



Great Smoky Mountains Biodiversity Inventory

Join us on **Wednesday, November 7, at 6:45 p.m** to hear this month's program that will be presented by Todd P. Witcher, the Executive Director of Discover Life in America (DLIA). DLIA operates the amazing biological inventory project that is recruiting scientists and citizen scientists from across the globe to document all living species in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Todd will update us on the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) project and share some of ATBI's amazing discoveries over the last decade in the Smoky Mountains.

Recipient of the 2012 J. B. Owen Award

The J.B. Owen Memorial Fund was established in 2002 to honor the memory of J.B. Owen (1916 – 2001), longtime Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS) member and columnist known to thousands in East Tennessee through his columns in Knoxville newspapers. Since its inception the Fund has made annual awards supporting projects that promote the welfare and conservation of birds in Tennessee. This year's J.B. Owen Memorial Award was presented at the October meeting of KTOS to Tiffany Beachy, Citizen Science Coordinator at the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, in support of her project Investigating Potential Impacts of Hemlock Decline on Stream-Side Birds in the Walker Valley. The project focuses on two species that breed along streams in the Walker Valley: Acadian Flycatchers and Louisiana Waterthrushes.



Louisiana Waterthrush, Source: Wikimedia Commons



Acadian Flycatcher. Source: Wikimedia Commons

Eagle Scout Award

Evan Searfoss became an Eagle Scout on October 20, 2012 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Maryville, Tenn. Evan constructed an observation tower at the Kyker Bottoms Refuge in Blount County for his Eagle Scout project. KTOS members helped with the construction of this tower. KTOS provided funds (\$300) for this project.

Dues Reminder

As we reminded you last month, it is about that time again: dues time. You can renew at the November meeting or by mailing your payment to Carole Gobert, 1304 Barcelona Dr., Knoxville, TN 37923. For those new members who joined at or after the Hummingbird Festival in July, your dues were for 2013, so you do not need to pay again until next fall.

KTOS 2013 dues are \$26 (individual), \$30 (family), \$38 (sustaining), \$13 (student), \$8 (TOS life members). TOS life membership is \$450. A KTOS membership form is available at <http://tinyurl.com/9qjss2f>.



J. B. Owen Fund committee member David Johnson presenting the 2012 J. B. Owen Award to Tiffany Beachy of the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont.



Presidential Perch

What a beautiful fall! I hope everyone was able to see some migrating birds heading south! It has been a busy time with leaves falling, searching for wintering hummingbirds, and planning for the 2013 TOS spring meeting that will be held in Knoxville.

Welcome to KTOS for all our new members! We are so happy that you have chosen to join us. We also appreciate your desire to be involved with our projects and activities.

The "Discover Birds" project has started with another big bang. This project has significantly expanded from KTOS members sponsoring a class to something that has taken off into an amazing concept. The project will really get children excited about birds and maybe even a few of their teachers!

We have a great opportunity to help Scott Somershoe develop a Tennessee birding trails book that will promote birding and tourism in our state in the near future. Scott is putting together a draft of location and needs a group of volunteers to review and make suggestions. Additional information is included in posting 1512 at Knoxville TOS' Yahoo! group (<http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/KnoxvilleTOS>). Wayne Schacher and Mike Nelson have already offered to help, but we still need a few more KTOS volunteers for this wonderful project.

I hope everyone will have a great Thanksgiving and remember to get out and bird!



Mindy Fawver's newly designed logo for the Discover Birds Project.

Discover Birds Project Expands

Our Discover Birds Activity Book is expanding! At the fall meeting in Nashville, TOS approved funding for the expansion of the current 16-page activity book to 36 pages, including a revised cover. One thousand books will be printed and the new revision will be released at the 2013 Sandhill Crane Festival at Birchwood, Tenn., the weekend of January 19, 2013.

The expanded book will receive input from an advisory committee composed of educators from diverse backgrounds, including classroom educators; members of the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (NIMBioS); the Smoky Mountain Institute at Tremont; and others. This joint input will add diversity to the book's content and its activities.

Special thanks goes to Cyndi Routledge of Clarksville, Tenn., co-chair of the Sandhill Crane Festival, for presenting this request to TOS. Additionally, the KTOS Discover Birds Pilot Project was presented as a potential program model for use across Tennessee.

In addition to providing activity books to classrooms, the cost of which was jointly sponsored by individual KTOS members and KTOS, the KTOS pilot project offers the teacher and classroom a bird walk led by KTOS volunteers; a sample lesson plan; access to the Discover Birds Blog; a welcome packet that includes posters, calendars, and other teacher resources; and donated bird feeders to provide on-going student bird observation.

At Rocky Hill Elementary School, through the initiative of Billie Cantwell and Mark Campen, activity books are being provided to a total of twelve classrooms of first and second grade classes. Billie has put together the welcome packets, and Mindy Fawver, design partner for the new activity book, has developed our beautiful new logo for the Discover Birds Project. The cover art for the welcome packets includes the following three logos: KTOS; Discover Birds Project; and TOS. Bird walks are currently being scheduled for Rocky Hill classes and we have donated bird feeders to the classes.

We invite every KTOS member to think about schools you would like to sponsor and other ways you would like to help with this project in 2013. We need more volunteers to help co-lead bird walks and we welcome your ideas and contributions!

Contacts: Billie Cantwell [(865) 567-4273, bfcantwell@gmail.com] or Vickie Henderson [(865) 661-1925, vickielee13@gmail.com]

Vickie Henderson

Birding Briefs

Ann Tallent has watched numerous birds from a chair on her sun-room, as the birds enjoy the waterfall feature which is a part of the "bird island" in her backyard. As we all know moving water attracts birds like a magnet, so she would encourage all birders to have some kind of feature that would allow the sound of running or dripping water. She has seen the following species at her "bird island" from September through mid-October 2012: yellow-rumped Warbler; Black-throated Green Warbler; Wilson's Warbler; Amer. Redstart; Chestnut-sided Warbler; Tenn. Warbler; Magnolia Warbler; N. Parula; Palm Warbler; Blackburnian Warbler; Black-and-white Warbler; Swainson's Thrush; E. Phoebe; Rose-breasted Grosbeak (female); Scarlet Tanager (female); and an E. Wood Pewee. She was able to see five Tenn. Warblers bathing at one time below the waterfall. On October 13, 2012, she saw a glimpse of a probable Ruby-throated Hummingbird. She was fortunate to have a Rufous Hummingbird stay with her from December 2003 until mid-March 2004.

KTOS members **Susan Hoyle, Linda Denton, Merikay Waldvogel, Jerry Ledbetter, Gary and Alice Woody, and Tony King**, the group's intrepid leader, visited **Karen Fletcher's home and Brian Hann's farm** on October 11, 2012. While they enjoyed the landscape and the fall wildflowers, they were there to find birds. They observed the following species: Cooper's Hawk (1); Turkey Vulture (2); Mourning Dove (2); N. Flicker (3); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (2); Downy Woodpecker (3); Hairy Woodpecker (1); Red-bellied Woodpecker (5); Amer. Crow (5); Blue Jay (6); Car. Chickadee (>7); Tufted Titmouse (>8); Red-breasted Nuthatch (1); Car. Wren (8); Golden-crowned Kinglet (1); E. Bluebird (1); Amer. Robin (8); Wood Thrush (1); N. Mockingbird (1); Black-throated Green Warbler (2); Palm Warbler (2); Pine Warbler (1); Tenn. Warbler (7); N. Cardinal (1); and E. Towhee (1). Birds seen from Ijams Nature Center's parking lot where they meet before going to Karen's house included: E. Phoebe (1); Yellow-bellied sapsucker (1); N. Cardinal (1); Blue Jay; Titmouse; Car. Chickadee; N. Parula (1); Amer. Goldfinch (1); Probable Chestnut-sided Warbler (1); and Rose-breasted Grosbeak (1).

Mike Nelson and numerous KTOS members visited **Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge** on October 7, 2012. They observed the following species: Double-crested Cormorant (1); Great Blue Heron (3); W. Osprey (1); Killdeer (heard); Mourning Dove; Chimney Swift (>300); Belted Kingfisher (1); N. Flicker (6); Downy Woodpecker (5); Red-bellied Woodpecker (5); E. Phoebe (1); Barn Swallow (1); N. Rough-winged Swallow (15); Tree Swallow (>3000); Amer. Crow (7); Blue Jay (>40); Car. Chickadee (6); Tufted Titmouse (3); White-breasted Nuthatch (heard); Car. Wren (2); House Wren (1); Grey Catbird (2); N. Mockingbird (> 20); Brown Thrasher (3); E. Bluebird (2); Common Starling (>30); Ovenbird (1); Amer. Redstart (1); Blackburnian Warbler (1); Cape May Warbler (4); Hooded Warbler (1); Magnolia Warbler (10); Nashville Warbler (1); Tenn. Warbler (7); Yellow Warbler (1); Myrtle Warbler (1); N. Waterthrush (1); Summer Tanager (heard); Indigo Bunting; N. Cardinal (>20); Rose-breasted Grosbeak; Field Sparrow; Lincoln's Sparrow (1); Song Sparrow; Swamp Sparrow (1); E. Towhee (5); Red-winged Blackbird (>20); Common Grackle (>50); E. Meadowlark (6); and American Goldfinch (15).

Field Trips

Foothills Parkway

Saturday, November 3 @ 8:30 a.m.
Leaders: Tom Howe (865) 748-9610,
blountbirder@yahoo.com
Susan Hoyle (865) 909-0792

We will meet at the IGA parking lot in Townsend which is off Hwy 321 (E. Lamar Alexander Pkwy.) on Clearwater Dr. The hike may involve weedy and damp areas. Please dress according.

Sharp's Memorial Park Ridge

Saturday, November 10 @ 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Tony King, (865) 988-6172

Join Tony for our annual fall clean-up day at Sharp's Ridge Memorial Park. KTOS formally adopted the park in 2004 as a litter-free area. Meet at the overlook at 9:00 a.m., and bring gloves and water. The clean-up will last about two hours. Come early and stay late for some birding. In case of rain, the clean-up will be held on Sunday, November 11 @ 9:00 a.m., instead. For more information and directions, visit www.tnbirds.org/birdfinding/SharpsRidge.htm.

Hickory Creek Park

Saturday, November 10 @ 9:30 a.m.
Leader: Mark Campen,
mcampen7@hotmail.com

Join Mark for a trip to TVA's Hickory Creek Park (2120 Everett Rd.). If you want to carpool, meet at the UT Agriculture Campus in the large parking lot at the corner of Neyland Dr. and Joe Johnson Dr. next to the Animal Sciences Bldg. @ 9:00 a.m.

Knoxville Botanical Gardens and Arboretum

Sunday, November 11 @ 1:00 p.m.
Leader: Mark Campen,
mcampen7@hotmail.com

Join Mark for a trip to Knoxville Botanical Gardens and Arboretum. If you want to carpool, meet at the UT Agriculture Campus in the large parking lot at the corner of Neyland Dr. and Joe Johnson Dr. next to the Animal Sciences Bldg. @ 12:45 p.m. For directions to the botanical gardens visit www.knoxgarden.org.

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www.tnbirds.org/KTOS.html

**2012 — 2013
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2013 Sandhill Crane Festival

Fall migration is clearly at hand and with that comes thoughts of Sandhill and Whooping Cranes and the 2013 Sandhill Crane Festival, which is only three months away. There are still many things to be done, as well as many volunteer opportunities to be had. Cyndi Routledge (routledges@bellsouth.net) will once again be serving as the Volunteer Coordinator. So if you are interested in helping with the festival, please contact her. In the meantime think about how you can help, because there are many opportunities such as: setting up your scopes and sharing that viewing experience with festival goers; helping at the TOS table at Birchwood; selling and serving pizza on Sunday for the hungry; sharing crane knowledge at the educational display at the refuge; and taking pictures of the event.



Sandhill Cranes. Source:
Wikimedia Commons