



Book Sale and Auction to Benefit J. B. Owen Memorial Fund

Longtime KTOS member J. B. Owen had an extensive ornithological library which he referred to when writing his weekly newspaper columns about birds and nature. Last summer his widow, Frances Owen, generously donated J. B.'s nearly 200 bird books collection to KTOS. A silent auction of the books is planned for the June meeting with the proceeds benefiting the J. B. Owen Memorial Fund.

There is also a "Buy It Now" sale of the paperback books published mostly by Dover Publications and U. S. government agencies. This selection of books is available for purchase immediately - and at the May KTOS Meeting. These books include some very famous and highly sought after books including the "Life Histories of North American Birds" series by Arthur Cleveland Bent and other ornithological classics by famous ornithologists such as Frank H. Chapman, Witmer Stone, Edward A. Armstrong, Robert Porter Allen, and the Craigheads who were experts on raptor ecology and behavior. Chester Reed was also very famous. If you have never read any of these classic old bird books - and are only using a field identification guide - you are missing a real treat.

All of the listed books will be priced at \$10 or less at the May meeting. If you want to "Buy It Now" for \$10 per book before the May meeting, e-mail Marcia Davis at tennwren@gmail.com and place an order to be paid for and picked up at the May meeting.

A list of these books is posted at the KTOS homepage, www.knoxvillebirding.org.

Welcome New Members

Please welcome the following new members Mary Lucal and Landon Wilhite.

May Meeting: "A History of Feeding Wild Birds" by Margaret Barker

Please join us on Wednesday, May 4 for a presentation by Margaret Barker, who in the 1990s was the first coordinator of Project FeederWatch at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. She has recently co-authored the book *Feeding Wild Birds in America: Culture, Commerce, and Conservation* (Texas A&M Press, 2015) with Paul Baicich and Carrol L. Henderson. According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, more than 50 million Americans feed birds around their homes, and over the last 60 years, billions of pounds of birdseed have filled millions of feeders in backyards everywhere. She will share what she found researching the history of feeding birds in the US back to the nineteenth century.

Margaret Frankel Barker is a Knoxville native and a Bearden High School graduate. This is her third bird book. She currently resides in the Chesapeake Bay area in Maryland. We are pleased to welcome her back home.

The KTOS meeting begins at **6:45 pm** in Room 118 of the University of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Medicine. For directions, visit the KTOS webpage at www.knoxvillebirding.org.

June Meeting: Potluck Supper at Ijams Nature Center, Sugar Needed

Lyn Bales at Ijams Nature Center called to thank KTOS for donations of sugar a year or so ago for the hummingbirds. He has reached the end of those donations. Let us replenish its supplies. Please bring sugar to the June meeting at Ijams. If you are not able to attend the June 1 meeting, bring sugar donations to the May 4, 2016 KTOS meeting.

He also needs one or two volunteers to help with Ijams hummingbird feeding program. Call him at 577-4717 for details.



Presidential Perch

Saturday, April 23, 2016, eleven of KTOS members and one guest from Washington enjoyed a good morning field trip to the Songbird Trail below Norris Dam. This is an excellent spot for migrants and many resident birds. Warblers will be increasing in numbers and species until mid May. We had the opportunity to learn several vocalizations during this trip—Northern parula, Yellow-throated vireo, Orchard oriole, Yellow-throated warbler, Louisiana waterthrush and Hooded warbler for starters.

The highlights of the trip were locating a Ruby-throated hummingbird nest tended by mama (thank you Jerry Ledbetter), Yellow-throated vireos dive bombing an American crow and Blue jay to chase them away from their nest, we presume, and to cap it off, at least for me, was an incredibly striking male Baltimore oriole. He was in the bright sun of the treetops where they usually located. Both Orchard and Baltimore Orioles nest here. Doug and Paula Schneeberger witnessed a breeding pair last year along this trail. Whether a new bird or an old friend, there is little to compare to having your breath taken away by such beauty.

If you are already anxious to learn more about warblers and sharpen your birding skills, there is a great article with a short video that touches on several tips that will help you in this endeavor located at: www.allaboutbirds.org/5-tips-for-spring-warbler-watching/. On May 14, 2016 Global Big Day, is a count sponsored by Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and eBird. It is an all-day effort to count as many species as you can in as many places as possible. Report your data using your eBird account at www.ebird.com. This will also coincide with some Spring Counts.

Happy Birding,

Tom Howe

TOS Spring Meeting

The 2016 Annual TOS Meeting will be held at Reelfoot Lake and is being sponsored by the Memphis Chapter. Ellington Hall has been reserved for meeting registration and a Friday night reception from 5:00 to 8:00 PM, as well as for committee meetings, the Board of Directors' meeting, dinner, and the annual meeting will be Saturday night. For additional information see: www.tnbirds.org/Events/Springmtg16.html.

Get Out and Get Birding! May Field Trips

Frozen Head State Park

Sunday, May 1, 2016, 7:30 a.m.

Leader: Chuck Estes: (865) 207-0143

Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the parking area at the amphitheater past the visitor center, one-way bridge to the left. See www.outdoorknoxville.com/places/trails/regional/frozen-head-state-park-trails for additional information.

Sharp's Ridge Thursday Morning Walks

Thursday, May 5, 2016

Leader: Tony Headrick: (865) 621-9836

Meet at the ranger's house at 8:00 a.m. For site information and directions, visit www.cityofknoxville.org/parks/sharpsridge.asp.

Cross Mountain

Saturday, May 7, 2016. 7:30 a.m.

Leaders: Chuck Estes: (865) 207-0143 and Tom Howe (865) 407-9620

Meet at Shoney's at exit 134 off I-75 at 7:30 a.m. before ascending Cross Mountain. Our target birds will be Golden-winged and Cerulean Warblers and Black-billed Cuckoo.

Beverly Park, Tazewell Pike

Thursday, May 19, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

Leader: Tony King (865) 988-6172

The Tennessee Mountain Laurel Festival

Louis Redman will lead a bird watching walk to the Plateau Utility District's Reservoir at 2:00 p.m. at the Tennessee Mountain Laurel Festival on May 21, 2016 meeting at the Courthouse Square in Wartburg, Tenn.

Spring Counts: Blount and Loudon Counties

Spring counts will occur in Blount and Loudon Counties on May 14, 2016. Please contact Jean Alexander, jjadmj@yahoo.com, for Blount County and Tony King, (865) 988-6172, for Loudon County for instructions.

J.B. OWEN MEMORIAL FUND, ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2015-2016

May 1, 2016

The purpose of the J.B. Owen Memorial Fund 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 Fund provides money for projects that promote the welfare and conservation of birds in Tennessee. This annual report summarizes projects funded, contributions of members of the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society (KTOS), operating expenses, and other pertinent information as to the status of the Fund and its administration during 2015-2016.

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.
- 2009: Than Boves for support of the project on Relationships between Cerulean Warblers, Timber Harvest, and Ornamentation. 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.
- 2010: 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.
- 2011: Than Boves for stable isotope analysis on feathers collected over the past three years from Cerulean Warblers during his research on this species in the Appalachian Mountains. Evan Searfoss to complete the construction of an observation tower at Kyker Bottoms Refuge in Blount County.
- 2012: Tiffany Beachy, for support of her project Investigating Potential Impacts of Hemlock Decline on Stream-Side Birds in the Walker Valley.
- 2013: The Tennessee Izaak Walton League to assist in its efforts in conserving east Tennessee's natural resources with a special focus on maintaining wetlands in such places as Turkey Creek in west Knox County. The Clinch River Raptor Center for its work in rehabilitating injured raptors.
- 2014: The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation to cover a portion of the cost of a GPS cellular transmitter for tracking one Golden Eagle as part of a larger project across the Appalachian Mountains to document wintering eastern Golden Eagles on their wintering grounds.

New Projects Funded

Lee Bryant was awarded \$750 for support of her project Investigating potential impacts of hemlock health decline on a streamside bird, the Louisiana waterthrush. This is a continuation of the research funded by the 2012 award.

Project Progress

2014 Owen Award winner Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation reports via David Hanni that three attempts were made to deploy a transmitter on a Golden Eagle on the Bear Hollow WMA but that they were unable to trap the bird. Data is still being received from the other birds that are still transmitting data. Updates available at: www.tnwatchablewildlife.org/GoldenEagles.cfm.

2015 Owen Award winner Lee Bryant reports: The 2016 breeding season has been a challenge so far. Of the 20 banded birds monitored in 2015, only 13 have returned (65%); however, two banded birds who returned to their previous season's territories disappeared and have been replaced by other individuals. Louisiana water thrush were first heard in Walker Valley on March 14, 2016 (4 days later than 2015). The mild winter and warm spring have cued the birds to start breeding; this season's first egg was laid on April 3, 2016 (9 days earlier than 2015) We located 11 nests so far and are following 22 pairs. We are continuing to record the locations of monitored males to map territories and locate high use areas that will be surveyed for vegetation, stream characteristics, and hemlock health. In this 2016 season, we are also collecting nestling provisioning data (using handheld camcorders) and calculating nestling body condition to determine if either is related to hemlock condition. All data collection would be impossible without the generous J.B. Owen Memorial Award.

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 (high school or younger), or TOS life membership for \$450 with \$8 annual fee to Chapter.



www.tnbirds.org/KTOS.html

**2015 — 2016
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J.B. OWEN MEMORIAL FUND, ANNUAL REPORT (cont.)

Financial Summary

In September an anonymous donation of \$10,000.00 was made to the Fund; because the donation was earmarked for the International Crane Foundation (ICF) and their Keeping Whooping Cranes Safe initiative and remained in the Fund for less than one month before being donated to the ICF, that money is not included in this summary. To encourage applications, the Committee decided to increase the size of the annual awards and to move the deadline for submissions from May 1 to June 1.

J.B. Owen Memorial Fund Financial Summary	
Fund Balance (March 31, 2015)	\$9,402.37
Donations	\$ 262.00
Interest	\$44.33
Distributions	(\$750.00)
Fund Balance (March 31, 2016)	\$8,958.70

Submitted by J.B. Owen Memorial Fund Committee, Carole Gobert, Chairperson; Jean Alexander; Chuck Estes; Lola Estes; David Johnson; June Welch