



Please join us on **Wednesday, March 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 Lexi Eiler from the International Crane Foundation. Lexi is a Whooping Crane Outreach Program Assistant and she will be talking about the history of Whooping Crane conservation, updates on current populations and a discussion of the methods being used to protect wild Whooping Cranes today.



Rufous Hummingbird in Clinton

This gorgeous male Rufous Hummingbird has an interesting story. It showed up at Pat Howard's home outside Clinton in 2017 and stayed until mid February of 2018. On August 3rd last year the bird returned. It likely spent the summer out west then headed back to East Tennessee after nesting season. The hummer has been hanging out in the Howard's backyard ever since other than 2 times it was absent for several days in a row. Pat expects the bird to leave soon and head back west.

Even though the bird has spent two winters at this location Pat says the Rufous remains very skittish.



Unlike several other instances of Rufous Hummingbirds overwintering in East Tennessee, there seems to be no special plants that would be attracting this hummer to the Howard's yard. They do live along the Clinch River and Pat speculates that the bird may be relying on the frequent midge hatches that occur on the river during winter. He said its favorite spot is to sit in a fairly short apple tree next to the river.

Pat came up with a pretty interesting solution for keeping his sugar water solution from freezing. He took a small tin pie bowl, cut a hole in the bottom then inserted a Christmas light into the hole. Then he simply attached the bowl to the bottom of the feeder. Pat said a 5 to 10 watt bulb is usually enough but if it gets really cold he uses a 15 watt bulb. The bird's typical routine is to come to the feeder once every 20 minutes.



Did You Know

Humans have nearly 10,000 taste buds. So when someone sips a nice glass of Cabernet Sauvignon, the tongue can pick out (not necessarily accurately) many of different flavors that make up this wine. Because humans have so many taste buds and each person's taste buds are different, there is great disparity between any two people of what they like and dislike in food and drink.

So what do you guess the hummingbird on the right tastes when it sips some wine? First of all, it is known that birds have a fraction of the number of taste buds that humans have. Some parrots have upwards of 300 taste buds but small birds like hummingbirds have a fraction of that. So at best, a hummingbird would be able to detect the wine might be sweet and that's about it.

In general it is believed that most bird species have developed acquired tastes over time that are focused on the foods they prefer. But that is likely limited to sweet, sour, bitter, etc. So a hummingbird would be able to detect sweetness but very likely not tell the taste of something with amino acid, thus they probably won't eat it.

So why do bird food stores offer something like Hot Pepper Suet? I asked Liz Cutrone that one day at Wild Birds Unlimited and she replied that it wasn't made with pepper in it for the birds, it was made because of the squirrels. Squirrels dislike spicy foods but most birds can't taste it.



Do You Use eBird?

The number of people using eBird continues to rise at a steady pace. Cornell Labs who runs eBird and the eBird app for smartphones continues to make major improvements which makes entering data and reviewing results easier and easier. If you are not using it please give it a try.

As eBird has evolved, more and more people use it to find birds and enhance their birdwatching experience. One example is the rise in birders who are now working on multiple county and state lists. It may not be obvious to many eBird users but your eBird reports WILL be looked at and used by other eBirders in their search for birds they want to go see. If your report is inaccurate, you will likely be sending other eBirders on wild goose chases. Please take the time to enter your report accurately.

First, report your location correctly. Don't report from your home if you were birding 10 miles away. Secondly, keep the distance travelled under 5 miles, less if you can. If you see a really unusual bird that someone else might want to see, put in some notes on where exactly you on your route you saw it. And double check your list before you submit. If you report a Bobolink instead of a Bobwhite (which happened recently at Seven Islands), numerous eBirders around the state get an email alert about the sighting then they have to evaluate if its correct or not.

Wednesday February 27, 8 am at Seven Islands State Birding Park

**Upcoming
Bird
Waks**

Saturday March 2, 7:30 am at Kyker Bottoms (Blount County)

Saturday March 2, 4:30 to 7:30 pm Freels Bend (Anderson County) Look for American Woodcock

Please find details on the calendar page of our website knoxvillebirding.org



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

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State Directors, 2015 - 2017

Michael Plaster

Chris Welsh

For more information :

knexinbirds@gmail.com

Please remember to put your inquiry in the subject line.

Example: Membership, Discover Birds, etc...

Presidential Perch by Jimmy Tucker

Your KTOS in Action

You may not realize how much public service your KTOS is involved with. Below is a listing of a number of the current projects that we have been asked to assist with. KTOS is doing things to make a difference in our community and if you would like to get involved with any of these project or have questions please let me know.

Sharp's Ridge Improvements - KTOS is working with the Community Design Center of East Tennessee who has been hired by the City of Knoxville to come up with improvements to Sharp's Ridge. We have been asked to provide input on the importance of birdwatching on the ridge and on the importance in preserving it as an important stopover point for migratory birds in the spring and fall.

Ijams Hummingbird Festival - KTOS has met with Ijams Nature Center and we expect to play an important role again assisting with the festival in August. More than likely we will again assist with the vendor areas and provide volunteers.

New Park in Clinton - There is a new park that is being developed in Clinton, just east of the Hwy 25 bridge toward Knoxville. This park is located on land owned by the Joe Hollingsworth's family and will be a city park. The plan at present is to keep much of the land in native habitat which should include an 80 acre tract planted in native warm season grasses. KTOS is working with the Hollingsworth Foundation in an advisory capacity to make the park birder friendly.

East Tennessee PBS TV Series - KTOS has been asked to assist with the creation of a couple of tv series on East Tennessee birds. This will entail the review of a large number of videos that were shot by long time bird photographer Ron Austing. Several KTOS members will be reviewing these videos and identifying the birds on them so the editors can pull out the needed footage.

Bird Kills at UT - KTOS has been asked to assist with a major problem of birds being killed flying into the Communications Building at UT. This problem has been going on for years and an employee who works in the building has asked us to do what we can to put pressure on UT to take some action.



Next month's program will be presented by Doug Raybuck. Doug is a graduate student at UT and has been doing research on Cerulean Warblers distribution in the Cumberland Mountains using geol locators. KTOS awarded Doug \$1000 last fall to assist with his research. Doug and fellow UT student Evan Buck travelled to Columbia this past January to try to learn more about the migratory paths the Cerulean Warblers use to come to East Tennessee.