



biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

Wildlife Rehabilitation by Lynne McCoy

Wednesday November 3rd @ 6:45

Room 117 of the UT Veterinary Building

I have found a baby bird, squirrel or rabbit! What do I do?

If you have ever said this, then you need to come, hear, see and understand what Lynne McCoy has to say.

Lynne McCoy is a home-based independent wildlife rehabilitator and educator located in Jefferson County, TN. She has worked with birds, mammals and reptiles for 35 years. She has federal and state permits and is a member of the Tennessee Wildlife and Education Rehabilitation Association. She writes a newsletter, "It's a Wildlife" about her experiences and has a website: www.picturetrail.com/backwoodslynne with albums of her experiences. Lynne cares for 400-800 animals annually. She can be reached at Backwoodslynne@aol.com

Lynne will speak about the need for wildlife rehabilitation and what it involves to both the public and the rehabber. How to know when help is needed and when to leave the wild one alone i.e., fledgling birds in spring and summer. How to contact a rehabilitator and how to volunteer. She will also be bringing some of her **live wildlife ambassadors** with her!

The field of wildlife rehabilitation is generally composed of individuals who operate from their homes, usually as unpaid volunteers or as part of volunteer organizations. With the increased availability of training and continuing education often being added as a condition of permit renewal, these wildlife rehabilitators are able to provide very sophisticated care to injured and orphaned wildlife.

Permitted, trained rehabilitators are a valuable link in the network of people and organizations helping wildlife. In addition to returning animals to the wild, they are cooperating to reduce negative human impact on wildlife and the environment.

Come and learn how you can be prepared to help a bird or animal.

Remember to park in lot #66. Hope to see everyone there. Bring a friend or neighbor! The more the better!

~Billie~

*******Membership Renewal Time - See page 3 for form and more information.*******

"Use whatever talent you possess: the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those that sing the best.

~Henry Van Dyke~

KTOS FINANCIAL REPORT - CALENDAR YEAR 2010

	October	September	YTD
Income:			
. Dues	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$1,520.00
. Shade Grown Coffee	184.00	0.00	837.00
. Interest	18.27	18.56	182.39
. Silent Auction	0.00	0.00	0.00
. Owen Memorial	0.00	0.00	2.00
. Spring Meeting	0.00	0.00	2,509.00
Donation	0.00	100.00	100.00
Total Income	<u>\$ 202.27</u>	<u>\$ 118.56</u>	<u>\$ 5,150.39</u>
Expenses:			
. Newsletter	\$ 64.95	\$ 64.95	\$ 627.68
. Supplies	0.00	39.99	202.78
. Shade Grown Coffee	80.97	36.10	764.11
. TOS Member Dues	0.00	0.00	2,292.00
. Spring Meeting	0.00	0.00	2,060.98
UT Garden Rental	0.00	25.00	25.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 145.92</u>	<u>\$ 166.04</u>	<u>\$ 5,972.85</u>

Account Balances

. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$4,399.00	\$4,360.37
. J.B.Owen Memorial	\$7,073.33	\$7,055.61
Memberships	118	118
Paid 2010 Memberships	118	118
Paid 2011 Memberships	1	1
New Members:	None	

Notice of Upcoming Vote

There was a discussion at the October meeting concerning the usage of excess funds currently being held by the Treasurer.

A motion made at the October meeting to contribute \$1,500 to the J.B. Owen Fund will be voted on by the members at the November meeting. A second motion to sponsor two miles of Operation Migration in Tennessee at \$200 per mile for a total of \$400 will also be voted on at the next meeting.

Announcement

Robin Barrow will step down as Field Trip Coordinator as of January 2011. If you are willing to serve in this position, contact Mark Armstrong or any member of the Executive Committee.

Field Trips for

November



Saturday, November 6, 8:00 AM

Royal Blue WMA

Leader: David Trently, naturetours@avianpursuits.com; 865-531-1473 (h); 865-974-8528 (w); or 865-771-8288 (day of the trip only).

Either meet at the Ingles grocery store at 430 E Emory Road north of Knoxville at 8:00 a.m., or after 8:30 at the parking area for the field trip which is at GPS coordinates: N 36.36207 W 84.22568

This area is off I-75 Exit 141 (Oneida exit), on the east side of the interstate, at the second major bend in Old Kentucky Road, heading southeast. I have not birded there during this season, but expect it might be a worthwhile destination. The site has a marsh, a large pond that may have some waterfowl, mostly level dirt roads and plenty of wooded areas. We should be done there in about 2 hours, at which time we could check out some other areas of Royal Blue, as well as Cove Lake State Park on the way home.

Saturday, November 13, 9:00 AM

Sharps Ridge, Knoxville

Leader: Tony King (865-988-6172)

SHARPS RIDGE CLEAN-UP

KTOS has adopted Sharps Ridge as a place about which we care deeply. We will hold the fall cleanup operation from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Please come out and help us maintain the area the way we wish to see it. Meet at the J.B. Owen overlook.

Saturday, November 27, 1:40 PM

**Hiwassee Refuge-Sandhill Crane Viewing Area
Birchwood, TN**

**Leader: Robin Barrow (865-297-2572,
braveladyrobin@gmail.com)**

For carpooling to the site, meet at the Stokley Building parking lot, 320 N. Cedar Bluff, Knoxville, at 1:40 p.m. or behind the Lenoir City Ruby Tuesday (exit 81) at 2:00 p.m. We'll arrive late in the day to catch the birds as they come in to feed and stay until after sunset, then grab a fast-food dinner before returning to Knoxville by 8:30 p.m. Sandhill Cranes are the target birds, but a good number of ducks are possible, and there is good sparrow habitat nearby. We will stop along the Hiwassee River to scan for shore birds and snipe on the way down. Spotting scopes are recommended. Dress warmly!



Presidential Perch

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

Hi Folks

Well it happened; our long hot summer is over. All my ruby-throats have gone, and I've seen a White-throated Sparrow so I know it really is over. I enjoy this season when so many birds are on the move and every day can bring a surprise.

Taking a break while painting a door a while back, I managed to see both a Magnolia Warbler and White-throated Sparrow for a nice contrast in birds.

We had a good banding session at Ft. Morgan, AL with the Hummer/Bird Study Group. I think the session total was over 1500 birds and 83 species. Many thanks to Billie for covering for me at the October meeting so I could get an early start on the drive. I had to be there at noon Thursday to help with set up of the banding site.

We are continuing our banding efforts at Seven Islands and last Sunday got a record 101 birds. The most common bird we banded was Swamp Sparrow at 30 followed by Song Sparrows at 22. Some other birds of interest that we banded were White-crowned Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow and our first ever Orange-crowned Warbler.

Just to follow up a bit, TWRA has a page on their web site concerning the proposal for Sandhill Crane hunting. This site is located at the following address: <http://www.state.tn.us/twra/sandhillproposal.html>.

The site has more on their justification for hunting, the locations where hunting may occur and the season. There is also a way to comment on the proposal which ends on January 19, 2011.

Mark

SHARP'S RIDGE CLEANUP

See page 2 for details.

KTOS Membership Form

Please support KTOS by joining or renewing today as a member. Your membership dues allow us to offer engaging monthly meetings and exciting field trips. Chapter members receive our newsletter, *Through the BiKNOXulars*, ten times per year, along with membership in the state Tennessee Ornithological Society. By being a state member, members will also receive the publications *The Tennessee Warbler* and *The Migrant*.

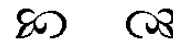


KTOS's membership year runs January 1 through December 31. Membership dues are to be paid before the start of the new calendar year.

New member or renewal

I would prefer to receive the chapter newsletter by:
e-mail or paper copy .

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
E-mail: _____
Phone: _____



- Individual \$26/year
 - Family \$30/year
 - Student \$13/year
 - Sustaining \$38/year
 - Life membership with state TOS \$450/one-time cost with \$8 annual dues to local chapter
 - Additional donation to J. B. Owen Memorial Endowment \$ _____
- Total enclosed: \$ _____



Please bring your completed application and check made payable to KTOS to the next meeting or mail to:
Carole Gobert, KTOS Treasurer
1304 Barcelona Drive
Knoxville, TN 37923

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Position Statement

Proposed Sandhill Crane Hunting Season in 2011-2012.

Adopted by the TOS Board of Directors October 2, 2010.

The Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS) believes that the fall arrival and over-wintering of tens of thousands of Sandhill Cranes in Tennessee should be celebrated as a wildlife spectacle and a Watchable Wildlife viewing opportunity.

The Tennessee Ornithological Society is presently opposed to initiating a Sandhill Crane hunting season in Tennessee.

YOUR COMMENTS NEEDED!

TWRA is proposing a hunting season on Sandhill Cranes. TWRA needs to hear from you.

Comments accepted until January 18, 2011. Click the link at the bottom of:

www.state.tn.us/twra/sandhillproposal.html

Comments need to be:

- 1) Respectful
- 2) If you oppose the hunt, include your reasoning in addition to your opinion.
- 3) Include your name and address.

Suggestions for added IMPACT:

- 1) Include your Bluebird license tag number, hunting or fishing license number, and/or whether you are a donor on the Watchable Wildlife website.
- 2) Send a paper copy of your comments to your TWRA Commissioner.
www.state.tn.us/twra/comnames.html
- 3) Send a paper copy to all of the TWRA Commissioners.
- 4) If you know any of the Commissioners, meet with them face to face or call them with your comments and concerns.

For more information, contact:

Dick Preston

TOS President

dickpreston@bigriver.net



A proposal for a hunting season on wintering Sandhill Cranes in Tennessee has advanced to a final vote by the Tennessee Wildlife Commission, scheduled for as early as January 2011.

The Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS) officially opposes this hunt and “believes that the fall arrival and over-wintering of tens of thousands of Sandhill Cranes in Tennessee should be celebrated as a wildlife spectacle and a Watchable Wildlife viewing opportunity. “

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) recently launched a website which includes information about Sandhill Cranes, links to the proposed hunt plan, and a link for the public to submit comments. That website is: www.state.tn.us/twra/sandhillproposal.html. The deadline for comments is January 18, 2011. I have been told that if you are opposed to the hunt, it is crucial to give your reasoning in addition to your opinion, in your comments.

Background:

There are 3 subspecies of Sandhill Crane in North America. The Greater Sandhill Crane (SACR) migrates through and winters in Tennessee. The breeding range for this subspecies is centered in the Great Lakes region of the U.S. and Canada, and contains about 600,000 individuals. Approximately 10% of these birds migrate through the Mississippi Flyway and winter primarily from Georgia to central Florida. In recent years, a growing number of SACR have been wintering in Tennessee, mainly on TWRA’s Hiwassee Refuge in Meigs County. The 5-year average number of cranes counted during the mid-winter surveys is 22,099, with an extraordinary 48,505 counted in 2010 (and confirmed by experienced USFWS biologists). This average is somewhat inflated because of a hard freeze in Pulaski, Indiana, that forced more cranes south during the count period. Excluding 2010, the 5-year average is 12,398.

After a decade of discussion, a Sandhill Crane Hunt Plan for TN has been approved by the Flyway Council and awaits final approval by the TWRA Wildlife Commission. The plan allows for 733 hunting permits (maximum three cranes per permit holder) based on a “take” of 10% of the 5-year population average (22,099 X 10% = 2,200 cranes). With an additional estimated non-retrieved (crippling) rate of 9%, the maximum number of cranes that could be killed in Tennessee is 2,397 birds. The 60-day hunting season would be concurrent with the waterfowl season. The zone for hunting SACR would be roughly south of I-40 and east of Hwy 56 (southeast Tennessee). There is no plan to allow hunting of SACR anywhere else in Tennessee at this time.

TWRA has expressed that their primary intention is to provide hunters with a “reasonable use of this resource.” They say that a hunt would also address complaints from area farmers of SACR depredation of crops, primarily of winter

(Continued on the following page)

Page 4

(Continued from Page 4)

wheat. However, it should be noted that between 2008 and 2010 only 9 SACR depredation permits have been requested and granted by the USFWS.

Concerns raised by TOS included:

1) Fear that initiating a Sandhill Crane hunting season would damage the reputation of TWRA among the growing non-hunting, wildlife-viewing public. USFWS surveys in TN found that hunting declined 25%, while wildlife watching increased by 81% between 1996 and 2006.

2) The Sandhill Crane is not a game species in Tennessee. TWRA alone has the authority, through proclamation, to change the status of a species. Since the founding of the agency, no additional birds have been proclaimed game species, and no bird species have ever been removed from the game species list, even when populations have declined (i.e. Northern Bobwhite, Common Moorhen).

3) An increasing number of Whooping Cranes (WHCR) are stopping and wintering in Tennessee. WHCR have been (rarely) mistaken for SACR and killed in western-hunting states. Immature WHCR and SACR look very similar. In addition, other non-target species may be shot. Specifically, a common name for the Great Blue Heron in Tennessee is "crane."

4) A SACR hunt could either cause the cranes to leave Tennessee for wintering areas further south, or drive more cranes onto the Hiwassee Refuge. TWRA presented no plan to address the potential of crane over-crowding on the refuge.

5) The increase in the eastern population of SACR is very recent, and given the slow growth potential of the species (breeding first occurs at four to seven years of age, with a pair rarely raising more than one young per year), it is premature to propose a SACR hunt in Tennessee.

Melinda Welton
Conservation Policy Committee

Request from Janet Lee McKnight

Mark graciously provided for us the names/addresses of who to write to in opposition to cranes being hunted in the state of Tennessee. Commissioner Mike Chase called me when he received my letter. He thanked me and told me that it makes a difference, and to encourage everyone I could to do the same. I asked him how many other letters he had received. When he said only one other, I was stunned and saddened. If it is not OK with you that cranes be shot out of our Tennessee skies, PLEASE, PLEASE take an hour out of your life to speak for the cranes.

I sent the information to my friend Julie Zickefoose, and the following letter she promptly composed and mailed out is stellar. With her permission, I wanted to share it with you in hopes of inspiring each and every one of you to do the same. Julie said to feel free to use her factoids and statistics.

I am a writer, naturalist and artist with a special interest in human/bird interactions.

For my new book, due out in 2012 from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, I've been researching sandhill crane hunting. The sandhill crane has the lowest recruitment rate (average number of young birds joining a population each season) of any bird now hunted in North America. Historic recruitment rates of all migratory sandhill crane populations range from 7.5% to a high of 11%.

Since 1975, hunting in the Central Flyway has taken around 20,000 cranes annually (E.M. Martin, U.S. FWS report). This represents 6% of the estimated mid-continental spring population of 322,700 birds for the same two decades. Given the projected recruitment rate, harvesting 6% of the population each year in the US alone seems to me to be cutting it too close to the edge. Kills in Canada, Alaska and Mexico are not included in the count. What about all the other birds that die from inexperience, disease, natural predation and accidents? Further, the crane take in Mexico is a free-for-all: neither regulated nor recorded.

Hunting sandhill cranes in Tennessee is a bad idea from a public relations standpoint, considering the growing cadre of birders and nature enthusiasts for who cranes are a touchstone species. How can Tennessee possibly garner enough revenue from crane hunting to offset the outrage when birdwatchers find out that the cranes they love and travel to see are being shot? Hunting is on a steady downturn, and nonconsumptive wildlife pursuits are on a tremendous upswing. Nationwide, wildlife watchers now outspend hunters 6 to 1. The explosion in digital photography allows people to stalk wildlife without harming it. Initiating a hunting season on a large, charismatic species like a crane, in a state where it has been deliberately fed and celebrated for 17 years, is no way to resuscitate hunting. It is, however, an excellent way to alienate nonconsumptive wildlife enthusiasts, and further polarize the camps.

Texas and North Dakota together account for 88% of the total yearly kill of sandhill cranes. There is evidence that a unique Canadian prairie population of lesser sandhill cranes is being selectively wiped out, since they migrate over the most heavily hunted areas of Texas. It should go without saying that the incidental kill of endangered whooping cranes is an unacceptable cost of adding another state to the shooting gallery all along both species' migration route. Of the Central Flyway states, Nebraska alone holds out in protecting the cranes, having proven by its longstanding Festival of the Cranes in Kearney that a crane is worth infinitely more alive and purring in the sky with its family than thudding, broken and bleeding, into a cornfield. Crane overpopulation in Tennessee is a manmade problem with a vastly kinder and simpler solution than killing the birds. Stop feeding them and they will move on.

Thank you for considering my views. Julie Zickefoose
See www.state.tn.us/twra/comnames.html for names and addresses of Commissioners.

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 Dec issue is Fri, Oct. 23.

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"



PRESIDENT Mark Armstrong
1440 Fawn Road
Seymour, TN 37865
(865) 577-5398

marmstrong@knoxville-zoo.org
woodthrush@bellsouth.net

VICE PRESIDENT Billie Cantwell
1613 Cove Creek LN
Knoxville, TN 37919
Cell 865-567-4273 Home 865-212-9797
Bfcantwell@gmail.com

TREASURER Carole Gobert
1304 Barcelona Drive
Knoxville TN 37923
(865) 254-8841
cpgobert@hotmail.com

SECRETARY Angela Hoffman
813 Owl Hollow Road
Knoxville, TN 37923
Home (865) 670-8822
ahoffman07@bellsouth.net

EDITOR Ginger Goolsby
1126 Heykoop Drive
Morristown, TN 37814 (423) 581-9439
Cell (423) 748-4632
vtgoalsby@musfiber.com

EDITOR (Distribution) Patty Ford
8404 Mecklenburg Court
Knoxville, TN 37923 (865) 719-8383
pattyford@pfordonline.com

FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR- Robin Barrow
Cell (865) 297-2572
braveladyrobin@gmail.com

through the biKNOXulars (USPS 697-010)
Published monthly, except January, July and August by the
Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society,
8404 Mecklenburg Court, Knoxville, TN 37923
Subscription Price \$8.00. Periodical Postage paid at Knoxville, TN 37901
POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to:
through the biKNOXulars, 8404 Mecklenburg Court, Knoxville, TN 37923

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, the 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.

The only way to encourage shade grown coffee farming is to buy the product. Production follows demand, and many farmers are switching back to shade grown methods as consumer awareness increases.

See David Johnson and place your coffee order and help preserve bird habitat.

