

December 4, 2013

KTOS Minutes

40 members & guests, 4 new visitors

Questions tonight for book giveaways were pictures of beaks and feet of small birds. Thanks to Lynne and Bob Davis for the books that are given for prizes!

Birds seen by members: Ross's Geese at Eagle Bend, Cooper's Hawks, Sharp-shin Hawks, 2 bald eagles flew along the train on a section from Asheville to Knoxville, northern harrier at Melton Hill, American Pipits at Forks of the River, Rufous Hummingbird is back at Billie's house for the 3<sup>rd</sup> winter,

Christmas Bird Count: If you wish to participate in any of the bird counts, you may contact the respective compiler(s) for the counts in which you are interested. Count dates and compiler information appear below.

*Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Cades Cove CBC*

**Sunday, December 29, 2013**

Compiler: Susan Hoyle, (865) 909-0792, [hoyleshrike@gmail.com](mailto:hoyleshrike@gmail.com)

*Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Gatlinburg CBC*

**Saturday, December 21, 2013**

Compiler: Warren Bielenberg (865) 681-7884, [birdglass44@aol.com](mailto:birdglass44@aol.com)

*Norris CBC*

**Saturday, December 14, 2013**

Compiler: Chuck Nicholson, (865) 405-7948, [cpnicholson53@gmail.com](mailto:cpnicholson53@gmail.com)

*Knox County CBC*

**Saturday, January 4, 2014**

Compiler: Dean Edwards, (865) 660-9701, [kde@utk.edu](mailto:kde@utk.edu)

Discover Birds Program: Blount County Home Education Association

Paula Schneeberger, Billie Cantwell, Chris Welsh, Oliver Lang, Kelly Sturner and Vickie Henderson volunteered to give the Discover Birds Program for 33 parents and students at Ijams Nature Center on November 21. Lyn Bales gave a presentation with a red-tailed hawk and thrilled everyone.

Field Trips:

Tommy Shubert Park, Thursday, December 19, 2013 @ 9:00 a.m.

Leader: Tony King, (865) 988-6172

Membership renewal is this time of year. Please send checks to Carole Golbert.

Planning meeting is January 9. Next member meeting is January 8. This meeting is our annual photo share. Please let Patty know if you're interested in showing your photos.

Ron Hoff reported on the logo competition going on until March. Rules are in the TN Warbler. \$1000 prize for the one that is selected.

TOS Winter meeting getting together to look for birds, Feb 6-8 at Pickwick Landing. Memphis TOS is doing a birding field trip on Dec 28.

Tony King updated us about Operation Migration. They're in TN. Everything is going normally. They're heading for St. Marks, FL. Go on their website, read about it. All of this costs money. Please send them money. They have 78% of their budget funded.

Vickie Henderson reported on the hunting of the sandhill cranes. 10 cranes were harvested by Dec. 3. If you have a scope and can see the band sequence of whooping cranes sighted on the refuge, please note the band color sequence and report to Vickie at [viclesw@aol.com](mailto:viclesw@aol.com). The International Crane Foundation is interested in receiving these reports.

Sharp's Ridge cleanup – Dan Ellsworth mentioned that his company can take large items that need to be recycled.

Talissa still has a couple of weeks available at her family beach house in Stinson Beach, CA.

Guest Speaker: Bob Howdershell. Birds & Bird Photography Tips. He has won several awards on his bird photography.

#### TIPS:

It's all about "The Eye". If a bird's eye is not sharp, the rest of the image doesn't matter. Catch light or eye glint. Get to the bird's eye level whenever possible. Allow room in your image for the bird to move. What's in the background? Take as many photos as possible at all different angles. For birds in flight, try panning and slow flying birds. Light is very important. Early morning and late afternoon light is best. Overcast days can be great as well. Light behind the photographer, on the subject. Quartered light works best. Birds on Wire – in competitions, will not accept images of birds on "man made" perches. Pairs can be difficult to get both subjects in focus. Adds interest to an image. Patience is the key.

<http://www.bobhowdeshell.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/bob.howdeshell?fref=ts>

Karen Wilkinson

Secretary

November 6, 2013

#### KTOS Minutes

47 members & guests, 4 new visitors

Questions tonight for book giveaways were about bald eagles. Thanks to Lynne and Bob Davis for the books that are given for prizes!

Birds seen by members: white-throated sparrows, common nighthawks, yellow-bellied sapsuckers, soras, 7 species of sparrow, hermit thrushes, black ducks, blue-winged teals, gadwalls, numerous ducks were seen while kayaking off the UT agriculture, and Eagle Bend has numerous ducks. Cherokee Farm off of the Alcoa Hwy, right over the bridge, may become a really good birding habitat.

#### Field Trips:

On Oct 26, 15 members joined Tom Howe at Kyker Bottoms. 54 species were observed. An American Bittern was seen and photographed. Marsh wrens, vesper sparrows, bobwhite quails, and snipe were some of the highlights.

Join Tom Howe this Saturday, November 9, at 8:30 am at Cove Lake State Park. Scouts will be joining members on this field trip. Thank you to Vickie Henderson for the Discover Birds Blog she has created for the Discover Birds Program. The scouts who are going to Cove Lake found out about KTOS through the Discover Birds Blog. Ginger Goosbly suggested that we give each scout a *Discover Birds Activity Book* to encourage their learning of birds.

On Thursday, November 14, join Tony King at Victor Ashe Park at 9:00 am.

On Saturday, November 16, join members at Sharp's Ridge Memorial Park for our annual fall clean-up day. Meet at the overlook at 9:00 am.

Thanks Tony King, Denise Neuman, Doug and Paula Schneeberger for helping at the Centennial Conservation Expo at the Jacob Building. The keynote speaker was Lelia Pinchot along with Mayor Madeline Rogero. There were lots of conservation themed booths that were very educational.

Thank you to Alice Torbett, who is giving a KTOS membership along with a birding field trip as an auction item at her church. Thank you to Tony Headrick for volunteering to lead the bird outing.

J.B. Owen Award, a \$350 grant, was presented to Mark Campen of the Tennessee Izaak Walton League to assist in efforts in conserving east Tennessee's natural resources with a special focus on maintaining wetlands. Izaak Walton is a national organization that is about hunting, fishing and getting kids outdoors. Money will go into invigorating hummingbird activity, butterfly gardens, bird boxes and other things. There's been a big focus on preserving the wetlands in Turkey Creek.

Paul Hassell, member of KTOS, spoke about a field trip he will be making to New Mexico on January 12-16, 2014. He is a professional photographer. This is a field trip for you to learn more about taking bird

and landscape photographs. The field trip will include a visit to Bosque Del Apache and White Sands National Monument. You will fly into Albuquerque. Hotel accommodations will be included in the price. You can email him for more information. [lightfinds@gmail.com](mailto:lightfinds@gmail.com)

Talissa Ralph has a home in Stinson Beach, CA. Her family home is open to members of KTOS. Great birding area, near Bolinas Lagoon, hour north of San Francisco, close to Point Reyes. Contact her at 865-247-4014, cell 505-670-2767, email [talkurt@cybermesa.com](mailto:talkurt@cybermesa.com)

Renewal is this time of year. Please send checks to Carole Golbert.

Tony King updated us about Operation Migration. Their flight started on October 2, and they went 5 miles. They were stuck there for 11 days because of the weather. It is day 35 of the migration, 176 miles, stop number 5, in Illinois. Go on their website, read about it. All of this costs money. Please send them money. Ron Hoff asked a motion for KTOS to sponsor a mile. Members approved.

Presentation, "Why Birds Rock!" by Dr. Dave Unger, an Associate Professor at Maryville College who teaches ornithology. He spoke at our Hummingbird Festival. He gave a very interesting talk on "why birds are amazing." "Because they can fly! Because they are so colorful! Because they're hilarious! Because they're amazing!" He showed us a video of a ka-ka in New Zealand who stole his breakfast and ate it right in front of him. He showed us another video of a Weka that followed him for about a mile along a beach. How are birds doing? In North America, 208 of 414 species analyzed are declining. The Eastern Meadowlark has been greatly decreasing since 1966. Decline is due to loss of habitat and urban sprawl. Grassland birds have been hit the hardest. Common bird species that can adapt to humans are doing ok. Go to <http://www.youtube.com/user/MCBiology> to view a video of his students on a field trip to Merritt Island in Florida, "Florida Ornithology Trip," plus many other videos.

## **MINUTES FOR MAY 1, 2013 MEETING**

50 members, including 3 new members, were present for the meeting in Room 118 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

### **SIGHTINGS**

Blue Grosbeak, Golden-winged Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blackburnian Warbler, Great Crested Flycatcher, Orchard Oriole, Summer Tanager

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A motion was made and passed to accept 2013-2014 nominated club officers.

#### *President*

Billie Cantwell

#### *Vice President*

Patty Ford

#### *Treasurer*

Carole Gobert

#### *Secretary*

Karen Wilkinson

#### *State Directors*

Chris Welsh and Michael Plaster

- On May 14 from 8:15 to 11:15, there will be a "Discover Birds" program at Sequoyah Elementary.
- A motion was made to purchase t-shirts and hats for the 2013 Hummingbird Festival and will be voted on at the June meeting.
- Planning Meeting on May 16.
- All members were asked to bring a 5 lb. bag of sugar to the Ijams Picnic Meeting on June 5 for the hummingbird feeders.
- Congratulations to the new TOS President, Ron Hoff.

### **UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS**

**Saturday, May 4** – Obed Wild and Scenic River – Chuck & Lola Estes, 8:00 a.m.

**Sunday, May 5** – Frozen Head – Chuck & Lola Estes, 7:30 a.m. (rained out)

**Saturday, May 11** – International Migratory Bird Day, NAMC bird count

**Saturday, May 11** – Big South Fork bird walk – Chuck & Lola Estes, 8:00 a.m.

**Thursday, May 16** – Brian Hann's Farm, Tony King, 9:00 a.m.

**Saturday, May 18** – GSMNP, Schoolhouse Gap Trail, Tom Howe

### **MAY PROGRAM – THE FUTURE OF THE BOBWHITE**

Roger Applegate, Wildlife Population Biologist for TWRA gave a presentation on the history of Bobwhite populations and management in the United States and discussed the reasons for the species dramatic decline, including the mechanization of farming, chemical engineering and changing field and forest habitats. In the future, large plots of land will need to be put aside to guarantee the reestablishment of Bobwhite coveys.

## **MINUTES FOR APRIL 3, 2013 MEETING**

47 members and 3 visitors were present for the meeting in Room 117 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Paul James from Ijams Nature Center talked about the Centennial Conservation Exposition, Oct. 12, 2013 at Chilhowee Park, to mark the 100th anniversary. He also presented the Passenger Pigeon Project which is a national effort to document the history of this bird and its extinction.
- Vickie Henderson – any sightings of nesting pairs of Peregrine Falcons should be reported to the state of Tennessee.
- Sandy Underwood has donated boxes of books for the 2013 Hummingbird Festival.
- \* David Johnson announced the officer nominations for 2013-2014 year.

President – Billie Cantwell

Vice President – Patty Ford

Treasurer – Carole Gobert

Secretary – (unknown)

State Directors – Chris Welsh and Michael Plaster

- The club will vote in May on T-shirts and caps to be purchased for the Hummingbird Festival.

### **UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS**

Saturday, April 6 – Sharp's Ridge Clean-up, 9:00 a.m., Tony King

Thursdays, April 11, 18, 25 and May 2 – Week day birding at Sharp's Ridge, 8:00 a.m., Tony Headrick

Friday, April 26-28 – Eight field trips available in conjunction with the 2013 TOS Spring Meeting

May - Magee Marsh, Lake Erie (possible field trip)

### **APRIL PROGRAM**

Rankin Wildlife Management Area (1,255 acres with another 800 acres that may be purchased) is composed of islands and floodplains that are submerged during the warm season impoundment of Douglas Reservoir. In late spring, summer, and early fall, the area consists of mudflats, open shallows, and both inundated and dry floodplain forest.

Michael Sledjeski shared photographs of the numerous migratory shorebirds and waterfowl that stop over in Rankin Bottoms during the cold months, including Scoters, Grebes, Mergansers, Herons, Egrets, Ibis, Plovers, ducks and many more species. He also talked about the Rankin Bottoms Project which involves canoers and sponsors a yearly clean-up.

## **MINUTES FOR MARCH 6, 2013 MEETING**

34 members and 8 visitors were present for the meeting in Room 117 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

### **UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS**

Saturday, March 16 – Woodcock Courtship Display (rained date: Sunday March 17), 6:00 p.m., Tom Howe and Mark Campen

Thursday, March 21 – The Cove at Concord Park, 9:00 a.m., Tony King

Saturday, March 23 – Beginning Birders Walk, Maryville Greenway, 8:30 a.m, Tom Howe

Last 3 Thursdays in April, Migratory birds at Sharp's Ridge

May - Magee Marsh, Lake Erie (possible field trip)

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Planning Meeting – Thursday, March 21 at 6:30 p.m. to eat, 7:00 p.m. for meeting, at Chick-fil-A in Bearden.
- For TOS meeting in April – volunteers needed for field trips
- \$316 was donated to rehabber Lynne McCoy by KTOS members
- Vickie Henderson has a Bluebird article in the April issue of the Tennessee Conservationist magazine, and there will be an article about the Discover Bird project in the Jan. 2014 issue. In April, thirteen Sevier County classes will be sponsored for the Discovery Bird Project. Four classes still need financial sponsors.

### **MARCH PROGRAM**

Lynne McCoy is home-based Wildlife Rehabber for Jefferson and surrounding counties. She has state and federal permits to take in birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians and provides a safe haven where the animals can recuperate or mature before they are released back into the wild. Lynne cares for 600-800 animals annually and also houses birds that can't be released back into the wild. She brought some of her "ambassadors" to the meeting including an American Crow, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, two Screech Owls, an imprinted Barred Owl that sang, a Great Horned Owl and an albino Barred Owl. Lynne's website address is <http://www.picturetrail.com/backwoodslynne> where lots of photos are available.



## **MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 6, 2013 MEETING**

46 members (including 2 new members) and 5 visitors were present for the meeting in Room 118 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

### **UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS**

**Feb. 15-18** – Great Backyard Bird Count

**Saturday, Feb. 16** – Wine Tasting fundraiser for KTOS, 6:30 p.m. at Legacy Parks Foundation

**Sunday, Feb. 17** – Owl Foray at GSMNP, 5:00 p.m.

**Saturday, Feb. 23** – Hiwassee Island Eco Cruise - 9:45 a.m.

**Saturday, Feb. 23** (Sun., Feb. 24 if inclement weather) – Winter astronomy, falconry demo and American Woodcock "night walk" – Freels Bend, 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Saturday, March 2** – Kyker Bottoms Refuge and Abrams Creek, 8:30 a.m.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Planning Meeting – Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 6:00 p.m. to eat, 7:00 p.m. for meeting, at Panera Bread in the Mercedes Shopping Center on Kingston Pike.
- Vickie Henderson talked about the national effort to establish a Wildlife Conservation Stamp comparable to the Duck Stamp that will give non-consumptive wildlife watchers a way to be recognized for their contributions. Vickie also spoke about the Incidental Take Permit which allows for a wind turbine to be placed in the Whooping Crane flight path.
- Get well cards were passed around to be signed for Nancy Tanner and Gary Woody.
- Newsletter deadline for articles is Feb. 15.

### **FEBRUARY PROGRAM**

"Regular People, Real Science" with Tiffany Beachy

Tiffany is the citizen science coordinator at The Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont where non-professional scientists assist with the collection of real, relevant scientific data.

Nationwide projects include:

- Ladybug Project
- Project Nest Watch
- Feeder Watch
- Great Backyard Bird Count
- Monarch Watch

Inhouse projects include:

- Stream salamander monitoring
- Phenology of weather
- Louisiana Waterthrush studies
- Pond breeding analysis
- Lichen monitoring
- Ozone garden
- and many more

Adult and student programs are available all year long. More information can be found

at [gsmit.org](http://gsmit.org)

### January 2013

42 members (including 2 new members) and 7 visitors were present for the meeting in Room 117 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

#### **SIGHTINGS**

Winter Wren, Bald Eagle, Dicksissel, Red Crossbill, Evening Grosbeak

#### **UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS**

Jan. 5 - Knox County Christmas Bird Count,

Jan. 10 - Tommy Schumpert Park, 9am with Tony King

Jan. 11-13 Waterfowl Trip - Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Decatur, Alabama

Feb. (date undecided) - Saw-whet Owl Foray

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Don't miss the 2013 Tennessee Sandhill Crane Festival on Jan. 19-20 at Hiwassee Refuge.
- 2013 dues are due.
- Planning Meeting - Sunday, Jan. 27 at 2:00 pm to discuss the upcoming Spring Meeting and Hummingbird Festival. Come early to view Rufous Hummingbird.

#### **JANUARY PROGRAM**

A large variety of member photos were shared with the group which were shot in many locations including: Rankin Bottoms, Melton Hill Lake, Texas, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, California, Maine, Peru, Russia, Bulgaria, Honduras, Jamaica, Thailand, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Bhutan and India.