



through the biKNOXulars

January 2019



KNOXVILLE CHAPTER OF THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Please join us on **Wednesday, January 2** 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 is Member Photo Share. This is our chance to bird around the world with some of our members. Several members will show pictures they have taken over the last 12 months. If you are interested in showing the club some of your pictures and have not signed up, please contact Bill Keeler at whkeelerjr1@gmail.com



This photo was taken by Chuck Estes in South Africa in November .

Orange-breasted Sunbird



Be on the lookout for this bird

Evening Grosbeak

Schedule of Christmas Bird Counts and Other KTOS Walks

The Great Smoky Mountain CBC will be held on Saturday, December 22nd. Contact Warren Bielenberg at 865-681-7884 or birdglass44@aol.com for more information.

The monthly KTOS Walk at Seven Islands State Birding Park will be on Wednesday, December 26th at 8am. You don't need to sign up to attend.

The Cades Cove CBC will be held on Saturday, December 29th. Contact Susan Hoyle at 865-909-0792 or hoyleshrike@gmail.com for more information.

The Knox County CBC will be held on Saturday, January 5th. Contact Dean Edwards at kde@utk.edu for more information.

The KTOS walk at the UT Plant Sciences farm will be on Saturday, January 12th. Contact Morton Massey massey6932@comcast.net if you would like to attend.

On Wednesday, Jan 9th, KTOS will hold its first **Freels Bend** walk in Anderson County. Space is limited to 20 KTOS members. Contact Chuck Estes at chucklola@bellsouth.net or 865-207-0143 if you would like to attend.

Freels Bend is part of Three Bend Scenic and Wildlife Management Refuge which is on the Department of Energy Reservation. The area has diverse habitat with fields, woods, and views of the Clinch River. We will meet at the parking lot behind the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) south of Bethel Vally Road in Oak Ridge. Access to this site is normally restricted so we are pleased to have this opportunity to visit. We will be walking approximately 1 1/2 miles on a gravel road. Bring boots, winter clothing, a drink, and a snack. Check the KTOS website events page for precise directions to the meeting site.

Did You Know



These birds are clearly not going after their normal prey. Before I give you the answers, take a closer look at these pictures and see if you can tell what their prey is.

We know that Bald Eagles regularly take fish from a lake by flying low over the water then dipping down and snatching one up that is swimming just below the surface. But this Bald Eagle is not catching a fish, it is taking a turtle that is swimming at the surface of the water. The eagle then took the turtle up to a nearby tree and slowly tore it apart and ate it.

The 2nd picture is of a Red-shouldered Hawk snatching a small fish. We don't think of hawks as fishermen, but this picture clearly demonstrates that red-shouldered hawks will on occasion take food from a lake or pond.

These pictures were both taken by Stephanie Briggs. Stephanie lives down in West Knoxville along Fort Loudon Lake. While not an avid birder, Stephanie loves to watch and study the birds in her cove and she is pretty darn good photographer as well.



Another East Tennessee Rufous

This Rufous Hummingbird showed up around Thanksgiving at a home in Seymour. The bird stayed around for about a week then disappeared for about a week. When the bird showed back up, the homeowner contacted Mark Armstrong who went out, caught and banded the bird and was able to definitively id it as a Rufous (as opposed to an Allen's Hummingbird).

The hummingbird was mostly feeding on the Cigar plant shown in the lower left picture. At least that is until freezing weather came along and killed off the plant. After that it was feeding more at the hummingbird feeder. Cigar plants are annuals and can be purchased in the spring or early summer at nurseries like Stanleys. They start very small but grow rapidly into large plants.



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 Due in December.

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...

Another Big Year of Banding at Seven Islands State Birding Park

Once again Mark Armstrong and his merry band of volunteers (mostly KTOS members) spent every other weekend over the summer and fall banding birds at Seven Islands. Below are some of the highlights of what was captured and banded.

Regular Banding Sessions:

399 new birds plus 70 recaptures

Chicks In Bluebird Boxes:

37 Bluebirds and 74 Tree Swallows

39 Total Different Species

Most Banded Species:

Field Sparrow 68	Indigo Bunting 64	Common Yellowthroat 60
Ruby-throated Humm. 35	Song Sparrow 29	American Goldfinch 18
Yellow-breasted Chat 17	Cardinal 13	Swamp Sparrow 12
Carolina Wren 11		

First time banded species:

Mourning Warbler on May 13

Marsh Wren on September 30



Mourning Warbler

Notable Recaptures:

No 10-year-old birds

A Yellow-breasted Chat banded in 2014 that would now be 5 years old

A Northern Cardinal banded in 2014 that would now be 5 years old

A White-throated Sparrow that was banded in 2016

Next month's program will be presented by Ron Hoff and will feature his latest trip to Peru. Ron and wife DollyAnn along with KTOS members Beth Schilling and Chris Welch spent 3 weeks in Peru in October and November of 2018.

In March we will have a representative from the Whooping Crane Foundation come up from Alabama to tell what is the latest on the Eastern Whooping Cranes population.

