



### *Wednesday, February 3rd, Virtual Program:*

On Wednesday, February 3, join us for a presentation by Seven Islands State Birding Park ranger Stephanie Mueller on the bird banding program at the park. Both Stephanie and the seasonal staffer, Clare Datillo, have been learning under Mark Armstrong to become certified banders. Banding at the park usually starts in late Spring and goes until October or November. Every other Sunday the group will set up their nets out near the far barn or greenhouse and catch and band songbirds. This past October the group did a night banding session where they caught two rare Northern Saw-whet Owls and banded them.

**NOTE:** Meeting time has changed. The meeting will start at 6:45 for social time. At 7:00 we will start the business meeting and at 7:15 we will start the program.



The Master, Mark Armstrong, at work banding birds at Seven Islands

# Bob Collier Remembered

By Tony Headrick

Dr Robert (Bob) Collier... his passing was particularly tragic for the people closest to him of course. When we lose someone as smart and gifted as he was, that loss is hard to quantify. As a mentor to many, myself included, he will be missed the most. His love of birding and the adventures we took showed his willingness to teach and share his knowledge. Over many many years he and his wife Louise crisscrossed the US in search of the perfect birding experience . Dawn and I were lucky enough two years ago to spend 10 days out west (Utah, Wyoming, Idaho) chasing that perfect day. Looking back now I realize how special that was for us. He planned out the trip to each birding area to give us the best chance of seeing the best birds in those areas. His sense of humor and knowledge made the drive exciting all along the way. I am extremely lucky to have called him a very close friend. His accomplishments were many; surgeon, rock hound, birder, Sunday school teacher, to name just a few. Bob will be missed by so many. RIP Bob.



Dr Bob Collier

Last year Bob got very motivated to get his Tennessee bird list up over 300. I think he started the year around 295. In January Bob went with several other KTOS members to West Tennessee to see Long-eared Owls, Western Meadowlark and Rough-legged Hawk. During the Summer Bob talked me into another trip west to get Bell's Vireo, Lark Sparrow and Bob's 300th bird, Western Kingbird in Memphis. That 300th bird was an incredible delight for him. As Tony said, Bob was always well prepared, friendly and a super guy to hang out with.

Morton Massey

# Announcements

## Membership

Please remember, Dues are Due. Checks can be sent for KTOS renewals to Tony Headrick, 1512 Hall Acres Dr, Knoxville, 37918. Membership info can be found on the KTOS website (knoxbirds.org) under the About menu item.

KTOS is helping fund the bird seed that is being used at the main barn at Seven Islands State Birding Park. Wild Birds Unlimited put out several feeders and bird houses around the barn. This bird friendly native garden is really making a difference. One example is the nice flock of White-crowned Sparrows that are making this area their home over the winter.

Please consider including an additional \$20 to go to buy a bag of bird seed for the park.

## Name Change

We are bringing back up the topic of changing the Doing Business As name of KTOS. A specific motion will not be made in the immediate future but we do want to keep this topic open for discussion and listen to any feedback people may have. The most frequently mentioned name to be used is The Knoxville Birding Club. The reason for changing our name is to avoid the typical confusion people go through when we introduce ourselves as a chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society. Most new birders seem to feel that being part of an ornithology group is way more serious than they want to be. For those of us who are actively trying to recruit new members, just calling ourselves a local birding group is very easy and avoids the issue of having to convince the people we are really not an over the top serious or scientific group.

If you have comments, please let us know. FYI, if we do change our name we will STILL be the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

## Kyker Bottoms Purple Martin Houses

Many of you who have birded Kyker Bottoms over the years may be aware that there have been a large Purple Martin colony at the house with the large pond just west of the park and near the overlook platform. The homeowner who lived there has recently taken down the Purple Martin houses, possibly to sell the home. This colony of martins will have to move on if new gourds/houses are not replaced. We will be considering purchasing a set of martin gourds/houses and putting them up in the new couple of months. A Martin house system with a pulley system that raises and lowers the gourds for cleaning is pretty expensive. If you have any experience with doing martin gourds on some type of fixed structure that does not raise and lower please let us know at [knoxbirds@gmail.com](mailto:knoxbirds@gmail.com).



Please go to: [www.knoxbirds.org](http://www.knoxbirds.org) for all KTOS information.

- Calendar (Fieldtrip Info)
- Newsletters
- Membership Information
- Contact Us
- FaceBook
- Blog
- 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](mailto:knoxtbirds@gmail.com). Please remember to put "Membership" in the subject line.

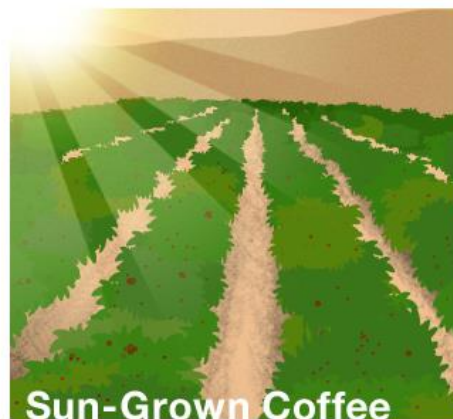


Field trips and social gatherings are a great way of getting to know one another. Fields trips can be lead by any of our members regardless of skill level. We all can learn from one another. If you have an idea or would like to lead a trip, please contact Tom Howe at [knoxbirds@gmail.com](mailto:knoxbirds@gmail.com).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

Always check the Calendar at [www.knoxvillebirding.org](http://www.knoxvillebirding.org) to view upcoming Field Trips, Festivals, Bird Counts and Social Gatherings.

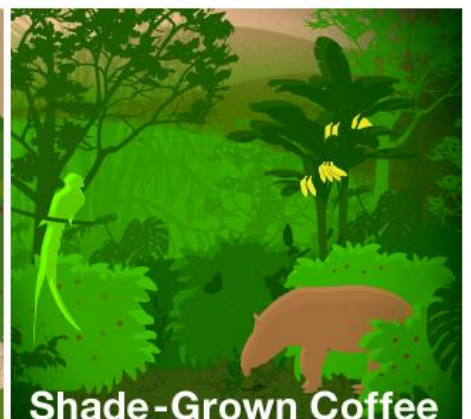
*Shade grown coffee is a great product and environmental friendly for our beloved feathered friends.*

Due to the Covid situation, we are not taking orders for coffee. However, you can find a number of the Vienna Coffee House blends at Whole Foods, Fresh Market and Butler and Bailey in Rocky Hill.



### Sun-Grown Coffee

- ✗ Grows faster
- ✗ Requires more water, fertilizer and pesticides
- ✗ Supports less biodiversity
- ✗ Degrades ecosystems



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- ✓ Grows slower
- ✓ Requires less water, fertilizer and pesticides
- ✓ Supports greater biodiversity
- ✓ Sustains healthy ecosystems
- ✓ Allows farmers economic diversification
- ✓ Tastes better



### 2021 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.



2020 - 2021

#### Chapter Officers / Staff

*President*

Morton Massey

*Vice President*

Bill Keeler

*Treasurer*

Tony Headrick

*Secretary*

Laura Tappan

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Position Open

*Website*

Morton Massey

*Discover Birds*

Tom Howe

*Field Trip Coordinator*

*State Directors*

Ron Hoff

Chris Welch

Tom Howe

For more information :

knoxbirds@gmail.com

## Letter from the President

January was an incredibly exciting month in many respects but also one saddened by the loss of our good friend Bob Collier at the end of December. Bob's passing will certainly have some impact on the development of Collier Preserve, but it will proceed onward regardless.

If you are a state bird lister you probably are very aware of the incredible month for rare birds in Tennessee. The first state record White-throated Swift showed up in Chattanooga and thrilled birders for a week. About the same time a Bullock's Oriole showed up a few miles from the swift. This species has not been present in Tennessee for 20 plus years so many birders drove to Chattanooga and in some cases, two days in a row.

Next came the Mega bird (again in Chattanooga), a Snowy Owl, the first time this species has been present in Tennessee and easily accessible since the 2009 Spring Hill bird. It is impossible to say how many birders, photographers and others went and saw this bird but it was obviously several hundred. It was even on the tv stations in Chattanooga.

But Chattanooga was not done. A few days later after the Snowy Owl was present a Common Redpoll was seen for a couple of days.

Congrats to two big recent accomplishments. Tom Howe finished 2020 with 229 Blount County birds, a number that would have previously been thought to be unreachable.

Also, DollyAnn Myers just hit 13,000 Tennessee ticks. As far as we know she is the first Tennessean to reach that number. Ron Hoff is not far behind. As you may recall, Ron and DollyAnn were the first to record 100 birds in all 95 Tennessee counties just a couple of years ago.

Morton Massey - President

### Upcoming Events

Feb 3 - Monthly Virtual Meeting

Feb 24 - Seven Islands Birding with Friends



March's meeting will be a presentation by Barry Spruce and hopefully Roger Ashley on some of their best pictures they have taken of East Tennessee Birds.