



THE TENNESSEE WARBLER

Newsletter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

April, 2002

Editor, Theresa Graham

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For many of us, spring ranks at the top of the birding year. One of the spring highlights is the TOS Annual Meeting, which this year will be held in the Reelfoot Lake area. This year's path to Reelfoot has been unusually difficult because of the troubles within the Tennessee State Park system (for which, unfortunately, there is no satisfactory resolution in sight) and because of the changing policies of Reelfoot area motel owners. On behalf of all of TOS, I thank Jim and Sue Ferguson for their perseverance in planning this meeting.

About 25 TOS members attended the winter meeting at Pickwick Landing in early February. As usual for this meeting, the emphasis was on birding. The highlights of the field trips included Bald Eagles, 15+ Northern Harriers, a Merlin, a Lesser Black-backed Gull, and several Short-eared Owls. Several attendees got new state and/or life birds. Thanks to Damien Simbeck for coordinating the field trips.

At the winter meeting, we also had two working sessions on the Important Bird Areas program. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has made a commitment to support this program, and the TOS will play a leading role in it. The next steps are to appoint and convene a high-level advisory/steering committee, and a technical committee. Meanwhile, if you want more information on the program, or wish to nominate an area, contact Troy Ettl at (615) 781-6653. Information about the IBA program will also soon appear on the TOS website.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the TOS Annual Meeting.

Chuck Nicholson
cpnichol@bellsouth.net
Norris, TN

**TOS SPRING MEETING, DYERSBURG, TN
MAY 3 – 5, 2002**

The Memphis Chapter of TOS will be hosting the Spring Meeting, May 3-4-5, 2002 with field trips at Reelfoot and headquarters in Dyersburg. We have been able to reserve the Dyersburg State Community College Student Center for our Friday night reception and Saturday meetings and dinner. DSCC is located just south of the Highway 51 Bypass at the corner of Lake Road (Highway 78) and Parkview Street. It is convenient to motels and restaurants, and Highway 78 is the road to Reelfoot.

Saturday and Sunday field trips will include those that have been most popular at Reelfoot in the past, as well as some new ones. Varied habitats such as woods, fields, lakes, marshy areas and Mississippi River levees will provide opportunities to see spring migrants of all kinds, including warblers, rails and shorebirds.

Also, if weather and water levels permit, a limited number of people will be able to go birding by canoe or by pontoon boat. Canoe trips could be Saturday or Sunday morning, 8 AM to noon, or Saturday afternoon from 1 to 5 PM. Pontoon boat rides would be 1 ½ to 2 hours long, mornings or afternoon. The cost of either canoe or pontoon boat will be \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. To help us know if there is sufficient interest, please indicate your preferences on your registration form.

Our dinner speaker will be Wayne R. Petersen, Field Ornithologist with the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Petersen will be speaking on his specialty – shorebirds. He is an author and lecturer, and has led birding trips from arctic Canada to South America. Writing projects have included editing the Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas, co-authoring Birds of Massachusetts, and writing the National Audubon Society's Pocket Guide to Songbirds and Familiar Backyard Birds (East). He is Vice President of the American Birding Association.

There are many motels in the area, but a special rate for TOS members has been arranged with the following motels, which are all convenient to DSCC and on the road to Reelfoot:

Hampton Inn (731-285-4778) - \$65, king or 2 double beds, \$62.10 for single if AARP or AAA, (includes deluxe 40 item continental breakfast). Holding rooms for TOS until April 12.

Comfort Inn (731-285-6951) - double \$55, single \$49 (includes smaller continental breakfast).

Best Western (866-285-8601, toll free) - double \$55, single \$45 (Perkins Restaurant on site). Holding rooms for TOS until April 22.

To get the above rates you MUST CALL THE MOTEL DIRECT AND TELL THEM YOU ARE WITH TOS. Ask them to confirm the rate to be sure. Reservations should be made as soon as possible, since the first week-end of May is a very busy one.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, May 3

6:30 – 9:00 PM Registration and refreshments at the Dyersburg State Community College Student Center. Sign up for field trips

Saturday, May 4

7:00 AM Field trips depart
4:00 PM Board Meeting in the Auditorium at DSCC Student Center
6:30 PM Dinner catered by Stein-Low at the Student Center
8:00 PM Business Meeting and Program in the Auditorium

Sunday, May 5

7:00 AM Field trips depart
12:00 Noon Compilation at rear of Ellington Hall, Reelfoot Lake State Park

THE QUEST FOR THE IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER

Rick Knight

In April 1999 David Kulivan, an LSU graduate student, reported seeing up close a pair of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers in the Pearl River WMA in southeast Louisiana. This sighting generated numerous brief searches in the area, which yielded little more. An intensive survey was needed. Zeiss Sports Optics offered to fund such an effort in conjunction with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries. This past winter I was privileged to participate in the Zeiss-sponsored search.

The Pearl River WMA and the adjacent Bogue Chitto NWR combine to form one of the largest tracts of bottomland hardwood forest in the South. Late winter was chosen for the search for several reasons. Cooler temperatures, fewer bugs, and mostly-dormant reptiles (especially Cottonmouths and Alligators) improved working conditions. Reduced foliage at this season meant increased visibility in the woods. Most importantly, woodpeckers would be more vocal just before their breeding season.

The Pearl River bottomlands host one of the greatest densities of woodpeckers that I've ever encountered. Red-bellied and Pileated woodpeckers are abundant there, while flickers, sapsuckers and Red-headed Woodpeckers are very common. Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers are uncommon, but still seen daily.

The search period ran from mid January through mid February. The search team consisted of six members, usually working in pairs. Besides Zeiss binoculars, we were equipped with cameras to document sightings and GPS units to record exact locations. Because these bottomlands are frequently flooded, only a little over half of our time was spent on foot, sometimes wading through water waist-deep. Canoes and pirogues, small flat-bottomed boats, were used to access areas more deeply inundated. We camped in some remote areas to maximize use of the prime early morning and late afternoon hours.

While we did not accomplish our goal of finding the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, our efforts produced some intriguing clues to the possible existence of this bird in the Pearl River area. Loud woodpecker signal taps were heard and recorded, unlike sounds we associated with Pileateds. Fresh extensive bark scaling, large cavities, and fresh cavity starts were found, all differing from typical Pileated Woodpecker sign. Many of these clues were concentrated in one area, but despite many days in this area nothing conclusive was found. However, these tantalizing clues are enough to justify further searches.

To learn more of the search and see photos of the scaling and cavities visit the Zeiss web site at www.zeiss.com. Click on the Ivory-billed Woodpecker link.

This article is dedicated to the late Jim Tanner, long-time TOS member and the man who knew the Ivory-bill best of all.

THE TENNESSEE / DOMINICAN REPUBLIC CONNECTION

Last month I was invited to join a trip to the Dominican Republic with the Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy. The Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy recently signed an agreement to work together to identify ways that the Forest Service can assist with bird conservation in the Dominican Republic. The focal species for this effort is the Bicknell's Thrush. Several specific ways were identified for the Forest Service to assist The Nature Conservancy's partner organization with protecting and managing the parks that they are responsible for. Things like surveying and boundary demarcation, developing forest management plans to address fire management, steep slope reforestation etc.

I was very impressed when we visited the Bahoruco National Park - the birding hot spot in the southwestern portion of the country - with how much had been done since my trip there last year. Not only are there now signs in the park telling you where different roads and features are, but also a beautiful visitor center was built overlooking a truly magnificent vista.

I was also able to hand-deliver 17 more pairs of binoculars that TOS helped acquire for the national bird monitoring effort that is just starting in the Dominican Republic.

There is a standing invitation from the Hispaniolan Ornithological Society to TOS members to visit the Dominican Republic. If you'd like to see how beautiful the birds are, you can visit Eladio Fernandez's website www.drbirds.com. I understand the HOS is starting a new Christmas Bird Count area outside of Santo Domingo. Want to help count birds? Contact me if you are interested in our Partner relationship with the Dominican Republic or think you might like to visit. Melinda Welton weltonmj@earthlink.net

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER ATLAS PROJECT

NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT MAY 11, 2002

This year will be the final year of the official Golden-winged Warbler Atlas Project. The objective of this effort is to identify the most important Golden-winged Warbler habitats, the types and size of the habitats, zones of hybridization between Blue-wings and Golden-wings and to identify the most important breeding areas for acquisition, protection or management. Several TOS volunteers assisted in this effort last year and more are needed. The range of Golden-wings in Tennessee is from the Cumberland Plateau eastward to the North Carolina border.

There will be money to cover mileage expenses and possibly a bit more. If you are interested, I'll be giving a talk at the Elizabethton TOS on April 9th and Nashville TOS on April 18th or contact Melinda Welton directly at weltonmj@earthlink.net or (615) 799-8095.

The International Migratory Bird Day this year will be on May 11, the usual second Saturday in May. Pick your favorite county and count birds and have a great time. Please keep the standard statistics for any count. These are: the number of parties on your count, hours and miles by car, hours and miles by foot, hours and miles nightbirding, hours spent feeder watching, the names of all participants, the weather conditions for that day, and the times for the count. These statistics make the count data much more usable for future analyses. Also, please try to get the count data to me in a timely fashion, usually no later than 6-8 weeks after the count. This helps me keep up to date submitting the data to the editor of the *Migrant* for publication. The data can be sent to me either in hard copy (Ron Hoff, 282 Hackworth Ln., Clinton, TN 37716), or by e-mail (dollyron@icx.net).

Above all, please be safe.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

There are presently vacancies on the TOS Finance Committee. This committee, in conjunction with the TOS Treasurer, makes decisions on investing TOS funds, reviews TOS budgets, and informally audits the TOS books. Finance Committee members should be well versed in finance, budgeting, and/or accounting. They do not necessarily have to be professionals in these fields. The committee should meet once or twice a year, and typically conducts much of its business by correspondence. The time commitment is not large. If you wish to serve on the Finance Committee, please contact me. Similarly, if you know someone else who you feel is qualified to serve, please send me their name, phone number, and, if available, email address.

Chuck Nicholson, TOS President. 865-494-8688, cpnichol@bellsouth.net

YOUR BIRD RECORDS ARE NEEDED

The Tennessee Natural Heritage Program would like to invite TOS members to contribute breeding records of high concern score bird species to their database. This information is shared with TWRA and is used for conservation purposes and during the environmental review process. State and Federally listed species are to be taken into consideration during various types of construction planning and the Natural Heritage Program needs your records. The Tennessee Rare Fauna Survey Form can be downloaded from:

www.state.tn.us/environment/nh/data.htm.

Records that are several years old are still welcomed. If you have any questions, contact Roger McCoy at (615) 532-0437.

Breeding Records for the following species are requested:

- Golden Eagle
- Peregrine Falcon
- Least Tern
- Barn Owl
- Northern Saw-whet Owl
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Common Raven
- Bewick's Wren
- Loggerhead Shrike
- Cerulean Warbler
- Swainson's Warbler
- Golden-winged Warbler
- Bachman's Sparrow
- Lark Sparrow
- Henslow's Sparrow

Trumpeters in West Tennessee!

Three Trumpeter Swans were observed at Lauderdale Waterfowl Refuge in Halls, Tennessee beginning on January 1, 2002. (The last reported sightings of the Trumpeter Swan in Tennessee were in 1820, by John James Audubon.) Originally there was an adult male, an adult female, and an immature at Halls. Between January 13 and 14, 2002 the young bird disappeared and the adult female was injured by gunshot. The person responsible for this illegal shooting has been identified and fined.

The numbers on the neckbands of the adult male and female birds revealed that they were both third generation wild-hatched offspring of birds released by Wisconsin state game officials in 2000.

You will recall that on January 6, 2001, MTOS member Sue Ferguson reported that a dead Trumpeter was found in Shelby County, TN about 6.5 miles east of Millington. That bird had been released in Iowa in March, 2000.

It is also interesting to note that our own Memphis Zoo is active in the swan reintroduction program and has transported seven Trumpeter cygnets to Iowa for release in the fall of 2000 and six more in 2001. For more information about swan releases, visit www.taiga.net/swans/swans



COORDINATOR NEEDED FOR TOS's CATS INDOORS! CAMPAIGN

At the spring 2000 TOS meeting, a resolution was passed to endorse the American Bird Conservancy's Cats Indoors! campaign. TOS needs someone to coordinate these efforts in Tennessee. The Cats Indoors project could save 1,000's of birds in Tennessee so, if you care about cats and you care about birds, please consider taking on this special project for TOS. There is lots of support information at www.abcbirds.org. I will be happy to work with you on strategies to get this message out to the public.

Melinda Welton, Co-chair
Conservation & Research Committee

GRANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guidelines for The Tennessee Ornithological Society Conservation and Research Grant and the Dr. Katherine A. Goodpasture Memorial Grant in Field Ornithology

The Tennessee Ornithological Society invites applications for the TOS Conservation and Research Grant for projects that will directly or indirectly help to protect the birds of Tennessee, increase scientific knowledge, or educate others about the importance of Tennessee's birds. In 2002 there is up to \$3000 available to be awarded for the Tennessee Ornithological Society Conservation and Research Grant and \$500 available for the Dr. Katherine A. Goodpasture Memorial Grant in Field Ornithology.

This award is open to anyone with a bird-related project, including students, professionals, and individual workers. The project can already be underway if the grant would adequately enhance it. Interested applicants should submit a project proposal of up to approximately three pages. An application form is available on the TOS Website (www.TNBIRDS.org) or the information can be incorporated in a letter. The information needed includes: name, address, telephone, E-mail address (if any) of applicant, topic, problem to be addressed, objectives, expected results and significance, project location, beginning and ending dates, estimated field time, estimated total cost of project, funds available from other sources, how grant is to be used to either fully or partially fund a project, experience of applicant in field, willingness of applicant for sharing results at a statewide TOS meeting, and if the work is under the guidance of a mentor or independent.

A letter of recommendation should also be sent from a mentor or an associate in bird studies. Up to \$30 of the stipend may be applied toward costs for attending a scientific meeting deemed appropriate for advancement of the fieldwork project.

Criteria for judging applications will be:

- Clarity of proposal,
- Significance of problem addressed,
- Adequacy of project design,
- Adequacy of experience/training,
- Adequacy of professional guidance,
- Financial need,
- Chance for achieving objectives,
- Potential benefit to the species/resource,
- Potential for advancing career/studies, and
- Potential for sharing results at a future statewide TOS meeting.

The application and letter of recommendation should be emailed to Melinda Welton at weltonmj@earthlink.net or if email is not available, mail to Melinda Welton 5241 Old Harding Road, Franklin, TN 37064 (615) 799-8095

DEADLINES: The deadline for the TOS Conservation and Research Grant and the Dr. Katherine A. Goodpasture Memorial Grant in Field Ornithology is September 1, 2002. Applicants will be notified immediately following the Fall 2002 TOS meeting in October. A check for 75 percent of the budget costs will be mailed to the grantee in October 2002. The balance will be paid after the project leader sends a satisfactory progress report and itemized costs to the Committee Co-Chair, Melinda Welton. All grant awards will be announced in *The Tennessee Warbler*.

PLEASE NOTE: The 2003 deadline for the Dr. Katherine A. Goodpasture Memorial Grant in Field Ornithology will be February 1, 2003

Conservation Committee Co-Chairs: Melinda Welton weltonmj@earthlink.net (615-799-8095)
Roger Tankersley, rdtanker@utk.edu (865-673-0931)

RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY BECOMING MORE ACTIVE IN TENNESSEE

In response to requests from current and former members and various wildlife professionals, The Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) is stepping up activity on several fronts in the state of Tennessee.

RGS has recently committed \$10,000 and staff biologist time and efforts in support of a Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA) project at Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area. In this project, RGS staff biologists will consult on habitat management of early successional forests on reclaimed and revegetating strip mine benches.

Formed in 1961, RGS is a not-for-profit conservation organization dedicated to improving the environment for Ruffed Grouse, American Woodcock and a variety of forest wildlife species that include Whitetail Deer, rabbits and many different types of songbirds. Of particular interest at the Royal Blue project is the concentration of Golden-winged Warblers. Other songbirds that will benefit include Yellow-breasted Chat, Common Yellowthroat, Eastern Towhee, and Field Sparrows.

The Royal Blue project is part of an initiative RGS developed to influence forest wildlife habitat on public lands. Through its Management Area Program (MAP), the society provides funding to public land managers for assistance in making positive habitat improvements on county, state and federal lands. MAP began in 1985 with one project in north-central Wisconsin and now covers more than 483,900 acres in 27 states and five Canadian provinces.

In an effort to also educate private landowners about the benefits of wisely managing their own woodlots, RGS has been working with the state wildlife offices and private conservation organizations. Utilizing these contacts, RGS has been able to identify private landowners with an interest in conservation and invite them to participate in seminars as part of the Coverts program. Participants learn how to implement sound management techniques and are encouraged to share this knowledge with neighbors and friends. Currently there are 14 states that endorse Coverts.

As an extension of Coverts, RGS is pleased to announce that Mark Banker, Regional Biologist, will be in the Nashville area to present a seminar on the ecology of Ruffed Grouse and American Woodcock. This seminar will be held at 7.00 P.M on Monday evening April 8th. The location is the Sportsman's Lodge in Cool Springs. Exit I-65 at Moores Lane, proceed to the northeast section of Westgate Commons.

The seminar is free to the public. While not required, an email RSVP is requested to dward@mail.nase.org.

Mark will also present information on the songbird populations which use similar habitat and an update on the Appalachian Cooperative Grouse Research Project. Troy Ettel, State Ornithologist, will also be present to give an update on TWRA habitat enhancement efforts at Royal Blue WMA.

In support of all its habitat objectives, the Society inaugurated its Sportsmen's Banquet program in 1978. More than 137 banquets in 29 states around the country help supplement the dues of members in financing RGS efforts to create, improve and maintain the young, thick forests that grouse and so many other wildlife species depend on for survival.

The first annual Middle Tennessee RGS Banquet will be held on Saturday evening, April 20th at the Sheraton Music City Hotel. (I-40 exit 215B). Information and tickets are available from Treva Thompson (615) 847-2572.

Additional habitat seminars and banquets are being planned for the Chattanooga, Knoxville and Memphis areas. Information regarding these activities and other RGS services is available from Ed Yates at (931) 946-7569 or by email at dward@mail.nase.org. You may also wish to visit the RGS website at www.ruffedgrousesociety.org.

CHAPTER NEWS

Members of the **CHATTANOOGA CHAPTER** have been active these past few months. The Chattanooga Christmas Count was held on December 22. Twenty-eight participants found 97 species, including a Gray Catbird, Black-crowned Night Heron, an immature Snow Goose, and a Merlin. The Nickajack CBC was held on December 29 with sixteen participants finding 94 species. Best finds were Northern Shoveler, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Sandhill Cranes, House Wren, Merlin, and Vesper Sparrow. The Hiwassee CBC was held January 1, 2002. Twenty-five observers found 99 species. Highlights included a Ross' Goose, Tundra Swan, six Snow Geese, one Merlin, and around 11,000-12,000 Sandhill Cranes.

Bill Haley submitted the following totals for fall 2001 at Soddy Mountain:

Osprey -10	Turkey Vulture - 645
Bald Eagle - 34	Black Vulture - 56
Golden Eagle -1	Days lookout covered - 60
N. Harrier - 37*	Total hours - 341*
Sharp-shinned -254	Total Raptors counted - 3312
Cooper's - 64*	
Red-shouldered -23	Hawkwatcher hours (top 4):
Broad-winged -1842	Bill Haley - 212.5 hrs.
Red-tailed - 309	Jimmy Wilkerson -115.25 hrs.
Am. Kestrel -18	Harold Birch - 106.85 hrs.
Merlin - 5	Cynthia Wilkerson - 67.75 hrs.
Peregrine - 6	*Denotes new record

In our December meeting Giff Beaton, author of "Birding Georgia," showed slides of his birding trip to Africa, with special highlights on Zimbabwe and Madagascar. In January, we had our annual birding quiz, giving everyone a chance to see how many songs and calls they could recognize. Our February presentation was given by John Gatchett, a contributor to the ABA guide on "Birding Idaho," on birding in the Great Basin.

In February the Woodcocks in the Sequatchie Valley put on their usual extraordinary show. All field trip participants were able to get a long look through scopes at these usually secretive birds as they gave their nasal vocalizations on the ground, and were then able to follow them (though without scopes on this part) as they went through their impressive aerial display flights. A check of a Barn Owl nest box

produced both a male and female barn owl and eleven eggs. The final reward for all of this hard birding work was more fellowship and good food cooking out at Hayden Wilson's home.

The eight people participating in the eagle survey of Nickajack Lake on Jan. 12 found 7 adult Bald Eagles.

The most notable recent bird was a Harris' Sparrow discovered by John Henderson and Daniel Jacobson on Blythe Ferry Rd. in Meigs County.

Hayden Wilson

THE GREENEVILLE CHAPTER - Winter 2001-2002 was a slow season in Greene County, with waterfowl numbers down in comparison with recent years and few observations of irruptive migrants. The most unusual sightings recorded by the chapter were of a dark-morph Red-tailed Hawk in the McDonald area of western Greene County on December 2 and 29 and three American Tree Sparrows at Nolichucky Environmental Study Area on December 22. Other noteworthy species included American Woodcock (several days in February), Osprey (December 23), Peregrine Falcon (February 19), Tree Swallow (February 24), and Palm Warbler (1-2 birds on December 2, February 3, and February 17).

On January 26, long-time chapter member Linda Northrop presented an informative and entertaining account of her Big Year in 1994. Traveling a well-planned itinerary that included stops in Alaska, Arizona, California, Florida, Maine, and Texas, Linda logged 605 species in only 195 days of sustained birding, a truly remarkable feat.

Chapter President Don Miller is working on a compilation of noteworthy observations in Greene County and invites submissions from birders across the state. Anyone with unusual and significant records may contact him at raincrow@xtn.net or 423-639-4100.



Don Miller

CHAPTER NEWS

THE KNOXVILLE CHAPTER continues to be very active. Last year we set up the JB Owen Memorial Fund, which we will use to fund bird-related research, education, conservation and journalism in Tennessee. We have already collected over \$4300 for this fund, in memory of our long-time TOS member and bird columnist for the Knoxville News-Sentinel. We should soon begin looking for deserving individuals to receive a grant.

It was a lot of work, but a lot of enjoyment as well, hosting the TOS Fall Meeting. Now we have that experience to help us with the 2003 TOS Spring Meeting, which we expect to host. With proceeds from the silent auction at the Meeting we were able to donate over \$500 to the Foothills Land Conservancy to help pay for some land it purchased near the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Our chapter members participated in at least 6 east Tennessee Christmas Bird Counts, we have our Knox County Spring Bird Count upcoming (April 28) and we'll be out there on International Migratory Bird Day (May 11). Anyone is always welcome to join us on our field trips - we hold at least 2 every month.

Our latest endeavors include the production of coffee mugs with the KTOS logo on them, to be sold as a fundraiser, and we are looking into having magnetic signs made that can be attached to cars, warning people that a bird survey is in progress. This could make doing those Breeding Bird Surveys a little easier!

Our officers: Vice-president, Charlie Muise; Treasurer, Bob Steffy; Secretary, Don Vowell; Newsletter editors: (text/design) Lyn Bales, (distribution) Cindy Day, President, David Trently.

The **NASHVILLE CHAPTER's** Christmas Count, held on December 15, totaled 83 species, plus some Lesser Scaup during count week. Waterfowl numbers were low, but we did have 1 Horned Grebe at Radnor Lake and 1 Double-crested Cormorant. Owl's Hill had our only Wild Turkeys (2), while Bell's Bend had 7 American Woodcock, the only shorebird species besides Killdeer. Other species of interest included all of the expected woodpeckers, 14 Horned

Larks, 3 red-breasted Nuthatches, 10 Brown Creepers, 1 Winter Wren, 4057 American Robins, 7 American Pipits, 1 Common Yellowthroat, 1 Tree Sparrow, 2 Lapland Longspurs, 21 Rusty Blackbirds, 5 Purple Finches, and 20 Pine Siskins.

The Hickory-Priest Count on January 1 produced 87 species on a very cold day. Highlights were 1 Bald Eagle at Old Hickory Lake, 3 Chipping Sparrows, 1 Sedge Wren, 1 Purple Finch, 3 Red-breasted Nuthatches, and 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers. Big misses were Horned Lark, Eastern Phoebe, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Winter Wren.

Recent NTOS field trips included the Monsanto and Williamsport Lakes near Columbia, Old Hickory Lake in Nashville, the Duck River and Big Sandy Units of the Tennessee NWR, Kentucky and Barkley Dams with KOS (Thayer's and Glaucous Gulls), and a fun Woodcock watch and potluck dinner at Warner Park. Many of us also attended the fine Sandhill Crane Viewing Day at Birchwood, which was very enjoyable.

Some of our recent programs have been Polly Rooker's Birds of Cheap Hill (Cheatham County), Lisa Powers' Bats of the Southeastern US, Jan Shaw's Birds of Southeast Brazil, and David Vogt's Fall Bird Banding at Whigg Meadow, Cherokee National Forest.

Jan Shaw

JUNE 30TH DEADLINE

The deadline date for the August issue of *The Tennessee Warbler* is June 30th. Please submit all articles, announcements, reports and items of interest by this deadline date.

Submit Material To:

Theresa Graham, Editor
 PO Box 366, Oakland TN 38060
 (901) 465-4263 (home)
 (901) 748-9324 (fax)
 e-mail: 2graham@bellsouth.net

Chapter News - Continued

MEMPHIS CHAPTER - The 74th annual Memphis Christmas Count was held on December 22, 2001. Eighty-nine species were counted including an Osprey and a Rufous Hummingbird.

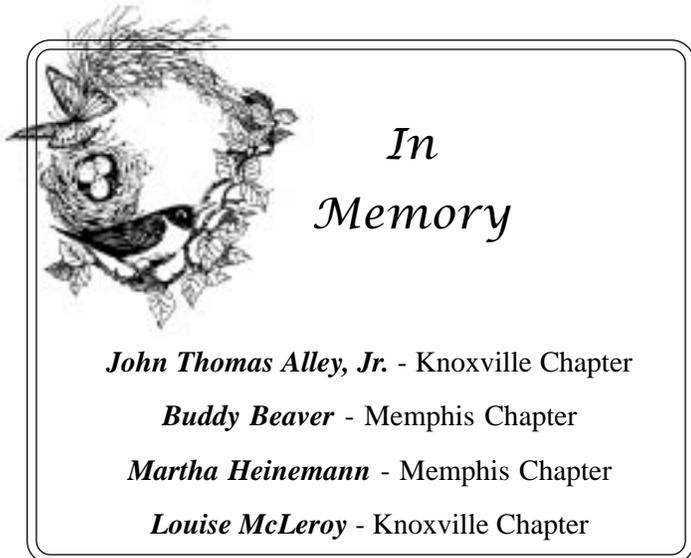
Three Trumpeter Swans were at Lauderdale WMA near Halls, TN in January. One, an immature, was shot and killed on January 13. One of the two adults appeared to recover from a gunshot wound to the neck. All three birds had neckbands indicating that they were wild-hatched in Wisconsin, descended from released birds. These were the first live Trumpeter Swans reported in Tennessee since Audubon visited the state in 1820.

Large numbers of geese are wintering at Reelfoot Lake. Also, 3 Ross' Geese were seen at Shelby Farms in Memphis in February.

The Memphis Chapter is looking forward to hosting the Spring State Meeting in May.

We were all saddened by the deaths of two long-time members, Martha Heinemann and Buddy Beaver. Our sympathy goes out to their families. They will be missed.

Bob Ilardi



2001 Award Dr. Katherine A. Goodpasture Memorial Grant in Field Ornithology

Portia Macmillan has been awarded the 2001 Goodpasture Award to cover the cost of equipment to run the MAPS station at Radnor Lake in Nashville. The data that she collects at this banding station is contributed to a national database to monitor population trends and productivity of nesting birds.

REGISTRATION FORM - TOS SPRING MEETING
MAY 3 - 5, 2002

Name(s) _____

Address _____

TOS Chapter: _____

\$_____ for ____ Registrations @ \$6 each

\$_____ for ____ Dinner Reservations @ \$14 each

\$_____ Total amount enclosed. Make Check payable to Memphis TOS

Mail registration form and check to: Carolyn Bullock
4746 Cole Road
Memphis, TN 38117

Please indicate interest in birding by boat (Send no money at this time.)

Canoe birding trip for ____ people
Preference: ____ Sat AM _____ Sat PM ____ Sun AM

Pontoon boat trip for ____ people
Preference: ____ Sat AM _____ Sat PM ____ Sun AM