



# biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

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## *Bats and White-Nose Syndrome to be Subject of October Program*

White-nose syndrome (WNS) is a disease that was first documented at four sites in eastern New York in the winter of 2006-07. By 2009, WNS had been found in 9 states, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Virginia. WNS has been associated with a newly identified fungus (*Geomyces destructans*) that thrives in the cold and humid conditions characteristic of caves and mines used by bats. At sites in New York, mortality rates of up to 95% have been found at locations within two years of the initial documentation of WNS. A cave in Smyth County Virginia was confirmed positive for WNS in 2009. This site was located just a few miles from the Tennessee state line. During the summer of 2009, biologists from TWRA begin performing more intense bat surveys across the state. Methods used included acoustic call transects, thermal imagery recordings, mist netting, harp trapping, and banding. In an effort to help reduce the spread of WNS, temporary cave closures for all caves on state-owned public land were implemented. In addition, the TN WNS response plan was created and employed in 2009. As part of the plan, hibernacula surveys were conducted at priority one gray bat hibernacula's in the winter of 2010.

In February 2010, WNS was confirmed at the first site in Sullivan County, TN. After this discovery, biologist began surveys of hibernacula's across the state. By April of 2010, WNS had been discovered in six total counties in Tennessee, and in Missouri and Oklahoma as well. During the summer of 2010, bat surveys were increased in order to gain as much information as possible about the state's bat populations before WNS possibly has a drastic effect on bat numbers in the future. Currently, the 2010 – 2011 TN WNS Response Plan is being revised. State and federal agencies, as well as non profit organizations will continue to track and monitor WNS in the state of Tennessee.

Our speaker for this month is Sterling Daniels, Wildlife Surveys Manager with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Sterling received his BS in Wildlife and Fisheries Science from the University of Tennessee.

With approximately 9,000 known caves, Tennessee is the most cave-rich state in the U.S. The state is home to 15 bat species, including the gray bat and Indiana bat, both listed as federally endangered.

There are lots we can learn about WNS and there are things we can do to help. Please join us Wednesday October 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 PM in Room 117 of the UT Veterinary building.

Invite a friend!  
~Billie~

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*"Have you ever observed a humming-bird moving about in an aerial dance among the flowers - a living prismatic gem....it is a creature of such fairy-like loveliness as to mock all description."*

W. H. Hudson  
*Green Mansions*

## KTOS FINANCIAL REPORT - CALENDAR YEAR 2010

	September	June-Aug	YTD
<b>Income:</b>			
. Dues	\$ 0.00	\$ 26.00	\$1,520.00
. Shade Grown Coffee	0.00	176.00	653.00
. Interest	18.56	55.34	164.12
. 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	100.00	0.00	100.00
Total Income	\$ 118.56	\$ 257.34	\$ 4,948.12
<b>Expenses:</b>			
. Newsletter	\$ 64.95	\$ 66.00	\$ 562.73
. Supplies	39.99	17.60	202.78
. Shade Grown Coffee	36.10	179.86	683.44
. TOS Member Dues	0.00	0.00	2,292.00
. Spring Meeting	0.00	200.00	2,060.98
UT Garden Rental	25.00	0.00	25.00
Total Expenses	\$ 166.04	\$ 463.46	\$ 5,826.93

### Account Balances

. KTOS Checking & Savings	\$4,360.37	\$4,426.09
. J.B.Owen Memorial	\$7,055.61	\$7,037.37
Memberships	118	118
Paid 2010 Memberships	118	118
Paid 2011 Memberships	1	1
New Members:	None	

## REPORT FROM TREASURER

The current financial report shows that KTOS has healthy balances in its checking and savings accounts and there are no significant financial obligations - actual or anticipated - in the near future. Given that the policy has been to hold about \$2,000 in reserve, KTOS has more than \$2,000 available for expenditures that promote the welfare and conservation of birds in Tennessee.

There will be a discussion at the October meeting of the best use for these funds. One option would be for KTOS to make a substantial contribution of at least \$1500 to the J.B. Owen Fund. A separate proposal is for KTOS to sponsor two miles of Operation Migration in Tennessee; at \$200 per mile which would come to \$400.00. There are sufficient available funds to do both.

Any other suggestions from the membership will be considered at the meeting.

~Carole~

## Field Trips for

### October



#### Sunday, Oct 10, 8 a.m.– 2 p.m.

Fifth Annual Five Bs

Gathering at Wood Thrush Ridge

163 Hammontree Ln, Greenback, Loudon County (35.680992,-84.184692)

Leaders: Janet Lee McKnight (865-271-8337, JanetTheDogChick@gmail.com) and David Trently

*This event was rescheduled from its original date, October 3. For the 5th fall in a row, join hostess Janet Lee McKnight and birding leader David Trently for a day of indulging in any or all of the Five Bs (birding, botanizing, bugs, buffet, and BSing). Wood Thrush Ridge is a large property that attracts many migrants and affords a scenic view of soaring raptors. We'll hang out in the general vicinity of the house and yard, feeder watching and looking for fall migrants. We'll take forays on foot throughout the day looking for wildflowers, butterflies and dragonflies, and anything else that is wonderfully natural. There will be a potluck brunch around 10:00, so bring some food to share.*

Contact Janet for directions or more information, or see <http://www.woodthrushridge.com>. Please come!

#### Saturday, October 23, 8:00 a.m.

Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge

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

Meet at the main parking area of the Refuge. This will be an easy stroll along the paved road to the river and back. Hoped-for sightings include: Northern Bobwhite; Bald Eagle; Pileated Woodpecker; Northern Harrier; Savannah, Fox, & White-crowned Sparrows. Bring a snack and something to drink. For directions, see <http://tnbirds.org/birdfinding/SevenIslands.htm>

#### Sunday, October 31, 8:30 a.m.

Kyker Bottoms Wildlife Area, Blount Co.

Leader: David Trently (Home 865-531-1473, Work 865-974-8664, [NatureTours@avianpursuits.com](mailto:NatureTours@avianpursuits.com))

Meet at the paved parking area at Kyker at 8:30; David will arrive at dawn. We'll start out birding from the blind, then wander the nearby fields looking mostly for sparrows. Eventually we'll make our way to the area near the barn where we'll look for more sparrows, plus waterfowl. Anyone who's interested may want to walk through the wet fields trying for snipe, rails, Sedge Wren, etc. This is also a good time of year to see a few raptors, woodpeckers and some late warblers. Rubber boots suggested. We'll be out there at least until noon so you may want to bring a snack and drink.



## Presidential Perch

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~Mark~

Hi Folks,

Something that has been brewing for a while is the possibility of a Sandhill Crane hunting season in Tennessee. When I first heard the idea I was appalled. A lot of time and money has been spent on promoting the birds as watchable wildlife then to turn around and think of hunting them doesn't make sense.

It probably just reflects the difficult situation that TWRA is in. They are the regulatory agency responsible for wildlife, but the sales of hunting and fishing licenses pays most of the bills, so they have to be receptive to new sources of revenue. Melinda Welton from the TOS Conservation Policy Committee posted on TN-bird in August an excellent explanation of all that has transpired regarding crane hunting. Then on September 16 she posted about the numbers of people in Tennessee that are wildlife watchers and their economic impact.

The good news is that it is not a done deal, and TWRA is asking for public input regarding a crane season. If anyone has an opinion, it would be a good time to let the commissioners know how you feel.

Michael Chase (Knox, Blount, Sevier, Anderson, Cumberland, Campbell, Loudon, Morgan, Roane, Scott and Union counties) TWRC Chairperson  
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### YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

**LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE SIGHTINGS** – Loggerhead Shrikes are declining across much of their range. In Canada, the *migrans* subspecies is considered critically endangered, with less than 25 pairs found in 2010. The vast majority of pairs now breed in Ontario. An extremely active and multi-faceted recovery program is underway for this species in Ontario, including a captive breeding and release program. This program has been releasing approximately 100 juvenile shrikes annually since 2006. While much is known and has been learned about this species, a critical piece of the puzzle is still missing: where exactly do these birds spend the winter? To maximize chances of locating wintering areas and better define migration routes volunteers will be coloring the breast of released young produced from the captive breeding program, to make them more detectable by birders. Birds have been released in July and August. Birds will have an extensive area of their breast colored in green, blue or purple. All released birds, and a large proportion of the wild population, are also color banded. If you see a shrike with a colored breast and/or wearing bands, please report it to Wildlife Preservation Canada at (EM: [jessica@wildlifepreservation.ca](mailto:jessica@wildlifepreservation.ca), PH: 519-836-9314, FX: 519-836-8840). We will need details about specific location (GPS coordinates are ideal, but not essential) and color(s) (breast and/or bands) seen.



Loggerhead Shrike (FL)  
G Goolsby

## 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 Nov. issue is Sat, 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"



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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.

