



THE TENNESSEE WARBLER

Newsletter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

December, 2006

Editor, Theresa Graham

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The final weekend of October found many TOS members attending the Fall State Meeting in Clarksville. The meeting was hosted jointly by members of KTOS and the Warioto Chapter of the Audubon Society. Such joint endeavors are an excellent way to network with members of other organizations and to hold a state meeting at an infrequently visited site. Special thanks to Barbara Wilber, Casper Wallace, and Sarah Welker of the Audubon Society and to TOS members Daniel Moss, Dan and Laurie Mooney, and Polly Rooker along with other Knoxville TOS members. As usual, we managed to find several interesting birds as well as take in a very good paper session organized by Chuck Nicholson. Thanks to all of the researchers who presented. Chuck even shared rides to field trip sites in his environmentally-correct Prius Hybrid. Dan and Laurie Mooney also distributed bird-friendly shade-grown coffee as door prizes. Sorry if you missed the meeting and hope to see you the first weekend in May in Bristol.

The Conservation Policy Committee submitted two significant letters directly to the Board of Directors for approval. The Board gave unanimous support to letters concerning TVA land policy and the water levels on Lake Barkley. The Conservation Policy Committee routinely addresses such matters and drafts letters to Congress or other organizations. The presentation before the Board not only emphasized TOS support regarding the issues but also gave Directors direct experience with the functioning of the Conservation Committee and the process that TOS uses to support important political issues. We also discussed the recently completed upgrading of the website. Of special interest is that the archives of the Bird Record Committee currently located at the UT library will soon be made available on line along with the past issues of *The Migrant*.

Richard Connors and I are sad to report that Theresa Graham has decided to retire from her duties as the long time editor of *The Tennessee Warbler* this spring. We love Theresa and appreciate her hard work. Theresa is another example of the excellent work done in this all volunteer organization. While there have been several recent appointments to various committees, a few more are to be made soon. Please consider serving if you can.

Other business addressed by the Board may be reviewed by reading the draft of the minutes of the meeting which will be posted on the Website. Finally, Dr. Giacomo capably made an interesting and informative presentation on the banding of Saw-whet Owls. Final details have not been made but it appears that the TOS winter meeting will be held in Decatur Alabama in late January. The appeal of birding the Wheeler Refuge during this time of year has led to an exploration of this possibility. More information will be announced as soon as it is available.

Plan to join us in Bristol in May and help get Richard Connors off to a good start as he assumes the duties of President of TOS.

Danny Gaddy, President TOS



TOS CONSERVATION POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT FALL 2006

The current members on the CPC are: Melinda Welton, Chair, Dick Preston, Bob Hatcher, and David Vogt.

1) TOS sent a letter to EPA urging the ban of the pesticide carbofuran. This pesticide is among the most highly toxic pesticides known to birds. A single granule is lethal, and more than fifty species, including Bald and Golden Eagle, Eastern Bluebird, Great Horned Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Northern Pintail, and Blue-winged Teal, have been documented as having died from carbofuran poisoning. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has stated that "There are no known conditions under which carbofuran can be used without killing migratory birds."

On August 3, 2006, EPA cancelled ALL uses of carbofuran and the pesticide will not be eligible for re-registration. For less than 2% of the current uses there will be a 4 year phase out period for 6 minor crops: artichokes, spinach for seed, cucumbers, chili peppers, sunflowers, and pine seedlings.

2) TOS wrote to our TN congressional delegation urging them to join the Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus.

Four Tennessee congressmen have signed on: John Tanner (D-8th), Marsha Blackburn (R-7th), Bart Gordon (D-6th) and Lincoln Davis (D-4th).

3) TOS wrote to TVA in opposition to extending the summer high water levels in Lake Barkley into the fall because of the impact this action would have on migrating shorebirds and other water birds. TVA is apparently leaning towards making no changes because the resulting environmental changes would require an EIS and they do not have the funding for an EIS.

However, on September 14th, Representative Whitfield of KY submitted to congress H.R. 6087, the so-called "Lake Barkley Water Level Improvement Act". This bill would force the lake level change that was the subject of the Environmental Assessment that we commented on earlier this fall.

The bill was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

John J. Duncan, Jr. (TN 2nd District) is a member of that committee and the chair of the Water Resources & Environment subcommittee where the bill likely is now. Congress will be back in session after the election. It is very possible that Whitfield may try to get the bill attached as a rider to an appropriations bill or some other must-pass legislation. The CPC has drafted a letter to Representative Duncan for the TOS President to sign asking Duncan to oppose HR 6087 and thereby kill it in committee. The CPC would like to present this letter to the TOS Board for their endorsement.

4) The TVA Draft Land Use Policy is a current pressing issue. The TVA Board's Community Relations Committee has drafted an excellent Land Use Policy to be presented to the full Board for approval in late November. The Committee obviously took into consideration the vast majority of comments submitted during the public comment period that were in opposition to the sale of TVA lands for residential development.

Now that the draft is public, TVA is being flooded with letters from developers wanting a less restrictive policy!! The CPC has drafted a letter strongly supporting the draft policy as is. The CPC would like to present this letter to the TOS Board for their endorsement. We hope this will add even more weight to your comments.

5) The Conservation Policy Committee needs to recruit two additional members. If you have an interest in serving on the committee, contact Danny Gaddy.

J.B. OWEN AWARDS TO SUPPORT TWO BIRD RESEARCH PROJECTS

Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society (KTOS) has selected two projects to receive the 2006 J.B. Owen Awards. Former KTOS member Jim Giocomo will receive \$400 to determine the presence of migrating/wintering Saw-whet owls in his project on *Northern Saw-whet Owl Monitoring in Knox County, Tennessee*. Jim's project will provide a banding station in an under-represented area of the country and encourage other efforts to monitor Saw-whet Owls in the Southeast. The proposal for Jim's project was written in cooperation with KTOS past president Charlie Muise.

The second Owen Award will provide a \$265 grant to KTOS member Mark Armstrong for support of *The MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity) Station at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge*. Few stations process as many birds in a season as the Seven Island MAPS station processes in one session. Most stations are located in stable habitats, but Seven Islands is operated in a changing habitat that is being managed to improve the habitat for birds.

Each project 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.
- 2005: Lyn Bales for support of outreach programs at Ijams Nature Center of Knoxville.

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.

FALL BIRD COUNT DATA WANTED

The 2006 Tennessee Fall bird count data are due immediately. Please remember to include all effort data, dates of count, and weather conditions on count day.

Email the results to me at aves7000@bellsouth.net or mail them to me at 282 Hackworth Lane, Clinton, TN 37716.

As always, thanks for your efforts to monitor our avian friends. Ron Hoff

State of the Ornithologist, rather the State of the Birds

by Scott Somershoe

I want to tell the TOS membership about what I have been working on as State Ornithologist since I started with TWRA in April 2006. I have been extremely busy with a variety of projects. The biggest task was my helping my fiancé (who recently became my wife) plan our wedding in Vicksburg, Mississippi. I survived a hectic summer of traveling for field work, meetings in and out of state, to Mississippi to see Rebecca, and bicycle racing and triathlons. Hopefully things will settle down with the wedding and honeymoon past and her living in Nashville.

In terms of birds, my big projects have been revising the way we collect point count data across the state and modifying some routes so we get more detailed information from our efforts across Tennessee. I'm also working on a report summarizing data from 2001-2006, analyzing all the point count data collected since 1993, and ultimately producing a publication for a peer-reviewed journal. In summer 2006, I initiated a study assessing management practices and their effect on Henslow's Sparrows in Coffee County, including Bark Camp Barrens WMA, AEDC, and the Tullahoma Airport. Another big project I've worked on is the Tennessee Important Bird Areas program. Michael Bierly produced a fantastic website for us; however it is not currently online. I am hoping to have it in its entirety online through the National Audubon Society's website. In the interim, I have entered a snippet of what Michael did into their database. This site lists all the IBA's and includes a site description and ornithological significance. There were space limitations; so much of Michael's work is not in this database. My goal for the coming months is to have the website in its full extent accessible to the public. In the meantime, you can see the database at: <http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba/index.html>

-click on Tennessee and from there you can see the token IBA (currently Bark Camp Barrens WMA) and then click to see all IBA's in Tennessee. The dataset hasn't been proofed closely and many details of bird occurrences are not in this database, so pardon errors. I hope to fix typos and errors shortly. Feel free to contact me with major errors.

I've also been involved in several management plan reviews and am working with a group of folks on another new wildlife conservation plan. I'm also the lead organizer for the next Southeast Partners in Flight meeting, which is being held in Memphis from 7-10 February 2007. I've spent a lot of time working to plan this meeting from the ground up. We hope to have 100 attendees from across the southeast present their research and attend our planned field trips. Recently, I have scheduled presentations to the Memphis and Nashville TOS chapters in January. I'll be presenting a combination of research I've done in the past, what I've worked on in Tennessee, what I'd like to do with Tennessee birds, and how I'd like to engage TOS more in bird conservation in Tennessee. I'll show some bird pictures from our honeymoon to Curacao in late October too. I'm looking forward to being home more from here on out and meeting all of you soon!!

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CHAPTER NEWS

CHATTANOOGA CHAPTER - Harold Sharpe and Ken Dubke participated in a program featuring the pair of Peregrine Falcons that have nested on the railroad bridge below Chickamauga Dam for the last several years. Walkers on the Tennessee Riverwalk were treated to a display of photos documenting the successful nesting of peregrines at this site as well as telescopic views of the birds themselves. Ken manned the CTOS display and introduced numerous visitors to birding and to the Chattanooga Chapter of TOS.

Cherokee National Forest biologist Laura Lewis presented awards to 3 chapter members for their roles in the discovery and monitoring of a Bald Eagle nest on Parksville Lake, Polk Co. TN. This constitutes the first Bald Eagle nest ever recorded in South Cherokee National Forest. Members Ken Dubke, Doug Geron and Rick Houlk were recognized at our October meeting for their efforts, spending many hours monitoring activities at the nest and providing views and interpretation to members of the public during the 2006 breeding season. The presence of these fish-eating birds bodes well for the recovery of the Ocoee River which was adversely affected by acid run-off resulting from extensive copper mining and smelting activities in the Ducktown area during the early 1900s

Bill Haley continued his hawk watch project at the hawk lookout at Soddy Mountain a little over 20 miles north of Chattanooga. Situated on the east brow of Waldens Ridge, overlooking the Tennessee River valley to the east, this lookout has been manned during both spring and fall migration periods by several Chattanooga chapter TOS members since 1993, with 2006 being the 14th year of fall observations. It is one of the few places in Tennessee to ever be monitored for the entire migration season September to early December. While coverage is not full time due to work schedules of hawk-watchers, someone is there whenever possible. Bill Haley (WGH@tnaqua.org) has been the coordinator for the whole history of this lookout. Their data on raptor and vulture migrations in Southeast Tennessee has been submitted to both *The Migrant* and the Hawk Migration Association of North America.

Bird banding activities were conducted for the 9th consecutive Fall season at Whigg Meadow, Cherokee

National Forest by David Vogt and a team of CTOS chapter volunteers during a 22 day period in September 2006. Efforts were rewarded by our highest banding totals to date with 1270 birds of 46 species banded. The Forest Service recently designated funds to be used in analyzing data collected at this banding station as well as data collected in North Cherokee National Forest at Rad Mayfield's station on Big Bald and at Rick Knight's station at Carvers Gap. The TOS Katherine A. Goodpasture Grant has, in part, funded this project.

The Chattanooga Chapter of TOS will be co-sponsoring an International Bird Day Celebration on the weekend of May 11, 12 and 13. Co-sponsors for this event include The Tennessee Aquarium, The Chattanooga Nature Center, The Reflection Riding Arboretum and Botanical Gardens and Save Our American Raptors. Activities will take place at Nature Center and on Reflection Riding grounds and will include bird walks/counts, live raptor shows, bird banding demonstrations, backyard habitat workshop and childrens activities such as owl pellet dissection, nest box construction and games. The compilation of results of the IMBD count will be conducted at the nature center auditorium the evening of Saturday May 12. For more information about activities or, to participate in the Count, contact David Vogt at 423/785-4036 or dfv@tnaqua.org. Of course, the public is invited to attend any or all activities.

David Vogt

FEBRUARY 28TH DEADLINE

The deadline date for the April issue of *The Tennessee Warbler* is February 28th. Please submit all articles, announcements, reports and items of interest by this deadline date.

Submit Material To:

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PO Box 366, Oakland TN 38060
(901) 465-4263 (home)
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e-mail: 2graham@bellsouth.net

CHAPTER NEWS

The **JOHN SELLARS CHAPTER** ends its fall with two counts that yielded some different sightings but close to the same number of bird species. We have not been able to bird at Camp Boxwell for a while, thus our waterfowl count is low. The Least Sandpipers were a treat on both counts.

Travels include individual trips of members and a hopeful trip to Wheeler NWR in November as a group, and a hopeful trip in January. During our last meeting, we enjoyed home videos provided by Dean and Jerry Walker of Wild Turkeys and Bluebirds near their home. Next meeting will be at the Turrentine Home in Normandy TN.

We are very grateful to Dr. Ralph and Kay Brinkhurst for their fine effort in compilation of our counts and speedy delivery! As learned at the last meeting, please do not discount your "little number or observations" of birds on count day – one never knows if this is the only one for the area noted!

Come join us whenever you want – all are welcome!

Melissa Turrentine

KNOXVILLE CHAPTER

Tennessee's Wildside Visits Knoxville

In April 2006 videographers from Tennessee's Wildside, the TWRA program that airs on PBS, filmed our public bird walk on Sharps Ridge. It was released to local PBS stations across the state for broadcast in August but unfortunately the Knoxville outlet pre-empted the show and aired a Lawrence Welk special instead. The good news is that you can watch the segment online by going to: <http://www.tnwildside.org/> Click the Knoxville Bird Walk link. You might recognize some of the Knoxville members who spoke on camera – please, no autographs!

eBird Benefits from Observations Made by Howard Chitwood

– submitted by Dan Mooney

I have enjoyed the privilege of birding vicariously with Howard Chitwood recently. Howard shared his field notebooks from Mossy Creek WMA in Jefferson County

with me so I could enter his data into eBird. His notebooks contained records of 116 species in 167 trips to Mossy Creek. Howard gathered the data over a ten year period, visiting Mossy Creek at least once a month.

I have birded Mossy Creek a few times so I am familiar with the habitat and trails. While entering the data, it felt like I was there with Howard and I really enjoyed getting to see all those birds without leaving my desk! Thanks Howard!

KTOS hopes to continue gathering field cards from its more experienced members and getting the data into the eBird on-line database.

Fall Programs

Our annual picnic was held in September at the Knoxville Zoo. KTOS member and zoo employee Mark Armstrong arranged for an after-hours tour of the zoo's latest addition—Kids Cove which includes a bird aviary.

The October program featured Paul E. Super, Science Coordinator at the Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Center at Purchase Knob in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Super delivered an update, with a slide show on the status of bird research in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Field Trips for September and October have included: Norris Song Bird Trail, in Anderson County, A Hawk Watch at Foothills Parkway in Blount County, Janet's Big Sit at Louisville Point Park in Blount County, Seven Islands WMA in Knox County, and Kyker Bottoms in Blount County.

KTOS Conservation and Education Projects

We are continuing to participate in projects with possible long term impacts for our area:

- We are partnering with TVA to build a viewing blind at the beaver dams near Tellico Dam in Loudon County.
- Partnering with Ijams Nature Center to help provide educational signage for the whooping crane exhibit
- We are leading more field trips for the general public.
- We continue to enter field trip data into eBird

Kathy Bivens

CHAPTER NEWS

The **LEE & LOIS HERNDON CHAPTER** of Tennessee Ornithological Society once again offered Saturday morning bird walks during October at Sycamore Shoals State Park in Elizabethton. The walks are held to promote the club and recruit news members from the public.

The Elizabethton Fall Bird Count was conducted on Saturday, Sept. 30, by members of the Lee & Lois Herndon Chapter of TOS. The area covered was Carter County and parts of adjacent Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington counties.

There were 27 observers in eight parties. Participants in this year's count included Gary Wallace, Frank Ward, Brookie and Jean Potter, Josh Ferry, Bryan Stevens, David Thometz, Peggy Stevens, Reece Jamerson, Tess Cumbie, Fred Alsop, Larry McDaniel, John Tolejko, Tom McNeil, J.T. McNeil, Rob Biller, Joe McGuinness, Kim Stroud, Don Holt, Dianne Draper, Rick Knight, Jacki Hinshaw, Rad Mayfield, Mark Hopey, Kathy Gunther, Lynn Brandon and Pete Julius.

The weather was generally good. Counters found 127 species of birds, which was slightly above the average of 123.8 species for the last 20 years. The record high for the fall count was 137 species in 1993.

The European Starling ranked as the most common bird for the count with a total of 2,392 individuals counted. A total of 1,109 Chimney Swifts made this species the second most common.

Both bitterns — the American Bittern and Least Bittern — made the count, an extremely unusual happening in northeast Tennessee. In addition, a Northern Goshawk made a rare appearance on the count list along with this bird's more common relatives, Cooper's Hawk and Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Other good finds included Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Eared Grebe, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Philadelphia Vireo, Sedge Wren and Marsh Wren. The counters also found 19 species of warbler, including Wilson's Warbler.

Current officers for the chapter are Tom McNeil, president; Don Holt, vice president; Dianne Draper, secretary; Gilbert Derouen, treasurer.

Bryan Stevens

NASHVILLE CHAPTER - During the recent months NTOS members joined together to bird several local areas, and a few distant spots. In late April we visited several units of the Harpeth River State Park. These included The Narrows of the Harpeth, Hidden Lake, and the Gossett Tract. Warblers abounded, and we were delighted to find several new areas just west of Nashville to investigate. The Natchez Trace yielded 62 species in May. Many warblers, always a pleasant trip. Bark Camp Barrens WMA in Coffee County contains open fields, fence rows, and an old barn where a Barn Owl has been sighted regularly. (A pellet dissected by one of our members revealed that the owl had recently consumed FOUR rodents!) We had multiple singing Henslow's Sparrows, Chats, and Dickcissels. We were guided by PollyRooker and Josh Campbell of TWRA. Our late August trip to the Memphis "Pits" and environs was enhanced by guidance from Mike Todd and Jeff Wilson. Several of our newest birders had great looks at shore birds, and a very good introduction to this gem of a birding area.

Our Nashville Fall Count was held on September 30. We had above average number of species, but the numbers of individuals was very low, nearly half of last year.

NTOS members led Fall Walks at Radnor Lake SNA each Wednesday morning for six weeks during migration season. These walks introduce new folks to birding and to our organization.

The week-long Urban Bird Camp we sponsored in cooperation with Metro Parks was a huge success. NTOS member Susan Bradfield reported that even though the week in July was very hot, the dozen young people became familiar with using binoculars, locating and identifying birds. They learned about migration, banding, and bird calls. Each camper created a journal with drawings, bird photos, and other bird information. We hope to participate in this camp again next year.

Our monthly programs ranged from a study of "The Literature of Birding" by Ed Gleaves to "South Africa: 'A World in One Country'" by Alice Klingshirn.

Susan Hollyday

CHAPTER NEWS

MEMPHIS CHAPTER - On August 19, Knox Martin hosted a summer MTOS picnic at the Mid-South Raptor Center. We enjoyed sharing news of our summer activities on the shady grounds of the Center. The Mid-South Raptor Center recently finished its first year in operation. The Center continues a 30 year tradition of raptor rehabilitation in the Mid-South. Involved in raptor rehabilitation for over 20 years, Center Director Knox Martin directed the Memphis Zoo's Raptor Rehabilitation Program that ceased operation in 2004. The new Center is dedicated to education and rehabilitation. Injured and orphaned birds of prey are cared for at the Center and released into the wild. Birds that can't survive in the wild because of permanent injuries are placed in regional educational programs. To improve survival, rehabilitating birds should have minimal contact with humans. A capital fund drive is underway to expand the facility so that educational birds and rehabilitating birds can be kept separate.

Native Memphian and Chapter Member Jim Armacost, Jr. is an Instructor at Rhodes College and is working on his doctorate (Ph.D.) at Illinois State University. At the September meeting, he reported on field work for his thesis project. Jim spent 5 summers studying bird populations on islands in the Amazon River near Iquitos, Peru. An interesting and unexpected finding of the study was the observation that over the past 25 years since the last ornithological study of the area, 4 of the 11 bird species previously found only on river islands are now found in mainland agricultural sites along the Amazon River.

At the October meeting, five Memphis Chapter members showed photos from recent birding trips and activities. Jay Walko, Bob and Ginger Ilardi, and Van Harris each reported on recent Arizona trips. Jay enjoyed jeeping and birding along small streams in the Red Rocks area near Phoenix. Van Harris took an organized birding tour with Borderland Tours. He recorded an extraordinary number of species including 12 hummingbird species and many life birds for Van, but not the elusive Trogon. Bob and Ginger Ilardi reported on the first part of their extended summer western travels, beginning in Tucson and the Huachuca Mountains south of Tucson. They had excellent views of many western species including Gambel's Quail, Vermilion Flycatcher, and the striking Elegant Trogon. Jim Ferguson showed photos from Jim and Sue's summer home in Wisconsin. The lake in front of their boat dock is a nursery for Common Loon chicks. Knox Martin reported on the rescue in June of five Barn Owl chicks from a steel mill that is being renovated. The nest was in the way of progress, and Knox overcame his fear of heights to rescue the chicks by cherry picker. Extraordinary photos by Charles Alexander documented the successful raising of the owlets at the Mid-South Raptor Center and their release at the Ames Plantation.

The Memphis Chapter had an active fall birding season with trips to the Earth Complex, Hatchie NWR, Wapanocca NWR (AR), Shelby Farms Park, and five field trips at Shelby Forest State Park. The Shelby County North American Migration Count was held on September 16. Twenty-three observers recorded 101 species on a hot sunny day.

In mid August, John and Linda Zempel moved to Topeka, KS where Linda accepted a position as Clinical Pharmacist at St. Frances Hospital. Since joining TOS in 1993, John and Linda have been active TOS members. We'll miss John and Linda and wish them the best in their new home.

We are saddened by the loss of long time member Mimi Loeb who died recently at the age of 77.

Margaret Jefferson

CHAPTER NEWS

STEPHEN M. RUSSELL CHAPTER-Bristol Bird Club

Recent Activities:

BBC members led bird walks at several area locations; Kingsport Funfest Birdwalks sponsored by Wards Feed Store at Bays Mountain Park by John Hay and Mary Erwin, Virginia Highlands Festival Bird Walk on the Virginia Creeper Trail led by Wallace Coffey, Natural Tunnel Fall Birding Weekend led by Mitch Moore

During September, Ron Harrington led the annual Mendota Hawk Migration Watch from the fire tower on Clinch Mountain above Menodata, Virginia. On the final report, Ron listed 30 participants plus an ecology class from Twin Springs High School. The count for this year was 2658 with 2020 Broad-winged Hawks seen in two days.

The Bristol Bird Club was a co-sponsor of the Steele Creek Park Wildlife Weekend in September that included bird walks and many excellent presentations. The BBC Annual Banquet and a presentation by Dr. Fred Alsop, "Appalachian Bird Adventures", kicked off the weekend.

In October, the BBC participated in the Shady Valley Cranberry Festival with the annual "Bog Watch" at Quarry Bog that was followed by a drive to the Dickey Preserve where we enjoyed a picnic lunch.

Up Coming Activities:

The November field trip will be to see waterbirds on South Holston Lake. We will meet and depart from Shelley's on US 421 at 8 AM on Nov. 25th. The annual Christmas Party will be at the home of John and Polly Moyle in Kingsport on Dec. 9th.

Christmas Bird Counts; Dec. 30th -Glade Springs (VA)
CBC, Dec. 31st -Bristol CBC, Jan. 1st – Shady Valley.

Bill Grigsby

In Memory

Mimi Loeb, Memphis Chapter
Died August 4, 2006



TENNESSEE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Bird Records Committee had a busy summer during which we reviewed and accepted 14 sighting records. As a result, five species are added to the Official Checklist of the Birds of Tennessee: Mottled Duck, Thayer's Gull, Inca Dove, Townsend's Solitaire, and Golden-crowned Sparrow. Additionally, California Gull is moved from the Provisional Section to the main list with an accepted photographic record. Full details on all Committee actions for 2005-2006 will appear in an upcoming issue of *The Migrant*.

The 3-year terms of Committee members start and end with the Fall TOS meeting. This year the terms of 3 members expired. Chris Sloan and Robert Peebles will be leaving the Committee and I want to thank them for their excellent service. At the Fall TOS Meeting, President Danny Gaddy announced the following Committee appointments: John Henderson will return for a second consecutive term, Kevin Calhoun moves from the Alternate position to full voting member, Jan Shaw is appointed to fill the remaining vacancy, and Phillip Casteel will be the Alternate. The remaining members of the Committee are Dick Preston, Don Miller and Dean Edwards, whom the Committee selected to remain as Secretary.

Everyone is encouraged to submit documentation for sightings of rare species to the TBRC, *The Migrant*, and *North American Birds* (published by the American Birding Association). Submission of photos for the TBRC photo website is also welcome and encouraged. There are still several species that have been reported in Tennessee which have not been submitted to the TBRC and documented in articles in *The Migrant*.

K. Dean Edwards, Secretary



Are You Interested in Expanding Your Birding Outside Tennessee?

I'm always working on plans for trips to various states and even other countries, and I'd like to have birders join me on those adventures. If you're interested in learning more about trips - to such places as Arizona, New Hampshire, Panama, Florida - email me at avianpursuits@yahoo.com & I'll send you some more details.

David Trently, Knoxville.

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TOS 2007 SPRING MEETING

Bristol, Virginia
May 4-6, 2007

The Stephen Russell Chapter of the TOS (Bristol Bird Club) is looking forward to hosting TOS members from across the state to the 2007 Spring Meeting. The meeting and dinner is to be held at the Waldo Miles Retreat Center at Sugar Hollow Park in Bristol, Virginia. Field trips to Clinch Mountain WMA (Russell County, Virginia), Mount Rogers NRA and Whitetop Mountain (Washington and Grayson Counties in Virginia), and Shady Valley in Johnson County, Tennessee as well as other destinations are being planned. Hotel arrangements have not been set, but should be at one of the hotels at Exit 7, Interstate 81 in Virginia. Complete info should be posted to the TOS website and on tn-birds.

