



KNOXVILLE CHAPTER OF THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Please join us on **Wednesday, February 6th** at 6:30 pm in Room 118 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, located at 255 EJ Chapman Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919. Stay afterwards to socialize and have refreshments.

This month's program will be presented by Ron Hoff talking about his and Dollyann's trip in March of 2018. Called the Atlantic Odyssey, the trip was 34 days in length. It started in Argentina, made several stops in the southern Ocean before ending in the Cape Verde Islands off eastern Africa. As Ron called it, "a lifetime experience".



These King Penguins clearly understood they were in the presence of one of the world's "Special" birders. Dollyann Myers



Virginia's Warbler

Incredible Winter Warbler Outbreak at Kingsport

Last year in January we had a major cold spell that brought in many unusual birds to Tennessee including all three resident North America swans. This year's weather has been pretty mild until the major cold front that moved in January 18th. With it came some major surprises.

On January 19th, Bambi Fincher and Sherri Quillen found a Virginia's Warbler on the Kingsport Greenbelt. This set off a rush by many birders from around the state to Kingsport to see this mega rarity. While many did find and see the bird it was not the only surprise. A total of at least 10 warblers were reported over 2 days despite the bitterly cold temperatures.

Other warblers reported were Yellow-rumped, Orange-crowned, Prairie, Palm, Northern Parula, Cape-May, Nashville, Pine and Common Yellowthroat Also seen was a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Lincoln's Sparrow. In Chattanooga a Canada Warbler has also been reported for nearly two weeks. Did the mild fall weather keep some of these birds rooted in East Tennessee? And why did so many show up in one spot in Kingsport? It would be great if someone knew the answers.

Wild Birds Unlimited Donation

Wild Birds Unlimited in West Knoxville presented KTOS a check for \$250 in January. This money represents a percentage of the sales made to KTOS members in 2018. Wild Birds has been a generous friend to KTOS since the store reopened several years ago. Many thanks to Liz and her staff at Wild Birds.



Did You Know

Whooping Cranes are Omnivores. This means they eat food of both plants and animals. Their preferred diet is crustaceans, small fish, insects, amphibians and reptiles. The main western population of Whooping Cranes winters at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on the coast of Texas. Here they spend much of their time foraging in the shallow waters for Blue Crabs and Razor Clams. They also eat Wolfberries and Acorns.



But what about the eastern population? We know that some of these birds winter in East Tennessee and North Alabama where Blue Crabs and Razor Clams are non-existent. So they have to rely heavily on grains. Most of the eastern population of the Whooping Cranes that spend the winter in East Tennessee hang out with flocks of Sandhill Cranes and the primary diet of these cranes are grains, especially corn. It is estimated that animal matter makes up less than 5% of their winter diet. So the Whooping Crane diet is pretty much the same as the Sandhill Cranes.



This winter there was one Whooping Crane that spent much of the winter at Hiwassee Refuge and could often be seen from the main viewing platform. The Hiwassee area has had one to three overwintering birds for a number of years now. In late December a Whooper showed up in Jefferson County associating with a flock of about 150 Sandhill Cranes. Many birders were able to get out and see the bird although the flock moved around a lot and generally took some dedicated looking to find it.

Whooping Crane seen in Jefferson County in December and January
Photos by Susan Hubble

Sharp's Ridge Improvements Update

In mid January, Tony Headrick, Bob Collier and Morton Massey met with the East Tennessee Design Center to discuss the latest developments related to Sharp's Ridge. Knoxville Parks and Recreation has hired the East Tennessee Design Center to come up with a comprehensive plan for the ridge. This will involve talking with all the stakeholders including KTOS, the Veterans Group, Legacy Parks, the mountain bike group and other organizations that have interests in the park.

While plans are still in the early stages, it is extremely good news that the city has elected to have East Tennessee Design Group oversee changes being contemplated for Sharp's Ridge. We believe that the need to preserve the ecological importance of Sharp's Ridge will be seriously considered and KTOS will have an opportunity to actually help with several efforts that could enhance the environment for birds on the ridge. If you have any question or concerns, please contact Tony Headrick.



This bird showed up at a feeder in north Knoxville on January 19th. The picture taken by the homeowner on the left looks like a Western Tanager. And a number of top birders agreed. But single photos often lead to misidentifications.

Robert Terrill was able to take the picture on the right. The bill is obviously not a tanager bill. But it is also not a bird we seen in winter and in this plumage. Turns out this bird is first year Baltimore Oriole.





Please go to: www.knoxvillebirding.org for all KTOS information.

- Calendar (Fieldtrip Info)
- Newsletters
- Membership Information
- Contact Us
- FaceBook
- Photo Share
- Resources



Being part of a like minded community is important. Please remember to check the status of your membership. Morton Massey will be happy to answer any questions. You can email him at knoxtbirds@gmail.com. Please remember to put "Membership" in the subject line.



Field trips and social gatherings are a great way of getting to know one another. Fields trips can be lead by any of our members regardless of skill level. We all can learn from one another. If you have an idea or would like to lead a trip, please contact Melinda Fawver at knoxtbirds@gmail.com. Please remember to put "Field Trip" in the subject line.

Always check the Calendar at www.knoxvillebirding.org to view upcoming Field Trips, Festivals, Bird Counts and Social Gatherings.

Shade grown coffee is a great product and environmental friendly for our beloved feathered friends.

To order shade-grown coffee, email David Johnson and Jean Alexander at jjadmj@yahoo.com. Your order must be turn in Thursday night before for meeting each month. David and Jean bring orders to the monthly meetings.

Thank you, David and Jean!

<p>Sun-Grown Coffee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Grows faster ✗ Requires more water, fertilizer and pesticides ✗ Supports less biodiversity ✗ Degrades ecosystems 	<p>Shade-Grown Coffee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Grows slower ✓ Requires less water, fertilizer and pesticides ✓ Supports greater biodiversity ✓ Sustains healthy ecosystems ✓ Allows farmers economic diversification ✓ Tastes better



2019 Membership Renewals:

Annual dues can be turned in at KTOS meetings or mailed to KTOS, 6932 Westland Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919. 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.



2017 - 2018

Chapter Officers / Staff

President

Jimmy Tucker

Vice President

Bill Keeler

Treasurer

Morton Massey

Secretary

Talissa Ralph

Newsletter Editor

Position Open

Website

Amy Tucker

Discover Birds

Tom Howe

Field Trip Coordinator

Melinda Fauver

State Directors, 2016 - 2018

Ron Hoff

Dollyann Myers

State Directors, 2015 - 2017

Michael Plaster

Chris Welsh

For more information :

knextnbirds@gmail.com

Please remember to put your inquiry in the subject line.
Example: Membership, Discover Birds, etc...

KTOS Financial Report for 2018

Income	2017	2018
Dues	\$1,937.00	\$2,551.00
Shade Grown Coffee	\$984.50	\$1,041.00
JB Owen Fund Donation	\$100.00	\$0.00
Hummingbird Festival	\$3,694.35	\$0.00
Activity books/class sponsorships	\$6.00	\$0.00
Donations	\$150.00	\$0.00
Spring TOS Meeting	\$1,923.00	\$0.00
JB Owen Book sales	\$198.00	\$26.00
Marcia Davis Memorial		\$2,405.00
Total Income	\$8,992.85	\$6,023.00

Expenses		
Newsletter	\$36.00	\$0.00
Supplies	\$250.17	\$41.72
Shade Grown Coffee	\$1,029.14	\$1,062.28
Member Dues to TOS	\$2,219.00	\$2,054.00
Room Rental - Ijams	\$30.00	\$200.00
Grants and Donations	\$800.00	\$1,000.00
J B Owen Award	\$0.00	\$700.00
Marcia Davis Award		\$500.00
Spring TOS Meeting	\$1,232.40	\$0.00
Internet	\$98.00	\$53.98
Gourds for Eagle Bend	\$107.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$5,801.71	\$5,611.98

Account Balances		
KTOS Checking and Savings	\$19,060.07	\$17,662.02
JB Owen Memorial	\$8,895.08	\$8,528.44
Marcia Davis Memorial		\$2,305.51
Total Assets	\$27,955.15	\$28,495.97

Membership	116	108
-------------------	------------	------------



Next month's program will be presented by Lexi Eiler. Lexi is an Outreach Program Assistant for the International Crane Foundation and will be travelling up from Alabama to share with us what is going on with the Whooping Crane efforts and other crane related projects. Lexi spoke to the Nashville TOS group a few months ago and was reported to be an outstanding program.