

through the **biKNOXulars**

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

'Internal parasites in birds' is topic of October 5 program

On Wednesday, October 5, Dr. Charles Faulkner will present "Endoparasitic Infection in Birds from Great Smoky Mountain National Park (GSMNP)." Dr. Faulkner, who specializes in veterinary parasitology, has been a member of the UT Veterinary School for over 17 years. He has had the opportunity to examine and research parasites in all species of animals from aardvarks to zebras.

For the past three years, MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) bird banders at Purchase Knob and Tremont have collected bird guano, when the birds provided it. Dr. Faulkner has used those fecal samples to study internal parasites infecting the birds. Little is known about parasitic infections in migratory and resident passerine birds so almost everything they find out is new information.

Dr. Faulkner and his associates are trying to answer the basic epidemiologic questions: who, what, when and where about the host-parasite relationships in the breeding bird populations. They would also like to understand the effect of different bird species' feeding and social behaviors on the host-parasite relationships. Additionally, this work has added to the information collected for the ATBI (All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory) being conducted in GSMNP.

Last year Charlie Muise talked about the MAPS stations in GSMNP. Here is an opportunity to learn more about the latest bird research being conducted from these sites. See you at 7 p.m. on October 5 in room 117 of the UT Vet Building.

- Tracey Muise, VP and program coordinator

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Field trips and outings for October

Sunday, October 16, 8 AM

Morning Birding at Wood Thrush Ridge. See page 1.

Saturday, October 22, 4 PM

Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge. See page 2.



Sunday, October 16, 8 AM

Morning Birding at Wood Thrush Ridge

Chili lunch

Afternoon at Kyker Bottoms

Join Janet McKnight at her new place, Wood Thrush Ridge, and help her discover what's lurking about on her 40 acres of wooded bliss. Maybe Alan Trently will lead a bio blitz?? We'll bird all morning from 8 a.m. until 11ish, when Janet will serve up some of her homemade chili for lunch. Bring a chair and enjoy the view, the company and the birds. Then those of us who want to continue birding will go with leader David Trently to scare up some sparrows at Kyker Bottoms. Please call Janet (865) 856-2229 or (865) 271-8332 for directions or more info.

(Continued on page 2)

"Magpie, n. A bird whose thievish disposition suggested to someone that it might be taught to talk."

- Ambrose Bierce, American writer (1842-1913)

October outings! *(Continued from page 1)*

Saturday, October 22, 4 PM

Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge

Leader: **David Trently** (dtrently@utk.edu; 974-8664 w; 531-1473 h)

Meet at 3:45 p.m. at the Comcast parking lot on US Highway 11E, or meet at Seven Islands at approximately 4:00 p.m. Take the first exit from I-40 east of the junction of I-40 and I-640, turn left on US 11E and the lot is on the right at the top of the hill.

There is excellent field and riparian habitat, plus some wooded areas. We may see any normal resident bird, including raptors, sparrows and possible waterfowl along the river. We could also see some late migrants. We'll spend about three hours birding here, including, for those interested, walking through some of the grassy fields looking for uncommon sparrows. We recommend that you bring something to drink.

We may add a trip to Kyker Bottoms on Oct. 29 or 30. This will be announced at the October meeting, and on the TN-Bird listserv.

- For additional info contact David Trently



OF NOTE!

KTOS Financial Report • October 2005

Compiled by Marie Oakes, Treasurer

	September	Jun to Aug	YTD
Income:			
. Dues	\$46.00	\$74.00	\$1,234.00
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$82.00	\$210.00	\$929.95
. Interest	\$0.00	\$56.61	\$119.15
. Silent Auction	\$0.00	\$31.00	\$613.40
. Owen Memorial	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$71.00
. Miscellaneous	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Income	\$128.00	\$371.61	\$2,967.50
Expenses:			
. Newsletter	\$141.00	\$119.25	\$443.00
. Supplies	\$0.00	\$33.96	\$51.96
. Shade Grown Coffee	\$0.00	\$276.29	\$511.73
. Member Dues to TOS	\$0.00	\$54.00	\$1,346.00
. Miscellaneous	<u>\$25.00</u>	<u>\$18.08</u>	<u>\$43.08</u>
Total Expenses	\$166.00	\$501.58	\$2,395.77
Other:			
	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
Total Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Account Balances			
. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$3,882.82	\$3,920.82	
. J.B. Owen Memorial	\$6,639.30	\$6,639.30	
Memberships			
	145	145	

Club thanks Denise for baked goods

Janet, the refreshment Queen, would like to thank Denise Nauman, who many of you may or may not know, is the better half of Tony King. Denise bakes something homemade for EVERY SINGLE CLUB MEETING! Her name comes back to me on the refreshment sign-up sheet every time it is passed around. All this baking for the club is very generous of Denise's time and talent and deserves to be acknowledged. Yay Denise! Keep the good stuff coming.

With pizza, we'll move some boxes

Volunteers needed to help me, Janet McKnight, relocate my nest box trail and purple martin pole. This will take most of a Sunday. The 30 nest boxes that are being moved need to be taken down, have a new location found for each one on my new property, erected on a post and baffled. We are moving only the boxes on my existing trail that has not been previously nested in. The martin pole was not nested in this past summer. Please call me at (865) 856-2229 or (865) 271-8337 if you would like to help me help the birds! I will feed the crew pizza and lots of iced tea.

-Submitted by Janet McKnight

Cowbirds grow faster when they have nest mates. A new study recently reported by American Association for the Advancement of Science seems to indicate that cowbird babies get fed more often and grow faster if they share the nest with other non-related nestlings. Research conducted on brown-headed cowbirds that were raised by phoebe parents revealed that the foster parents brought more food to nests that contained both a cowbird and phoebe nestlings than to nests that only contained cowbirds; as if the flycatcher parents worked harder and made more trips if the nest held both species. Even though the cowbirds typically hatch a few days before the phobes and could theoretically out compete the phoebe hatchlings when they themselves hatch, still some phobes tend to survive. When they do, their parents work harder at feeding them; and the parasitic older cowbird benefits from the parents extra effort.

The scientists doing the study made frequent trips to various nests, weighed each young bird and measured the length of the growing tibias. Their findings were published in the journal "Science" in August 6, 2004.

J.B. Owen Award to Support Outreach Programs at Ijams

By Marie Oakes

The Knoxville Bird Club has selected Ijams Nature Center to receive the 2005 J.B. Owen Award of \$500 for support of the center's outreach programs which promote conservation of birds in Tennessee.

Through these programs, in which an Ijams educator travels to regional schools, Ijams instructs 30,000 students annually with curriculum-based classes that augment the classroom instruction of teachers.

Many of the outreach programs include a live non-releasable educational bird that focuses a student's attention and creates a lasting memory. In addition, Ijams educators routinely speak to adult groups about local birds, their habitat requirements and conservation status.

Currently Ijams has transportation boxes only for smaller birds of prey. The Owen Award will be used to purchase transportation cases for Ijams' barred owl and red-tailed hawk. The high quality cases will enable Ijams to take these large birds to schools and other off-site groups.

In its review of Lyn Bales' proposal on behalf of Ijams, the evaluation committee concluded that support of the Ijams outreach programs provides an outstanding opportunity to achieve the Owen Award goal of promoting the welfare and conservation of birds in Tennessee. Previous Owen Award winners were:

- **2002:** Foothills Land Conservancy of Maryville, Tennessee, for the Conservancy's work in the acquisition of wetlands—for the welfare and conservation of cranes and other birds—in the area between the Yuchi and Hiwassee Island Refuges;

- **2003:** Jennifer Powers, of East Tennessee State University, for support of graduate research on the reproductive success and natal dispersal of American kestrels;

- **2004:** Samuel deMent of Greenwood, SC, David Vogt of Chattanooga, and Keith Hobson of Saskatoon, SK Canada 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.

The J.B. Owen Award is open to anyone with a project that promotes the welfare and conservation of birds in Tennessee. For information on applying for the Award, please contact Marie Oakes (marieoakes@msn.com) or visit www.tnbirds.org.



The 2005 Owen Award will support Ijams' educational outreach events, such as Lyn Bales' program with Ijams' red-tailed hawk at the September Bird Club meeting

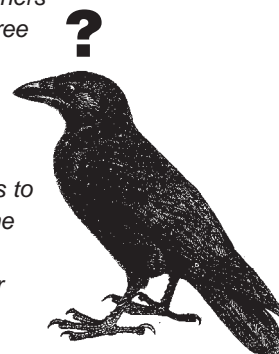
New research suggests that robins not crows spread West Nile. We like to blame crows for a host of problems including the spread of West Nile virus, but new research announced in July seems to point to another culprit. DNA studies conducted at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station suggest that the main spreader of the potentially fatal illness is robins.

West Nile virus first appeared on this side of the globe in 1999. Since then, thousands of crows have died, prompting many to believe that the Corvids were perhaps the principal spreaders for the illness. Last winter researchers performed DNA tests on blood taken from 300 mosquitoes trapped in Connecticut over the past three years. The surprise: 40 percent of the mosquitoes had fed on the blood of robins, while only one percent had fed on crow blood.

Another study conducted at North Carolina State University, turned up similar findings: the mosquitoes tested contained little crow blood.

So how come so many crows have died? The best guess is that somehow crows pass the virus to each other while they are roosting together. However, crow deaths have dramatically declined in the past two years which seems to indicate the birds are building an immunity to the virus.

Humans cases of the illness also seem to be on the decline in areas that have had the virus for several years. In Connecticut where the original mosquito study was concluded, only one person became sick from the virus last year, while there were 17 cases in 2002 and 2003.



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 fees are \$18 for an individual and \$20 for a family. Sustaining memberships are \$28 and a Life membership with TOS is \$200 with an annual fee of \$8 to the local chapter.

DEADLINE for November issue is **October 22**. Due to cost and space restrictions, please limit your articles to **600 or 700 words**.

For a color version of this or past issues go to "local chapters/Knoxville" starting at the TOS Home Page:

[HTTP://www.tnbirds.org](http://www.tnbirds.org)



PRESIDENT.....Charlie Muise
2632 Montvale Road,
Maryville, TN 37803 (865) 977-8429
cmmbirds@yahoo.com

VICE-PRESIDENT.....Tracey Muise
2632 Montvale Road,
Maryville, TN 37803 (865) 977-8429
traceson@yahoo.com

TREASURER.....Marie Oakes
18 Rockingham Lane
Oak Ridge, TN 37830 (865) 483-9287
marieoakes@msn.com

SECRETARY.....Kathy Bivens
114 Boulder Street
Maryville, TN 37804 (865) 983-7349
volkathy@yahoo.com

EDITOR.....Stephen Lyn Bales
1801 Kemper Lane
Knoxville, TN 37920
(865) 577-6978
lynbales@comcast.net

EDITOR (Distribution)...Patty Ford
5525 Lonas Drive
Knoxville, TN 37909-3248
(865) 584-8473
pattyford@comcast.net



Presidential Perch

- By Charlie Muise

Hi folks, 46 people, including several infants, toddlers and kids, attended our September picnic at the Knoxville Zoo. It was a fun time and the food was excellent as usual. Thanks to Mark Armstrong for setting this up.

Due to scheduling conflicts, there was no meeting of the Executive Committee in September. We do have one planned for October. If you'd like to attend, or if you have a topic that should be addressed, please contact me, or any other member.

David Trently has been working very hard as Interim Field Trip Coordinator. See the upcoming trip announcements on page one of this newsletter; and if you'd like to suggest a location, or if you'd like to help arrange a trip, please let him know. Remember, a trip leader need not be some hotshot birder, only a person who knows an area and is willing to help others see it. Trip leaders are asked to keep a list of birds seen by the group, and ensure that any carpooling is conducted safely and that everyone knows where they are going and what they need.

I hope to see all of you at the TOS fall meeting in Greenville, September 30 through October 2. (See below.)

TOS Fall Meeting in Greenville

The 2005 TOS Fall Meeting and Symposium will be held in Greenville on September 30, October 1 and 2. The Comfort Inn at 1790 East Andrew Johnson Highway (Highway 11-E) will be the headquarters for the event. See <http://www.tnbirds.org/Fall05-mtg.htm> for details of the meeting.

We hope that many members of KTOS will make the trip there, at least for one of the days and take part in birding, fellowship, and/or the bird-related reports presented Saturday afternoon. Come meet members of TOS from around the state and make some new friends, and maybe see some new birds.

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