

Dec 3, 2014 Minutes

Attendance: about 35 members and 5 visitors/new members

Christmas Bird Counts are coming up this month. If you're interested, contact the compilers for each location: Norris, Smoky Mountain, Knoxville

Dennis reported on the Purple Martin House at the Botanical Garden. John and Dennis set the post a couple of weeks ago, and the houses will go up in the spring.

Doug reported on the bluebird houses at Harmony at Montvale. Tony King and Doug set up 4 houses.

Billie reported that Lyn McCoy sent a donation of \$20 in memory of Bob Sargeant who passed away this summer.

Membership dues for 2015 are due now.

Field Trips:

Dec 6, 8:00 am, at Louisville Point Park, led by Tom Howe

Jan 7 KTOS Members Photo Share

Jan 17-18: 24th Annual Sandhill Crane Festival at the Hiwassee Refuge and Birchwood Community Center

January 24-31: 25th Annual Wilderness Wildlife Week is in Pigeon Forge

Ron Shrieves announced that he has books, "Urban Hikes in Knoxville " to sell for \$25 that benefit Legacy Parks. You can also buy these books on line and at Mast General Store.

Tony King reported on trash pickup on Sharp's Ridge. The club adopted the area in 2001. New trashcans are keeping the raccoons from pulling trash out. He also reported on Operation Migration. They started with 7 chicks in October. It took 34 days to go 54 miles. On Nov 26, they put them in a box and drove them to TN to avoid the snow storms. They are now 23 days ahead of schedule.

Merikay introduced Dr. Michael P. Jones, Associate Professor of Avian and Zoological Medicine, at the University of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Medicine, gave a presentation on "What's Up with Birds of Prey." Dr. Jones became interested in birds of prey as a child, and had his first experience with falconry when he was 16 years old. As a veterinarian, he takes care of birds of prey from all over the southeast. Some are from owners and others are from the wild. He does clinical examinations, diagnostics, monitors behavior, and manages medical and surgical issues for captured birds. His goal is to get the bird back out to the wild. He's heading to the Middle East on Friday to go to the International Festival of Falconry in Abu Dhabi to lecture to sheiks and falconers. Dr. Jones gave an extremely interesting and engaging talk on birds of prey.

Secretary,

Karen Wilkinson

Oct 1, 2014 KTOS Minutes

Members & Guests: 5 visitors, 1 new member, Mike McCloy, and about 46 KTOS members.

Bird sightings: Ron Hoff had a spotted sandpiper fly over his home; Patty has seen about 4 TN Warblers; Tony King had 10-15 TN Warblers in his birdbaths. He also has seen Cape May, a few Magnolias and some Yellow-rumps. He also had Prothonotary Warblers have 3 chicks and fledge from a bluebird box in his home. Red-headed woodpeckers were spotted. Marsh Wrens were spotted by Tom Howe near his home.

Field Trips:

Oct 11 Cove Lake State Park led by Tom Howe at 8:00

Oct 23 Meet at Ijams at 9:00 led by Tony King

Oct 25 Meet at Kyker Bottom at 8:00 led by Tom Howe

Discover Birds Program is in need of volunteers. Please email Billie at bfcantwell@comcast.net if you're available to volunteer.

October 17 the group will present to about 70 kids at Ijams.

South Knoxville has 150 kids Nov 7

Oct 13, 14, or 15 needs a volunteer to lead a group

David Johnson presented the J. B. Owen \$500 grant to Scott Somershoe for his Golden Eagle Project. Scott presented at our March meeting. He informed us of what's been happening since then.

Ken McFarland, a biologist from UT, spoke to us about the 65th annual wildflower pilgrimage that happens in the Smoky Mountains April 15-19th. They're interested in having more bird walks and are needing volunteers to help lead those. If you're interested, please email Ken at wildflower@utk.edu.

Tony King reported on Operation Migration. Operation Migration has trained 7 chicks to go on the migration. There's been too much wind, fog and rain, so the chicks have been doing nothing.

John put to a vote purchasing 4 bluebird boxes with poles and snake guards for Harmony Adoption which is located in Blount County. John O'Barr will help install them.

Dollyann Myers has seen 8001 birds throughout the whole world. She is the only woman alive who has seen that many birds.

Merikay reported that we still have t-shirts to sell from the Hummingbird Festival. She also introduced our speaker tonight, Vickie Henderson. Vickie is a member of KTOS, an artist, writer and naturalist. In 2011, she wrote and illustrated "Discover Birds Activity Book"

published by the Tennessee Ornithological Society. With more than four thousand copies distributed to students around the state, the book is designed to inspire the students' curiosity and creativity while presenting facts about birds. In honor of our club's 90th anniversary, Vickie delved into the club's archives of early 20th century correspondence, newsletters, and photographs as well as TOS materials in Nashville. She compiled a PowerPoint presentation of the interesting information she identified.

Karen Wilkinson

KTOS Secretary

Nov 5, 2014 KTOS Minutes

Members & Guests: 3 visitors, 1 new member, and about 42 KTOS members.

Ron Hoff reported on Bob-white quails at Kyker Bottoms. Bill Smith of TWRA received the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative's (NBCI) National Fire Bird Conservation Award for his contribution to the state's efforts toward habitat-based restoration of wild bobwhite populations. Kyker Bottoms is 525 acres of true early-successional habitat that produces the best bobwhite population in Tennessee.

Susie Kaplar donated 3 pairs of binoculars to Discover Birds.

Morton Massey reported on Seven Island Birding State Park. He's been talking to Brock Hill about concerns that the birding community has with the direction of the park. Starting the first of the year, there is going to be a 5-year plan, and it will include the input from the local birding community. Morton is planning on getting a "Friends group" started for Seven Island.

Field Trips:

Nov 8 Seven Island by Tom Howe at 8:00 am

Nov 15 Sharps Ridge Clean Up at 9:00 am. Meet at Overlook

Nov 20 Victor Ashe Park by Tony King 9:00 am

Nov 23 Possible Field Trip with Jason Sturner, More info to come.

Tony King reported on Operation Migration. Since the 10th of October, there have only been 3 good traveling days. Operation Migration really needs donations. He asked the club to make a \$200 donation. The club agreed.

The purple martin housing will go up at the Knoxville Botanical Gardens and the bluebird boxes will go up at Harmony Place in Blount County.

Merikay introduced our speaker tonight, Dr. Sam DeMent. He presented on his "American Kestrel Research." He has banded more than 700 birds of prey including 500 American Kestrels and 107 Loggerhead shrikes.

Karen Wilkinson

KTOS Secretary

May 7, 2014 KTOS Minutes

Members & Guests: Several visitors, 3 new members and about 50 KTOS members.

This month's give-a-ways was based on bird songs. Thanks to Lynn and Bob Davis for donating all the books that are given away.

North American Migration Count is this Saturday in Blount, Anderson and Loudon Counties.

Bird Sightings: Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Red-headed woodpeckers, female Hummingbirds, Black Poll Warbler, American Avocet, Yellow-Crowned Night Herons nesting behind Mexican restaurant in Maryville

New & Old Members:

Mindy Fawver has been a member for 4 years. She learned a lot about birds by doing banding a couple of years. She keeps track of all the birds that she sees using ebird. She was the KTOS secretary for a couple of years, created the layout for the Discover Birds book and designed the KTOS brochure.

Dan Ellsworth has been a member for over a year. He started tracking birds about 10 years ago when he moved to TN. He considers himself an "extreme birder," because he will wear camoflaugue and go hike for 10 hour days in search of birds.

Tony Lester is very new to birding. He is excited about being a member and being able to learn from other members.

Kathleen Arendt is new to birding. She's from Blount County. She's very excited about being around people who know birds and to learn from them.

Franklin Square Festival: April 26, 1 new member, Glenda Ross, 6 tee shirts sold and 4 Discover Birds books sold. Thanks to Patty Ford, Carole Gobert, Deedee Blane and Billie Cantwell for covering the event.

Discover Birds:

Thanks to the volunteers who came out on April 4, at 1:00 to First Lutheran School

On May 9, at Sevierville Primary School for 260 students. We will need a lot of volunteers.

May 14 O.R. Brownie Troop, 16+ students, 3:00 pm, Turtle Point Park

May 23 Clayton Bradley School, 34 students, Blount Co.

Thanks Bob Davis for the **birdhouse predator protectors.**

Hummingbird Festival: Saturday, Aug 23, at Ijams Nature Center.

Planning meeting May 15, meet at Billie's house at 6:30. 1613 Cove Creek LN

Field Trips:

May 15, Tony King, meet at Ijams at 9:00, we'll carpool to Karen Fletcher's house and do some birding.

May 17, Cove Lake State Park, Caryville at 8:00

May 24, 7:30 am, at Cades Cove, birding by bicycling

May 25, Sunday, 8:00 am, Cherohala Parkway led by Mike Nelson

KTOS Elections:

David Johnson announced the election for the president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, and state directors. Nominations for president is John O'Barr, vice president is Merikay Waldvogel, Secretary is Karen Wilkinson, Treasurer is Carole Gobert. State directors are Jean Alexander, David Johnson and Harold Howell. All were accepted by the club. The new officers will be installed at the June picnic.

Michael Plaster needs news for the newsletter by May 15.

June 4th will be our regular monthly Wednesday meeting, but it will be at Ijams instead of UT and starting at 5:30. We will be celebrating our 90th Anniversary.

Patty introduced our speaker, Brock Hill, deputy commissioner of Parks & Conservation.

Karen Wilkinson
Secretary

April 2, 2014 KTOS Minutes

Members & Guests: 10 visitors from Fairfield Glade, 10 new guests from Knoxville, and about 40 KTOS members.

This month's give-a-ways was based on questions about Warblers.

Birds seen by members: snowy egret, bald eagle at K25 maybe with 2 chicks, Louisiana waterthrush, northern harriers

Field Trips:

Tom Howe reported on the upcoming field trips.

Sharp's Ridge Cleanup this Saturday April 5 with a rain date of Sunday. Meet at 9:00.

Maryville Greenway, Saturday, April 19, meet along the waterway behind the library at 8:00 am.

Tony King and Tony Headrick will be leading field trips along of Sharp's Ridge on Thursdays at 8:00 am starting April 10, 17, 24 and May 1.

April 27, Knoxville Spring Count. Please contact Dean Edwards KDE@UTK.EDU

TOS State Annual Meeting is May 2-4 in Chattanooga. There will be many field trips planned for that weekend.

New & Old Members:

Justine Cucchiara. (new member) Land's Manager at Seven Islands Refuge, from Long Island, NY, graduated from UT in wildlife and forestry management.

Lynn Davis, (old member), brings the books that are given away each month, been in Knoxville 27 years, first person she met was a member of KTOS, worked in the Smoky's for 8 years, taking classes at Ijams and Tremont

Mike Nelson (old member), international birding tourism leader of Birding EcoTours, based out of South Africa, leads trips to Asia, Africa, South America, and here, also does wine tastings and bird talks.

Thanks to our volunteers: Tony Headrick and Bob Collier for leading a group of travel writers on a bird outing at Seven Islands; Vickie Henderson, Oliver Lang, Kelly Struner, Paula and Doug Schneeberger, Tom Howe, Tony King, Linda Denton for helping with Discover Birds.

KTOS Elections:

David Johnson thanked Billie and Patty for serving the club for the last 3 years. The club is looking for a candidate for Vice President of the club. Nominations for president is John O'Barr, Secretary is Karen Wilkinson, Treasurer is Carole Gobert, State Directors are also needed as the term of Jean Alexander, Harold Howell and David Johnson are up.

Marcia Davis spoke about a column she wrote 10 years ago for the News Sentinel. The column was about the favorite plants used to attract hummingbirds. She completed an online "Hummingbird Gardening in Tennessee" for the UT Extension. The PDF available [online](https://utextension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W305.pdf) <https://utextension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W305.pdf>

Michael Plaster needs news for the newsletter by April 9.

Wild Birds Unlimited is having their liquidation sale on April 4 and 5.

Billie introduced Liz Cutrone, the new owner of Wild Birds Unlimited. She came here from Gainesville, FL.

John Conrad of Fairfield Glade spoke about why his group came to our meeting tonight. Their club is new and has about 45 members.

Discover Birds:

On April 4, at 1:00, volunteers will be helping at First Lutheran School at 1207 Broadway.

On May 9, at Sevierville Primary School for 260 students. We will need a lot of volunteers.

June 4th will be our regular monthly Wednesday meeting, but it will be at Ijams instead of UT and starting at 5:30. We will be celebrating our 90th Anniversary.

Tonight's presentation was by Scott Somershoe, State Ornithologist, [Tennessee Winter Golden Eagle Survey](#). He talked about what's happening with the golden eagle in east Tennessee. There's been spotting of Golden Eagles all throughout Tennessee, but mostly in the Smokey's. He's researching which populations are here, movements, populations, habitat and where they are.

Karen Wilkinson

Secretary

March 5, 2014

KTOS Minutes

About 30 members & guests, 1 new member

Billie started the meeting off with trivia questions about the beginning of KTOS which began Jan 13, 1924.

Birds seen by members: Snow geese, Red-necked grebe record, 178 seen yesterday, Fox Sparrow, Ross's Geese, Rusty Black Birds

Field Trips: Tom Howe led a group on Saturday at Kyker Bottoms. 53 species were spotted. The highlight was a red-headed woodpecker. This Saturday, March 8, Tom will lead a group at 6:00 at Forks of the River parking lot to see Woodcocks. On Sat, March 22, Warren V will lead a group at Cades Cove at 8:30.

Ron Hoff informed us all that the most populated shorebird in America is the American Woodcock.

April 26, we need some volunteers to work a table at the Franklin Square Spring Festival in Knoxville to promote our club. Volunteers are needed from 9:00-3:00. Please get in touch with Billie if you're able to volunteer.

March 20, at 7:00 pm at Panera will be our next planning meeting.

Billie introduced a new member, Susie. She moved here from California 6 months ago and is already involved in the Hummingbird Festival. Another new member, John, was introduced. After seeing the movie, *The Big Year*, he has been listing birds for the past 14 months.

Discover Birds Program:

A group of KTOS volunteers went to the Nature's Way Montessori School on February 28 and presented the *Discover Birds* program. Thank you to all the members who were able to volunteer.

On March 29, at 1:00, volunteers will be leading a group of Brownies on a field trip. Location hasn't been determined, but it will be in Oak Ridge.

On April 4, at 1:00, volunteers will be helping at First Lutheran School at 1207 Broadway.

On May 9, at Sevierville Primary School for 260 students. We will need a lot of volunteers.

June 4th will be our regular monthly Wednesday meeting, but it will be at Ijams instead of UT and starting at 5:30. We will be celebrating our 90th Anniversary.

Tonight's presentation was by KTOS member, Oliver Lang, otherwise known as E Man or Environmental Man. He gave a very engaging presentation on an interpretation of nature.

Karen Wilkinson, Secretary

February 5, 2014

KTOS Minutes

About 46 members & guests, 6 new members

Birds seen by members: Scoters and long-tailed ducks at Cherokee Dam and Chickamauga Dam in Chattanooga. There has been a painted bunting at Bob Howdeshell's home in Maryville. At the Concord Boat Ramp today, a long-tailed duck and mergansers were seen.

Field Trips:

Tom Howe reported on the field trips. This Saturday, he will lead a field trip starting at 8:30 at the boat ramp at Concord. Then head to Cherokee Dam about 11:00.

March 1 at Kyker Bottoms at 8:30.

Michael Plaster reported on the Blue Moon Cruise which is Feb 15.

Wild Birds Unlimited has been collecting donations for bluebird boxes for Seven Islands. Tonight Nancy Harless presented to Justine Cucchiara, lands manager of Seven Islands, 10 bluebird boxes along with 5 predator guards.

The TOS contest for a new state logo ends in March. The prize is \$1000. Contact Ron Hoff for details.

Discover Birds has an opportunity to help a girl scout troop on March 29. If there is anyone who can help, please contact Billie Cantwell.

Tremont is having a camp June 9, 14, July 28 and Aug 2. Volunteers are needed to encourage, teach and introduce the wonders of wildlife. Paula Schneeberger has volunteered and if anyone else wants to help, contact Paula.

Deadline for March newsletter is February 21st.

Planning Meeting on Feb 20, Thursday, at Panera in Bearden at 7:00.

Please pay your dues to Carole Gobert.

Tony King reported on Operation Migration. It ended Jan 26. It took 5 days to go the last 28 miles. The birds made it to St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. It was the 2nd longest migration ever. It was a very difficult migration due to the weather.

Patty Ford introduced Bill Reeves who is currently Chief of Biodiversity with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Bill administers the state wildlife grant, ESA Section 6 and wildlife diversity programs. This is his contact information: Bill Reeves, Chief of Biodiversity, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, P.O. Box 40747, Nashville, Tennessee 37204, [615.781.6645](tel:615.781.6645), bill.reeves@tn.gov, cell- [615-788-6440](tel:615-788-6440)

Karen Wilkinson

Secretary

January 8, 2014

KTOS Minutes

46 members & guests, 6 new visitors

Birds seen by members: Birds seen by members: Douglas Sumral and family saw a Barn Owl at 7 Island; Ron Hoff reported brown headed nuthatches, pine warblers during the CBC; 200-300 Bonaparte Gulls, Hall of Fame Drive – Female Red Tail Hawk; Patty saw a common loon during CBC; Billie saw a red-headed woodpecker and 13 meadowlarks at Talissa's house; Karen saw about 40 hooded mergansers at Cove Lake.

Newsletter deadline due to Michael by Jan 23.

Planning Meeting Jan 9 at Panera in Bearden at 7:00 to discuss Hummingbird Festival and 90th anniversary of KTOS.

Field Trips:

Tom Howe reported on the Sandhill Crane Festival which is Jan 18 and Jan 19. Ron & Dollyann Hoff will have a table at the festival. They're looking for more scopes for people to use.

Knoxville Garden Club has invited KTOS to put up a table at their festival on April 26 at Franklin Square. This will be a great way to spread the word about the club, festival and Discover Birds!

Vickie Henderson has an article in the Tennessee Conservationist about Discover Bird. First Lutheran School is lined up for a presentation at their school in the spring.

Dean Edwards says "Thank You" for the people who helped in the Christmas Bird Counts.

Ron Hoff reported on Operation Migration – the birds have made it to Florida.

8 Members showed their bird pictures from the year.

Karen Wilkinson

Secretary