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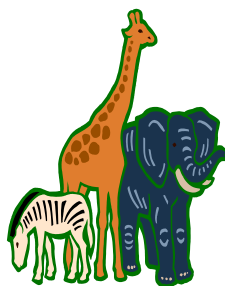
September 2007

Through the

biKNOXulars

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

FALL PICNIC AT THE ZOO! SEPTEMBER 5, 6:30 PM



The fall meeting of KTOS will be a picnic at the zoo. We will meet in the Kids Cove Tent at 6:30 pm. The picnic will be a potluck so please bring a dish to share as well as something to drink. Also, in order to reduce our use of disposables, please bring your own non-disposable plate, cup and silverware.

DIRECTIONS: From I-40 take exit 392 to US Highway 11-W south. Follow the signs to Knoxville Zoo. Please park in the main parking lot.

We will enter through the gate at the handicap parking area. Once inside the gate, bear to your left and follow the path towards Kid's Cove. You can't miss the big tent!

After dinner there will be a short meeting to vote on the slate of officers for the coming year as well as a few other items of business.

When the business session is finished, Mark Armstrong has offered to take everyone on a tour of Kid's Cove. If we are lucky, the beaver babies will be out. There will also be additional time to just sit around and catch up on everyone's summer happenings.

Upcoming field trips

The Four Bs Gathering at Wood Thrush Ridge

(Birding, Botanizing, Bugs, and BS-ing)

Leader David Trently and Host Janet Lee McKnight

Sunday, September 16

Sunrise 'till whenever...come when you want and leave when you want; we will be there all day.

Bring some food to share and a chair to relax in. This is a great opportunity to take it easy and visit with fellow birders. We will hang out in the yard and take forays to find and/or do the Four Bs. If this fall is like the last, the hummingbirds will be swarming at the feeders, especially at dawn and dusk.

And down by the creek, the hummingbirds will be feeding on large stands of jewelweed - such a neat thing to watch! Also expect fall migrants and the usual array of feeder birds up close and in large numbers.

Call Janet for directions or more info.

Wood Thrush Ridge
163 Hammontree Lane
Greenback, TN 37742
jlmcKnight@bellsouth.net

865-271-8337
865-856-2229

Hawk Watch at Foothills Parkway

Sunday, September 23

8:30 a.m. - ??

As usual, we'll start at the base of the Parkway off US 321 near Townsend. We will eventually make our way up about four miles to the site with parking lots on both sides of the road. From there we will scan the skies for whatever raptors and other birds might pass by. There are usually migrating songbirds (especially thrushes, vireos, warblers) here to keep birders interested in between flights of hawks. The most common raptor seen is Broad-winged Hawk (sometimes as many as 100), but we can hope for other buteos, accipiters, falcons, vultures, eagles - and sometimes some real surprises. Come on out to help us scan the skies. Feel free to bring lunch to share with others, as this works well as a pot-luck opportunity. A chair can be useful too since there may be times to sit and chat while no hawks are in view.

Leader: David Trently
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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*



Presidential Perch - By Mark Campen

Uggghhh! Can anyone say desiccation? I guess this is what they call the "dog days" of summer. It feels more like the "almost-unbearable, stay-hydrated and apply-plenty-of-sunscreen (30-45 SPF suggested) days." It's "stay inside if you have respiratory problems time or if you plan to attend a function where you don't want to sweat though your clothes time" of global warming summer (but I digress).

It really has been hot and dry though. Many spring-fed stream tributaries are dry, leaving fish, snails and other aquatics concentrated in small pools waiting for relief. If not for these pools of water they simply couldn't hold out. Critters of all kinds, avian and terrestrial, are dying, literally in some cases, to find adequate water and cover to sustain themselves through these dry months. Recently a Gray Catbird, which usually stays undercover in thick brush, came out in the open so close to our screen porch to eat pokeberry fruit that I could see his/her rusty undertail coverts without the aid of binoculars. It's really not a big deal; but if you're a birdwatcher, it is pretty neat.

There's a lot of (K)TOS activity that has been ongoing despite the weather during our organizational summer break. Since the June picnic at Ijams Nature Center, the MAPS project at Seven Islands has been completed for the season and with good results. A recent J. B. Owen grant request has been approved and we are planning for a store display at a prominent downtown Knoxville retailer this fall/spring 2008. Also start planning now to attend the fall TOS meeting in Manchester, Tennessee, on November 2-4, 2007. The Highland Rim Chapter will be hosting the event, so thank them when you get a chance, hopefully in person.

Look for additional info about these events and more on the TOS and KTOS websites, and I'll see you at the potluck dinner at the Knoxville Zoo on September 5th at 6:30 pm.

Bird On and stay cool!

The MAPS Station at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge - Mark Armstrong

The third MAPS season at Seven Islands went quite well even with a new bander and many new faces helping pull birds and scribe. The season began on May 27 and finished on August 5. We processed a total of 575 birds with 417 newly banded, 136 recaptures and 22 unbanded birds. The most common bird we banded was Indigo Bunting with a total of 63; this was followed by Song Sparrow at 49 and then Field Sparrow, American Goldfinch, Mockingbird, Yellowthroat, Orchard Oriole and Yellow-breasted Chat. Some new species this year were Yellow-billed Cuckoo and House Wren.

Thank yous are in order for the support provided by KTOS, the Knoxville Zoo and Seven Islands Foundation. We absolutely depend on the hard work and dedication provided by the volunteers and assistants that help at every session. Many thanks go out to all of you!

SLATE OF OFFICERS TO BE VOTED ON

The nominating committee presented the following slate of officers at the June meeting at Ijams:

President	Mark Campen
Vice-President	Mark Armstrong
Treasurer	Marie Oakes
Secretary	Kathy Bivens

This slate of officers will be voted on at the September meeting.

NEW FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR

Kevin Przewrocki is our new field trip coordinator. Kevin hails from Upper Michigan and was brought to Knoxville via the Air Force. He works at the Air National Guard Base as a Training Manager. He has educational degrees in Graphic Arts, Marketing, and a Master's in Education. Kevin's wife of one year (Shelley) is a long-time resident of Knoxville and holds several job titles with The Stokely Company.

They live in West Knoxville (near Pellissippi State Community College). Their backyard is certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a Backyard Habitat which has common summer visitors of Finches, Nuthatches, Tufted Titmice, some naughty squirrels, Ruby-Throat Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers (Red-Bellied, Downy, and Hairy), Cardinals, Eastern Bluebirds, a team of bullying Blue Jays, Carolina Chickadees, and many other special guests making migratory appearances. They use 10x42 binoculars and a 60x80mm spotting scope for digiscoping. Being members for only a year now, both are very excited to help the organization.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Big Sit! Birding's Most Sedentary Event

Sunday, October 14, sunrise to sunset

Team Captain: Janet Lee McKnight (The Lone Tuft-mouse)

Team Members: Anyone who shows up for any or all of the day to help count.

Lenoir City Park

Fall TOS Meeting

Host chapter: Highland Rim Chapter
Manchester, TN

Friday, November 2 - Sunday, November 4

Get more information at the TOS website:

<http://www.tnbirds.org/warbler.htm>

SHADE GROWN COFFEE - Summer's over and it's time to get back into our post-summer routines. One of those monthly routines is to make out your order for organic shade-grown coffee. You will not only be getting good coffee but will also be helping migratory birds as well as providing a fair trade wage for the farmers who grow the beans. Remember, KTOS receives a profit on each bag sold. So when David Johnson passes around his order list at the next meeting, please be generous - to the Club, the birds, the growers and to yourself! Why not ask your friends and neighbors if they would like to try our coffee?



KTOS sponsored a booth at the first annual Go! Knoxville event on May 12th. This event highlighted things to do in Knoxville and was held at Victor Ashe Park. Janet McKnight and Patty Ford manned our booth with the help of our president, Mark Campen, who is shown in the photo above.

2007 Knox County Spring Bird Count Results -- K. Dean Edwards

The Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society conducted the annual Knox County Spring Count on Sunday, 29 April 2007. A total of 33 participants in 18 parties observed 138 species on count day with another 3 species tallied during count week (3 days before and after count day). This is the highest species total since I became the compiler in 1998.

Among the many highlights were female Hooded and Red-breasted Mergansers at Seven Islands, 11 Northern Bobwhite proving they do still exist in the county, 5 Bald Eagles at 2 nest sights, 2 Northern Harriers, a Merlin at the UT Plant Science Farm (UTPSF), 6 shorebird species including 2 American Golden-Plovers at UTPSF, 2 Eurasian Collared-Doves near Cherry St, a Black-billed Cuckoo at Fort Dickerson, Red-headed Woodpecker in the Mascot area, Acadian Flycatcher (1st since I started compiling), an impressive total of 3 Warbling Vireos, 2 Fish Crows (1st time on this count), 4 Bank Swallows at 2 sites, 6 Brown-headed Nuthatches at 2 sites, Marsh Wren at UTPSF, Lincoln's Sparrow at Seven Islands, Bobolink at UTPSF, and an impressive total of 27 Baltimore Orioles.

The "Spring of the Rose-breasted Grosbeaks" was evident on the count with our total of 77 being almost double the previous high in the past 10 years.

On the down-side, only 27 warbler species were observed with Golden-winged, Orange-crowned, Black-throated Blue, and Canada Warblers and Northern Waterthrush being missed and, believe it or not, Magnolia Warbler only being found during count week. Other big misses include Pied-billed Grebe, Barred Owl, Chuck-will's-Widow, Whip-poor-will, and Grasshopper Sparrow.

Full count details are listed below.

Weather: Clear and sunny
Low Temperature: 51F
High Temperature: 80F
Precipitation: none
Winds: calm
Parties: 18 **Observers:** 33
Total species: 138 + 3 CW
Total individuals: 8270
Birds per party hour: 73.0
Start Time: 05:30; **End Time:** 21:30

PARTY HOURS:

66.38 hours and 55.00 miles by foot
 27.75 hours and 426.80 miles by car
 3.00 hours and 10.00 miles by boat
 1.00 hour and 4.00 miles owling
 15.08 hours feederwatching
 113.22 hours and 495.80 miles TOTAL

SPECIES: 317 Canada Goose, 28 Wood Duck, 61 Mallard, 12 Blue-winged Teal, 1 Hooded Merganser, 1 Red-breasted Merganser, 8 Wild Turkey, 11 Northern Bobwhite, 66 Double-crested Cormorant, 151 Great Blue Heron, 6 Green Heron, 27 Black-crowned Night-Heron, 22 Black Vulture, 67 Turkey Vulture, 17 Osprey, 5 Bald Eagle (4 adult, 1 immature), 2 Northern Harrier, 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2 Cooper's Hawk, 1 Accipiter sp., 11 Red-shouldered Hawk, 4 Broad-winged Hawk, 26 Red-tailed Hawk, 1 American Kestrel, 1 Merlin, 1 American Coot, 2 American Golden-Plover, 50 Killdeer, 15 Solitary Sandpiper, 9 Spotted Sandpiper, 3 Pectoral Sandpiper, 8 Wilson's Snipe, 3 Ring-billed Gull, 117 Rock Pigeon, 2 Eurasian Collared-Dove, 202 Mourning Dove, 1 Black-billed Cuckoo, 3 Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 1 Eastern Screech-Owl, 2 Great Horned Owl, -CW- Common Nighthawk, 151 Chimney Swift, 11 Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 14 Belted Kingfisher, 1 Red-headed Woodpecker, 99 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 55 Downy Woodpecker, 7 Hairy Woodpecker, 24 Northern Flicker, 8 Pileated Woodpecker, 2 Eastern Wood-Pewee, 1 Acadian Flycatcher, 54 Eastern Phoebe, 13 Great Crested Flycatcher, 41 Eastern Kingbird, 44 White-eyed Vireo, 5 Yellow-throated Vireo, 10 Blue-headed Vireo, 3 Warbling Vireo, 92 Red-eyed Vireo, 295 Blue Jay, 211 American Crow, 2 Fish Crow, 46 Purple Martin, 118 Tree Swallow, 101 Northern Rough-winged Swallow, 4 Bank Swallow, 10 Cliff Swallow, 136 Barn Swallow, 131 Carolina Chickadee, 142 Tufted Titmouse, 29 White-breasted Nuthatch, 6 Brown-headed Nuthatch, 173 Carolina Wren, 23 House Wren, 1 Marsh Wren, 21 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 90 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 97 Eastern Bluebird, -CW- Veery, 11 Swainson's Thrush, 46 Wood Thrush, 293 American Robin, 15 Gray Catbird, 173 Northern Mockingbird, 59 Brown Thrasher, 550 European Starling, 24 American Pipit, 149 Cedar Waxwing, 4 Blue-winged Warbler, 3 Tennessee Warbler, 1 Nashville Warbler, 2 Northern Parula, 30 Yellow Warbler, 1 Chestnut-sided Warbler, -CW- Magnolia Warbler, 1 Cape May Warbler, 117 Yellow-rumped Warbler, 16 Black-throated Green Warbler, 6 Blackburnian Warbler, 1 Yellow-throated Warbler, 18 Pine Warbler, 7 Prairie Warbler, 11 Palm Warbler, 2 Bay-breasted Warbler, 8 Blackpoll Warbler, 2 Cerulean Warbler, 11 Black-and-white Warbler, 4 American Redstart, 7 Prothonotary Warbler, 4 Worm-eating Warbler, 10 Ovenbird, 1 Louisiana Waterthrush, 4 Kentucky Warbler, 183 Common Yellowthroat, 11 Hooded Warbler, 28 Yellow-breasted Chat, 11 Summer Tanager, 44 Scarlet Tanager, 198 Eastern Towhee, 31 Chipping Sparrow, 245 Field Sparrow, 13 Savannah Sparrow, 187 Song Sparrow, 1 Lincoln's Sparrow, 59 Swamp Sparrow, 146 White-throated Sparrow, 5 White-crowned Sparrow, 469 Northern Cardinal, 77 Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 12 Blue Grosbeak, 193 Indigo Bunting, 1 Bobolink, 249 Red-winged Blackbird, 46 Eastern Meadowlark, 315 Common Grackle, 96 Brown-headed Cowbird, 27 Orchard Oriole, 27 Baltimore Oriole, 82 House Finch, 229 American Goldfinch, 58 House Sparrow

OBSERVERS:

Jean Alexander, Lyn Bales, Frank Bills, Sharon Bostick, Bob Braid, Mark Campen, Howard Chitwood, Marcia Davis, Dean Edwards (compiler), Reid Gerhardt, Carole Gobert, Paul Hartigan, Tony Headrick, Ron Hoff, Tom Howe, Susan Hoyle, Jim Human, Wes James, David Johnson, Kristine Johnson, Tony King, Ed Manous, Jon Mathson, Dollyann Myers, Mike Nelson, Chuck Nicholson, Kevin Przewrocki, Shelley Przewrocki, Martha Rudolph, Beth Schilling, Susan Schott, Boyd Sharp, David Trently

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 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 October issue is Sept. 26.

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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KNOX COUNTY 2007 FALL COUNT Sunday, September 30

The annual Knox County Fall Bird Count will be held on Sunday, September 30th. Everyone is encouraged to participate by joining a group in the field or counting birds in your own backyard and neighborhood (for those living in Knox County).

For more information on how you can participate, if you would like to join a group, or would like some suggestions on places to count, please contact the compiler, Dean Edwards (see below for contact information). Please submit your count results to the compiler as soon as possible. There are no fees for participating in this count. Please note, your results should include all of the following:

- a list including the tally for each species identified
- names of all participants with contact information for at least one person
- time of day you counted
- location(s) you counted
- number of hours spent counting by foot, by car, and/or by boat plus hours spent feeder/backyard watching and owling
- number of miles covered while counting by foot, by car and/or by boat and miles covered while owling
- documentation including written details and photos (if possible) of any rare species.

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IN MEMORIAM

Lavada Harris died in Monks Corner, SC, on June 1, 2007. Lavada, who was the wife of Dr. Robert Harris, was a former member of KTOS and served as club secretary in the mid-1980's. They lived in Sequoia Hills and the first recorded sighting of the House Finch was at their home.

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