting to search out birds that you hear much more often than you see.

Anyone is invited to the MAPS sessions at Seven Islands. We begin at the end of May and continue on Sundays to early August. It is a great way to see some birds up close.

Breeding Bird Surveys and Nightjar Surveys are great fun and I think are a good way to contribute to what we know about our bird life. More on the Breeding Bird Surveys can be found at <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/>. More on the Nightjar Survey can be found at <http://www.ccb-wm.org/nightjars.htm>. ~Mark ~

### Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge BioBlitz II

The second annual Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge BioBlitz will be held from 2:00 p.m. on Friday, May 28 through 2:00 p.m. Saturday, May 29. Wayne Schacher and I are working on the plans for the event, and further information will be available soon. If you are not already on the email list for this and you want to be, please contact me so I can add you.

We hope to have a bird walk Saturday morning, as well as other field trips, depending on who participates. There may be some vendors selling items, and we may have some slide shows as well. If you are knowledgeable about taxa other than birds, we really want your help! Plus, I'm sure we'll need volunteers to help get things started, so let me know if you have some time to offer.

David Trently [naturetours@avianpursuits.com](mailto:naturetours@avianpursuits.com)

### 2010 North American Migration Count Saturday, May 8, 2010

Every county is a count area, so pick your favorite county and spend a nice day counting birds! Like all Tennessee bird counts, please keep up with effort statistics, weather data, etc. Send them to your county compiler. If you have no county compiler, you can send your results to me at the addresses below.

Please be safe and mindful of local weather conditions. Your efforts are appreciated by the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

Great Birding, Ron Hoff  
TOS bird count compiler  
282 Hackworth Lane, Clinton, TN 37716  
865-435-4547 [aves7000@bellsouth.net](mailto:aves7000@bellsouth.net)

### TOS Spring Meeting, April 30- May 2, 2010

I hope you are all planning to attend the spring TOS meeting, which our chapter is hosting. There is still time to register for the meeting (though the banquet registration is closed); Simply come to the Friday night or Saturday morning registration. Registration for the meeting is \$10.

The Annual Meeting will be held April 30 – May 2, 2010. Friday night registration, Saturday afternoon meetings, and the Saturday Annual Meeting and banquet will be held at the Knoxville Zoo, located off I-40 at Exit 392. When you arrive at the zoo, go to the ranger station to the right (north) of the ticket booths. You will not actually enter the zoo. Pass through the ranger station to get to the conference center—someone will be on hand to direct you. The room we are using is upstairs and is accessible by elevator.

Field trips will be held Saturday, May 1, and Sunday, May 2. All trips will depart from the conference hotel, the Super-8 Knoxville/East, 7585 Crosswood Blvd., at the Strawberry Plains exit off I-40 (Exit 398).

On Saturday before the banquet, Steve McGaffin has arranged for some of the zoo personnel to be on hand with some of their birds of prey. This is a great opportunity to see the birds close up and meet some of the wonderful people at the zoo.

The speaker for the Saturday banquet will be our state ornithologist, Scott Somershoe, who will discuss the new Tennessee Watchable Wildlife website (<http://www.tnwatchablewildlife.org/>) as well as updates about Bald Eagle nests. The menu for the banquet includes chicken piccata, spinach lasagna, salad, and fresh fruit. Local members of KTOS are asked to bring a dessert to share at the banquet.

### Schedule of Events

#### Friday 4/30

5:30-9:00 p.m. Registration and welcome at the Knoxville Zoo. We will have wine, coffee, and finger foods.

#### Saturday 5/1

6:30-7:00 a.m. Registration at the Super-8 at Straw Plains  
7:00 a.m. Field trips leave from the Super-8 for Sharps Ridge, Cove Lake State Park and Cross Mountain, GSMNP, and Kyker Bottoms  
1:00 p.m. Committee meetings at the Knoxville Zoo  
3:00 p.m. TOS Board Meeting at the Knoxville Zoo  
5:45 p.m. Bird encounter with Zoo volunteers, behind the Ranger's Station  
6:00 p.m. Banquet

#### Sunday 5/2

6:45 a.m. Field trip leaves from the Super-8 for Three Bend Wildlife Refuge in Oak Ridge  
7:00 a.m. Field trips leave from the Super-8 for Sharps Ridge and Seven Islands

## KTOS MEMBERSHIP

Join or renew your membership in KTOS by mailing your annual dues

to: Marie Oakes  
18 Rockingham Lane  
Oak Ridge, 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 Sat May 22

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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## 2010 SLATE OF OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee has nominated the following individuals for local and state officers for the year 2010 and recommend that you vote for these candidates in the May elections:

President - Mark Armstrong  
Vice President - Billie Cantwell  
Treasurer - Carole Gobert  
Secretary - Angela Hoffman

State Directors - 2-year term  
Ginger Goolsby  
Harold Howell  
David Johnson

*Respectfully, David Johnson, Chairman*

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## COFFEE FOR THE BIRDS

Enjoy your morning cup of coffee on the patio and listen to the songbirds. There's a connection between the two. Conventional, "modern" coffee plantations are replacing wildlife habitat at an alarming rate, and the population of songbirds across North and South America is in significant decline. "Shade grown" coffee, the traditional method of coffee farming, offers a promising alternative.

It tastes better, grown with less pesticides, promotes healthy environment, provides bird habitat and greater biodiversity and helps sustain rainforests. See David Johnson and place your coffee order "for the birds"!