



# biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

*May 4th Program will be  
presented by David Trently*

David is going to be moving back to his home state of Pennsylvania later this year. He has shared his talent and love of birding with us for many years, and we are going to miss his presence as well as that of his family. Thus, we have invited David to share some memories with us at our next meeting and maybe he will also share some of his hopes and plans for the future.

Over the past 15 years, David has led many local field trips for KTOS. He also started Avian Pursuits Nature Tours to help take birders to more distant places around the country, and to other nations as well. This program will feature an assortment of birds, butterflies, dragonflies, snakes, fish, mammals and scenery from some of those more recent trips. As you watch the show, imagine yourself traveling in Maine, Colorado, California, Mexico, Panama, Belize, Ecuador and more!

David does not claim to be a great photographer, so don't expect the most artistic shots! However, his pictures will be able to give you an idea of some of the things you may encounter if you join in a future trip.

The meeting will be on Wednesday, May 4 at 6:45 p.m. In Room 117 of the UT Veterinary Building.

And don't forget for birding with a personal touch -

David Trently  
Avian Pursuits Nature Tours  
...come see the real world!  
Knoxville, TN (Soon to be Pennsylvania)

<http://avianpursuits.com/>



Mt. Lemon - 2005 Arizona Trip

## FIELD TRIPS FOR MAY

**Saturday, May 7, 8:00 a.m.**

**Ross Marble Natural Area of Ijams Nature Center**

**Leader: Wayne Schacher**

**865- 457-4355**

This will be a birding outing/hike to the new Ross Marble Quarry site at Ijams Nature Center. We will meet in the parking area at Mead's Quarry (off Island Home Blvd, just beyond the visitor center entrance to Ijams Nature Center). We will walk primarily woodland trails to Ross Marble Quarry (0.75 miles), with a variety of trail options at the quarry as time allows. The trails are easy to moderate. We'll bird along the way to keep track of spring woodland avian species, and will spend time at the scenic quarry. Expected finish for the outing is approximately 11 a.m.

**Saturday, May 14, 8:30 a.m.**

**Rankin Bottoms Wildlife Management Area,  
White Pine, TN**

**Leaders: Michael Sledjeski and Leslie Gibbens  
(423-487-3161, [mtnsylva@en.com](mailto:mtnsylva@en.com)) and**

**Chris Welsh (Phone 865-766-0368)**

International Migratory Bird Day is May 14. Join Michael, Leslie, and Chris to explore Rankin Bottoms by handpowered watercraft. Waterbirds and warbler nesting habitats are likely to be visited, but the exact route will depend on the water level. This Canoe and Kayak Trip will be launching from the Rankin Bridge Boat Ramp.

Driving time from Knoxville to Rankin Bottoms is about an hour, with time for a bathroom break along the way. There are no restrooms at Rankin Bottoms.

The trip should last about 2.5 hours, so bring sunscreen, hat, drinking water, life jackets, and boat shoes, if possible.

Please coordinate with Michael by May 11 regarding canoe/kayak space. That is, if you want to go and don't have a canoe, or if you have a canoe and are willing to take passengers let Michael know. There are some extra canoes and spaces currently available.

Michael would accept a \$25 donation to support the Rankin Project for using the canoes and equipment if you can make that contribution.

(Field Trips continued on Page 3)

## KTOS FINANCIAL REPORT - CALENDAR YEAR 2011

	April	Feb-March	YTD
<b>Income:</b>			
. Dues	\$ 190.00	\$ 828.00	\$ 1,212.00
. Shade Grown Coffee	93.00	244.00	337.00
. Interest	13.09	24.39	50.56
. Owen Memorial	<u>0.00</u>	<u>14.00</u>	<u>14.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 296.09</b>	<b>\$ 1,110.39</b>	<b>\$ 1,613.56</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
. Newsletter	\$ 139.89	\$ 211.05	\$ 350.94
. Supplies	0.00	71.79	71.79
. Shade Grown Coffee	174.99	129.09	480.91
. Member Dues to TOS	<u>0.00</u>	<u>620.00</u>	<u>1,894.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 314.88</b>	<b>\$ 1,031.93</b>	<b>\$ 2,797.64</b>
<b>Account Balances</b>			
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$ 2,770.71	\$ 2,802.12	
. J.B.Owen Memorial	\$ 8,624.47	\$ 8,611.85	
<b>Memberships</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>95</b>	
<b>Paid 2011 Memberships</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>95</b>	
<b>New Members:</b>			
Oliver and Joyce Lang			

### J.B. OWEN MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2010-2011 May 1, 2011

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 2010-2011.

#### Award History

- 2002: Foothills Land Conservancy of Maryville, TN
- 2003: Jennifer Powers
- 2004: Samuel Dement, David Vogt, and Keith Hobson
- 2005: Lyn Bales
- 2006: Jim Giocomo
- 2007: Keith Watson
- 2008: Than Boves and Mark Armstrong
- 2009: Than Boves for support of the project on *Relationships between Cerulean Warblers, Timber Harvest, and Ornamentation and* Jessica Owens 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."*

No applications were received by the committee for 2010. An award of \$300.00 was made to the first recipient of the J.B. Owen Award in 2002, Foothills Land Conservancy of Maryville, Tennessee, for support of the Conservancy's important mission to protect and preserve the natural landscape of East Tennessee which has significant benefits for the conservation of birds in Tennessee.

## Project Progress

2008 and 2009 Owen Award winner Than Boves reports that analysis on his project *Relationships between Cerulean Warblers, Timber Harvest, and Ornamentation* is progressing and he anticipates finishing his Ph.D. in December of this year. Than has led two very popular KTOS field trips to the site of his research on Cerulean Warblers in the Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area and will lead another this spring. He will give a presentation on his project at the October meeting of KTOS. He has posted a remarkable video of a Cerulean Warbler nest at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7\\_macMkV3EY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_macMkV3EY). A *Knoxville News Sentinel* interview with Dr. David Buehler, Professor of Wildlife Science at the University of Tennessee, and Than Boves explaining how the project is being carried out can be viewed at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3y0hoS0\\_xll&feature=fvwrrel](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3y0hoS0_xll&feature=fvwrrel).

2009 Owen Award winner Jessica Owens reports that due to inherent issues with studying the effects of clearcutting, her project, *"Chick-a-dee" calling behavior of tufted titmice (Baeolophus bicolor): A test of the effects of habitat structure and body condition* had to go in a slightly different direction. "Instead I took a much more focused look at the effects of traffic noise on the social and vocal behavior of chickadees and titmice." She is putting the final touches on a manuscript that will be the "first study to directly and experimentally test for an effect of traffic noise on the social behavior of birds."

## Financial Summary

Interest earnings continued their decline as one of the fund's two certificates of deposit matured in November and was renewed at a lower rate. The second CD will mature May 2011 and will likewise have to be reinvested at a lower rate. Still, the fund continues to grow and is at an all time high of \$8,624.40, illustrating the importance of donations. KTOS contributed \$1,500.00 from its treasury after hosting the financially successful TOS 2010 Spring Meeting and KTOS members generously donated an additional \$269.00.

### J.B. Owen Memorial Endowment

#### Financial Summary

Fund Balance (April 30, 2010)	\$ 6,966.04
KTOS Donation	1,500.00
Other Contributions	269.00
Interest	189.43
Distributions	(300.00)
Fund Balance (April 30, 2011)	\$ 8,624.47

Operating Expenses (paid from the treasury of KTOS as part of KTOS general business) \$2.20

#### Other Accomplishments

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

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



*Presidential  
Perch*

Hi Folks

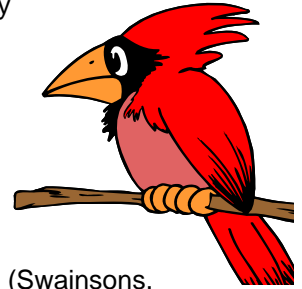
Since spring migration is in full swing and I make use of bird song heavily in all my outings, I thought I would share a web site that I have been making use of lately. I do several breeding bird surveys and this site was announced on the BBS web site as an way to help folks doing surveys. It is dendroica <http://www.natureinstruct.org/dendroica/> and it has pictures of birds and the best part is it has a lot of samples of bird song. Everything loads quickly and the sounds are really good quality which I appreciate. Other sites I've used lag or hang up when they are loading. If you register you can customize the site and quiz yourself. I have found it useful lately since some of the migrants that are coming through I only get to hear them once a year plus it is a good refresher for breeding birds.

I unfortunately missed the April meeting to begin my spring migration to Ft. Morgan, AL to band birds with the Hummer/Bird Study Group. For the week I was there we banded 700 birds and we had 52 species. I don't think we had anything particularly unusual but it was a real treat to see some of the spring warblers arriving. The most unusual day was April 6. The night before we had terrible wind and rain all night so we were expecting birds the next day. The woods were pretty quiet during our first net round but we did get a Sharp-shinned Hawk. The next 18 birds we got out of the nets were Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and nothing else. The real unusual thing was each hummingbird had a big load of fat which would indicate a quick crossing of the Gulf. Our hopes for a lot of birds never materialized that day. All we could figure was the bad weather we had didn't reach out into the Gulf making the birds work extra hard to make the crossing. But why all the hummers and so few other birds is a good mystery.

It is a great time of year to get out and enjoy the birds.

Thanks, Mark

In addition, Cove Lake has many wildflowers and some of them should still be blooming.



After the Cove Lake State Park walk about, Harold is willing to continue the day's events with an additional excursion to Cross Mountain. Target Birds would include resident Warblers (Swainsons, Prothonotary, Cerulean, Golden-winged, Blue-winged, and Chestnut Sided) as well as Orioles, Tanagers, Flycatchers and spring migrants. Details of this part of the day will be decided by those participating. Be sure to bring water and a snack. Meet at the restrooms near the playground. Contact Harold for more information

**Saturday, May 21, 8:00 a.m.**  
**Cades Cove, GSMNP**  
**Leader: Warren Bielenberg**  
[birdglass44@aol.com](mailto:birdglass44@aol.com) or 865-681-7884

Meet at the parking lot for the camp store. We will walk a along the edge of the campground and then down the exit road to the sewage ponds and will end before noon. There may be some lingering migrants as well as residents to observe. Bring water and perhaps a snack.

**Saturday, May 28, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Sharp's Ridge**  
**Leader: Tony King 865-988-6172**

You are on the trail. Someone sees a great bird, but you can't get it in your bins, so you ask, "Where is it?" The response? "In the tree with the fork in it." You look and every tree has a fork in it!!! Would it help if we could say in the elm, or the oak, or the maple? Tony is going to help us develop this ancillary knowledge and skill to improve our birding during this walk on Sharp's Ridge.

We will walk along the wooded trail on the side of Sharp's Ridge, birding and learning to identify trees as we go. Meet at the overlook and we will take one or two cars to the trail head. Bring water.

**Sunday, May 29, 8:00 a.m.**  
**Royal Blue WMA**  
**Leader: Than Boves**

Than Boves is continuing his Cerulean Warbler research in the Royal Blue WMA. He is re-sighting returning banded birds and attempting to re-capture those that have returned and is willing to show us around the Cerulean territories. Other Warbler species should also be present. We will meet the Shoney's/BP in Caryville, TN in Campbell County and then travel to Caryville Mountain. We can carpool from there. 4-wheel drive vehicles are helpful, but not essential. Take I-75 North to Exit 134 (Caryville, Lafollette), turn left off the exit ramp, travel back over the interstate. Circle right past the entry ramp for I-75 South/Hwy 25 W. Shoney's/BP is on your left.

Be sure to bring water.

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**FIELD TRIPS CONTINUED**

**Sunday, May 15 beginning at 8:00 am**  
**Cove Lake State Park**  
**with a possible extension to**  
**Cross Mountain, Caryville, TN**  
**Leader: Harold Howell**  
**865-828-6302 or [howellh2@frontiernet.net](mailto:howellh2@frontiernet.net)**

KTOS continues to celebrate International Migratory Bird Day with a field trip for landlubbers who do not want to bird from canoes and kayaks. Harold will lead a walk on the solid ground of Cove Lake State Park. Cove Lake has a variety of habitats--water and shore, scrubby woodlands, forest, and open areas, so there are great opportunities for a large variety of species.

## KTOS MEMBERSHIP

Join or renew your membership in KTOS by mailing your annual dues to: Carole Gobert  
1304 Barcelona Drive  
Knoxville TN 37923

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 Fri May 20

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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## DON'T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR COFFEE

See David Johnson to order your supply of shade grown coffee.

It tastes better, it is grown with less pesticides, promotes healthy environment, provides bird habitat and greater biodiversity and helps sustain rainforests. All of these things make for a better world for our diminishing songbirds.

When you buy the coffee, it also financially helps our club.