



Nature Items Needed

We will have a Bird Bargain Barn again this year at the Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival (see page 3). Any nature related items are needed for sale. If you have some things that you would like to donate, please price it, box it, and bring it to the Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival at Ijams Nature Center (2915 Island Home Ave., Knoxville, Tenn.) on August 22, 2014 after 5:00 p.m.

Donation to J.B. Owen Memorial Fund in Memory of A. Boyd Sharp

Jean Alexander and David Johnson made a donation to the J. B. Owen Memorial Fund in memory of A. Boyd Sharp, a widely known and loved Knoxville birder who was a friend and inspiration to all the many local birders who had the privilege of knowing him.

September is Picnic Time at Ijams!

Come join us September 3, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. for our fall potluck to start off the new KTOS year at Ijams Nature Center (2915 Island Home Ave., Knoxville, Tenn.)! Bring a dish to share, with a serving utensil, and your own drinks (water will be available). This is a great way to reconnect with everyone, socialize, and hear about summer bird trips/sightings and vacation news. Come early and do a little birding around Ijams for hummingbirds, or walk the trails if you would like! Hope to see you there!

Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum: Purple Martins

The Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum (KBGA) is located in East Knoxville on 47 acres of the former Howell Nurseries, just a few minutes from downtown. KBGA is a non-profit organization supported through donations, membership, and grants. It provides a dedicated "green space" for the community that surrounds it as well as educational programs for children and adults throughout Knoxville. A community garden program began in 2013 at the KBGA.

At one time, gourds were used to house Purple Martins at KBGA. The gourds were found severely damaged by one of our KTOS members this year. Fortunately, many Purple Martins were still observed at the KBGA this summer. It would benefit the Garden and the Purple Martins if a new house could be located there. The KBGA Director, Robert Hodge, was asked if KTOS could install a Purple Martin house and he enthusiastically supported the proposition.

At the July planning meeting the planning committee discussed this project. Attending members felt that this would be a worthwhile project for KTOS. We were quoted a price by Wild Birds Unlimited for a purple martin house system with a 14'-foot pole with rope lanyard (elevating mechanism) for \$255. The house has 12 units and can be increased as needed. This purchase will be brought for a vote at September KTOS meeting.

Discover Birds Volunteers Needed

Two Discover Birds programs have been scheduled for this fall for which we need volunteers. The first program is Friday September 19, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. at the UT Arboretum in Oak Ridge (901 S. Illinois Ave, Oak Ridge, Tenn.) for the Young Adventures Homechool Group. The second program is Friday October 17, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. at Ijams Nature Center (2915 Island Home Ave., Knoxville, Tenn.) for the Blount County Home School Association.



Presidential Perch

Hello Everyone,

It is such an honor to have been elected the president of KTOS. I honestly have no idea what I am doing, but I am learning quickly with the help of our wonderful members and officers. I have spent most of my summer working in Lexington, Ky. and have felt out of touch with home. Summer is winding down and fall will soon be upon us. There is so much still to look forward to with fall migrants and winter residents arriving. Fall field trips will be resuming with several chapters in the state, so be sure to take advantage of these great trips with our very skilled field trip leaders.

Some projects we are working on in the coming year include a Purple Martin housing restoration at Knoxville Botanical Gardens, bird boxes, and Discover Birds Programs at Harmony Family Center in Maryville. We are also entertaining ideas to update the KTOS logo. TOS has changed its logo this year and I will be getting stickers made for anyone who wants one.

If anyone needs anything or has any questions please contact me, I will do my very best to assist you in any way I can.

John O'Barr

Knox County Fall Count

The Knox County Fall Count will be held on Sunday, 28 September 2014. Please contact the compiler if you are interested in participating. If you normally participate but will not be able to do so this year, please let me know in advance so I can try to assign someone else to cover your territory.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to participate by either joining a field party or counting birds in your own neighborhood (if you live in Knox Co.) similar to Project Feederwatch or the Great Backyard Bird Count. Submit your results to the compiler [Dean Edwards, 1615 Meadow Chase Ln., Knoxville TN 37931; kde@utk.edu; (865) 660-9701] as soon as possible after the count. Results should include: (1) checklist with number of individuals for each species observed, (2) location covered, (3) time of day you started and stopped counting, (4) separate tallies of miles and hours travelled by foot, car, etc., (5) tally of miles and hours spent owling, (6) tally of hours spent watching feeders, (7) names of all participants with contact information for at least one person in the party. You may also be asked to provide documentation for any rare or unusual species.

Get Out and Get Birding! September Field Trips

Rankin Bottoms

Saturday, September 6, 2014 @ 7:30 a.m.

**Leader: Tom Howe, et al., (865) 407-9620,
blountbirder@nxs.net**

Join us for a trip to Rankin Bottoms at Douglas Lake in Cocke County to view possibly many species of shorebirds including sandpipers, herons, and terns. We will meet at the Cracker Barrel (1510 Cracker Barrel Lane, Knoxville, Tenn.) located at the Strawberry Plains Pike (Exit 398 on I-40) at 7:45 a.m. to drive to Rankin Bottoms.

Birding at Rankin Bottoms is best when the depth of Douglas Lake is 980 feet MSL. Bring snacks/lunch and water as there are no facilities nearby. If you would like to join us at the site, we plan on being there for a while, arriving about 8:45 a.m. For directions and a site description, see please visit: www.tnbirds.org/IBA/SitePages/Rankin.htm.

Hawk Watch on Foothills Parkway

Saturday, September 20, 2014 @ 8:00 a.m.

**Leader: Tom Howe (865) 407-9620,
blountbirder@nxs.net**

We will meet at the Foothills Parkway turnaround at the beginning of road in Walland, Tenn. at 8:00 a.m. and start our trip by looking for migrants around the parking area such as Hermit, Grey-cheeked, and Swainson's Thrushes with some confusing fall warblers. We will then move to higher elevation at the first pull-off with parking on both sides of the road. Last year the winds were perfect and we had more than 400 hawks of several species including a Peregrine Falcon.

Heritage Center Walking Trail @ K-25

Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Thursday, Sept 25, 2013 @ 9:00 a.m.

Leader: Tony King, (865) 988-6172

Meet at the main entrance to K-25 (Heritage Center) across from the small pond. Parking lot is on the right.

Welcome New Members

Please welcome the following new members: A. Harriett McCurdy, Ed Caudill, Pat Janack, and Morton Massey.

Fourth Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival — August 23rd!

Vickie Henderson

The male Ruby-throated hummingbird leaves a dazzling impression with his bright red throat and fierce temperament, but many are surprised to learn that the female hummingbird does all the work of raising the young! Hummingbirds do not establish pairs bonds, as many other birds do, but only come together briefly for breeding.

The female builds a nest of plant fibers, approximately the size of a quarter, and decorates it with silvery green lichen. She binds the nest materials together with sticky spider silk and secures it to a branch by wrapping the silk around the entire limb over and over again, sometimes hanging upside down. Then without any assistance from a mate, she incubates her eggs, feeds her nestlings (usually two) and often begins her second brood while still feeding fledglings from the first brood! This is only a glimpse into the fast-paced lives of hummingbirds, a species that can easily charm the most casual of backyard bird watchers.

T. David Pitts, Professor of Biology at the University of Tennessee at Martin, has conducted extensive research on the little-known habits of nesting female Ruby-throats and learned some fascinating new information. You will have an opportunity to hear Dr. Pitts speak on his research on Saturday, August 23, 2014 at the fourth annual Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival, in Knoxville, Tenn. Visitors to the festival will also see hummingbirds up-close as Master Bander, Mark Armstrong, demonstrates how hummingbirds are captured, weighed and measured, and banded before being released to continue their migration journey.

Banding has enormous scientific value, providing a way to document the specialized timing and direction of hummingbird movement during migration. August and September are busy migration months in East Tennessee when thousands of hummingbirds from northern breeding territories are moving south through our state on their way to wintering grounds in Central America and southern Mexico.

The festival will treat visitors to renowned speakers on nature topics, live animal demonstrations, guided nature walks and vendors selling food and drinks, locally made arts and crafts, bird feeders and supplies, garden items, and a "Bargain Barn" selling gently used books and other merchandise with nature-related themes.

New for 2014, a special children's area will offer educational activities for kids and child-focused nature walks! Environmental Man, portrayed by Oliver Lang, will also enchant children with his food-chain costume and his ability to channel familiar animals that tell him stories containing valuable lessons about conservation.

Expert speakers will present programs from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. T. David Pitts will speak on hummingbirds and bluebirds, David Unger, Professor of Biology, Maryville College, will speak on wolves and bears. Chris Ogle, with TWRA, will speak on wildlife diversity in Tennessee, and Peg Beute, naturalist with Ijams Nature Center, will offer information about hummingbird plants for your garden.

Stephen Lyn Bales, author of *Ghost Birds*, will speak about the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, and Joel Greenberg, author of *A Feathered River Across the Sky: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction*, will speak on the passenger pigeon. Chris Mahoney, Master Gardener from Chattanooga, will be available to discuss plants and flowering shrubs that can help attract hummingbirds to your garden and Steve McGaffin, Naturalist and Educator for the Knoxville Zoo, will lead a butterfly walk. Additionally, Lynne McCoy, a wildlife rehabilitator who takes in 600-800 birds and mammals per year, will bring a few of her animal "ambassadors" to meet festival visitors.

The Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival will take place **Saturday, August 23, 2014 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** and has an admission of \$5.00. Children under six are admitted free. Hummingbird banding will begin at 8:00 a.m. and last until 2:00 p.m. The festival is co-sponsored by the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society and Ijams Nature Center, and will be located at Ijams Nature Center, 2915 Island Home Ave., Knoxville, Tenn. [(865) 577-4717].

For more information about the festival or to join the festivities as a volunteer, contact Billie Cantwell at (865) 567-4273.

KTOS membership: Join or renew by mailing your annual dues to Carole Gobert, 1304 Barcelona Drive, Knoxville, TN 37923. Dues levels: \$26/individual, \$30/family, \$38/sustaining, \$13/student (high school or younger), or TOS life membership for \$450 with \$8 annual fee to Chapter.



www.tnbirds.org/KTOS.html

**2014 — 2015
Chapter Officers**

President

John O'Barr
(865) 279-9043
jonhop11@yahoo.com

Vice President

Merikay Waldvogel
(865) 691-8117
quiltalive@aol.com

Treasurer

Carole Gobert
(865) 254-8841
cpgobert@hotmail.com

Secretary

Karen Wilkinson
(865) 404-8506
karenwilk@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Michael Plaster
(865) 694-4814
KTOS.Editor@gmail.com

Field Trip Coordinator

Tom Howe
(865) 983-8198
blountbirder@yahoo.com

State Directors, 2014 – 2016

Jean Alexander
Harold Howell
David Johnson

State Directors, 2013 – 2015

Michael Plaster
Chris Welsh

through the biKNOXulars
725 Mountain Pass Lane
Knoxville, TN 37923

POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to: *through the biKNOXulars*, 725 Mountain Pass, Knoxville, TN 37923

GARY MARK WOODY



Gary died in the early morning hours of May 30, 2014 at the UT Medical Center at the age of 66. He graduated from Young High School in 1965 and then from the UT with a BS in Physics in 1971. He later returned to UT and studied analytical chemistry, successfully completing all course work and qualifying exams toward a doctoral degree. Early in his career, he worked for Stewart Laboratories and IT Corporation as a chemist. His most personally satisfying career was as a teacher at Laurel High School for 10 years. Gary was known to his friends, family, and even complete strangers for his wry wit and humor, sweet temperament, willingness to help, curiosity, and general good will. Over the course of his life, he had many interests and pursued them avidly: Astronomy, hiking, photography, canoeing, camping, travel, biking, reading, woodworking, metal working, fused glass, travel, birding, cooking, bridge. He and wife Alice fulfilled dreams of seeing the Aurora Borealis in the Arctic Circle, enjoying birding and wine in France, and birding in Central and South America and Thailand.