



Please join us on **Wednesday, October 2** at 6:45 for a presentation by Chuck Estes. Chuck and Lola traveled to Madagascar in the fall of 2018 on a birding and wildlife adventure.



KTOS Fall Potluck at Seven Islands

The Friends of Seven Islands and park staff invited KTOS to hold its fall potluck dinner at the park in September. Even though the temperatures were in the low 90s, the turnout was great and everyone had a wonderful time. Park officials gave us an update on the opening of the new bridge and asked the members to give input on the possible renaming of some of the trails. President Morton Massey reviewed some of the objectives the new officers had established during several meetings over the summer.

KTOS Group Finds Rare Sabine's Gull

On September 12, a group of 10 KTOS members traveled up to Rankin Bottoms in Cocke County to see the migrating shorebirds. The lake level was finally down enough that viewing from the main parking area was pretty good and there were a good number of shorebirds. Shortly after arriving, Tom Howe spotted a dark tern like bird. It took Tom and Morton Massey a good 10 minutes debating back and forth and looking in bird books before the decision came down they were looking at a super rare Sabine's Gull.

Sabine's Gulls are usually encountered well offshore on seagoing pelagic trips. But one does show up in Tennessee about once a year, usually at Paris Landing. They have a very distinct M pattern on their upper wings in flight. The group had to wait almost 30 minutes before the gull flew and gave everyone the thrill of seeing the diagnostic pattern.



Photo by Barry Spruce



Photo by Tom Howe

Calling All Backyard Birders



Hello to all of you! I'm Karin Beuerlein, and I'm new to KTOS. I'm an avid gardener and I'm passionate about creating backyard habitat for birds with native plants, and that's why I'm in your newsletter this month.

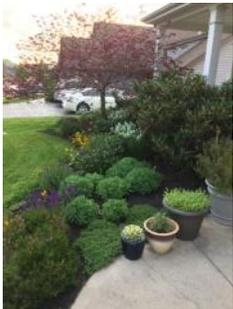
I'm sure you heard the disturbing news released last week: **studies show we've lost 3 billion birds in North America since 1970.** There are several key reasons for this, but topping the list is habitat loss from residential development. That means that one critical piece

of reversing the decline of bird species is rethinking the way we landscape the American backyard.

My husband and I bought a house 12 years ago in a new subdivision built on a former dairy farm. I was over the moon to create a garden on that blank canvas—and to see what birds would appear. The development had stalled because of the financial crisis, so instead of having immediate neighbors, we lived next to big stretches of open meadow that led into oak groves. Tall snags abounded. A small patch of native vegetation flourished across the street, composed of two ancient red cedars, a pecan tree, a sycamore, and a tangled understory.



Bluebird House behind stand of Ironweed and Bee Balm



Front garden planted for dense cover

As you might guess, that land already supported a rich diversity of bird life before I had planted a thing. Once I got the first redbud in the ground and put out a seed feeder, we had all the usual Tennessee backyard birds visiting every day, plus occasional special guests like chestnut-sided warblers, white-crowned sparrows, blue grosbeaks, blue-gray gnatcatchers, green herons, barred owls, pileated woodpeckers, and more.

So we lived and gardened in this little Eden . . . until the inevitable happened. The economy recovered, and the undeveloped land in our subdivision was sold to a builder who tore out the trees, shaved off the hillside, and installed houses. Each one had a handful of cheap meatball shrubs out front and a crape myrtle on the corner, plus a spotty fescue lawn.

Our 24/7 bird party ended almost overnight.

Even though I'd been progressively installing more garden space, that patch across the street with food-rich trees and ample shelter had been doing most of the legwork. When it disappeared, so did the titmice, towhees, owls, and most of the woodpeckers. Chickadees still came to our feeder, but no longer used our nest boxes to breed. A simple head count sounded the alarm: we had fewer birds, and fewer species, in a very short period of time.



Asters, Joe-Pye Weed and other natives planted for migrating warblers

The message was clear to me. My garden, though nice enough as a garden, needed some serious adjustments if I wanted to make a difference for birds—if I wanted to replace the habitat that was lost. And I needed to encourage my neighbors to step up. I'm here to share my experiences in making those adjustments, and I ask you to share yours as well. I hope that together we can improve the prospects of the birds we still have, and create more beautiful, livable backyards in the process.



Tree Swallow Box planted near Sourwood Tree



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. Melinda Fawver will be happy to answer any questions. You can email her at knoxtbirds@gmail.com. Please remember to put "Membership" in the subject line.



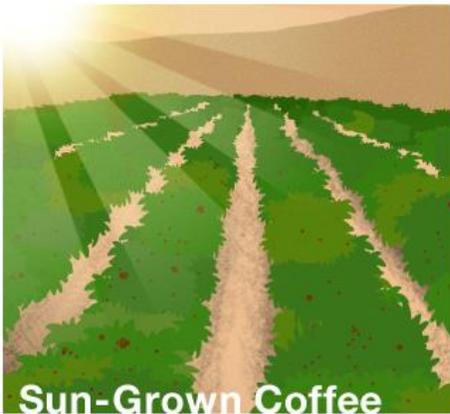
Field trips and social gatherings are a great way of getting to know one another. Fields trips can be lead by any of our members regardless of skill level. We all can learn from one another. If you have an idea or would like to lead a trip, please contact Melinda Fawver at knoxtbirds@gmail.com. Please 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 turned in Thursday night before the 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
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2020 Membership Renewals:

Annual dues can be turned in at KTOS meetings or mailed to KTOS, 1553 Dutch Valley Rd, Clinton TN 37716. 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.



2019 - 2020

Chapter Officers / Staff

President
Morton Massey

Vice President
Bill Keeler

Treasurer
Melinda Fawver

Secretary
Laura Tappan

Newsletter Editor
Position Open

Website
Morton Massey

Discover Birds
Tom Howe

Field Trip Coordinator
Position Open

State Directors
Ron Hoff
Chris Welch
Tom Howe

Presidential Perch

What an exciting September KTOS has had. We started off with the potluck dinner at Seven Islands. Approximately 50 people attended including some park staff and Friends of Seven Islands board. Next came an impromptu bird walk at Rankin Bottoms where the group found a super rare Sabine's Gull. This was a life bird for most of the 10 KTOS members and a state bird for all of them.

KTOS held its first new birder bird walk at Ijams on the 21st, followed by a photography bird walk at Norris Dam Songbird Trail led by Barry Spruce. This weekend, the fall TOS meeting will be held up in Elizabethton.

Over the summer, the new officers met several times. From those meetings came a set of objectives for the 2019/2020 year we wish to share with the club. In coming up with these objectives we tried to make sure we were focusing on all three aspects of our mission— to promote birdwatching, to provide education on birdwatching and birds and to be involved with conservation efforts relating to birds.

- 36 bird walks including 2 focused on photography
- 4 New Birder walks
- 4 Discover Bird programs
- 4 Festivals or Educational outreaches
- 20% increase in paid membership
- Implement fundraising efforts to raise \$2,000 annually
- Fund 2 research/educational projects
- Launch a new conservation project (hopefully on Sharp's Ridge)

We are already off to a great start so lets keep things rolling!

Morton

Upcoming October Events

- 1st Cross Mountain Migrants
- 2nd KTOS Monthly Meeting
- 6th Bird Walk at Seven Islands
- 7th Knox County Bird Count
- 19th Scoutfest
- 23rd Birding With Friends Walk at Seven Islands
- 26th New Birder Walk
- 29th Executive Committee Meeting

All bird walks are subject to change. Please consult the KTOS calendar for walk details.



November's program will be given by Lyn Bales who will be talking about "The Birds of Prey I Have Known". Lyn was a longtime naturalist with Ijams Nature Center. He is an author and outstanding public speaker about wildlife.