

## November 4, 2015 KTOS Minutes

Tom Howe, president, introduced the meeting with a reminder that our goals are to promote the enjoyment, study, and conservation of birds.

### Members & Guests:

About 39 members and guests. Randy and Jaye Wolfe were returning members. Landon Wilhite is a new member and a student at Pelissippi State. Evan Buck, a UT student, is a new member as of tonight.

### Old Business:

- J.B. Owen books will be sold to raise money for the J. B. Owen fund. The time and place have not yet been determined.
- Membership fees are due now.

### Bird sightings:

- Common gallinule at the Gupton Wetlands. A number of people have seen it. They have also been observed recently in Cumberland County and in middle to west Tennessee.
- Tom Howe reported that the KTOS Cove Lake field trip last weekend had about 50 species including ring-necked ducks, green-winged teal, wood ducks, a flock of Bonaparte's gull, and a flock of pine siskins.
- Tom Howe reported winter wrens and juncos are coming in now.
- Harold Howell reported six northern bobwhites in his yard.
- Randy Wolfe, a wildlife manager, was called in on October 8 to clean up bird carcasses from the First Tennessee Bank in downtown Knoxville, including 26 freshly-killed yellow-billed cuckoos and one yellow-shafted flicker on a parapet wall. This is likely a result of lights on the building at night combined with fog right over the Tennessee River.

### November field trips:

- Saturday, November 7, 8 AM – Kingston Lakeshore Park and Gupton Wetlands (Tom Howe). Meet at the new visitor's overlook at 714 Swan Pond Road. Rain is predicted, so it may be postponed to Sunday. If so, the change will be posted to the calendar.
- Saturday, November 14, 9 AM – Sharp's Ridge Memorial Park Cleanup is cancelled. Tony King said there is no trash to be picked up. Likely the bike club is picking it up.
- Thursday November 19, 9 AM – Gupton Wetland (Tony King).
- May schedule a quick trip on November 21.
- There were three banding runs at Seven Islands last night but they did not find any saw-whet owls. Will be rescheduled.
- Dean Edwards announced the Knoxville Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will be Saturday January 2, 2016. Volunteers are needed.
- Smokies CBC will be Saturday December 19.
- Chuck Nicholson said the Norris CBC is likely to be set for December 20 or 26.
- Cades Cove CBC will be December 27.
- Go to [www.knoxvillebirding.org](http://www.knoxvillebirding.org), a new KTOS website for the calendar. Merikay Waldvogel thanked Amy Arwood for putting the new website together.

- Wild Birds Unlimited is having a Birding by Ear workshop on November 14 from 1-2 pm (RSVP required).

#### **New Business:**

- Tony King discussed Operation Migration. The people leading the migration via ultralights are having challenges between the weather and uncooperative whooping crane chicks. USFWS has proposed stopping Operation Migration type of aircraft-guided migration.
- Carole Gobert moved and Jimmy Tucker seconded that we become a mile-maker by contributing \$200 to Operation Migration. A final vote will be taken at the December meeting.
- Paul James from Ijams thanked us again for the successful collaboration on the Hummingbird Festival. We had about 600 educational hours. Mary Thom Adams, and the Ijams' fundraising committee, are working on developing a VIP program to raise additional funds for the two organizations.
- Newsletter submissions are due to Michael Plaster by November 18.
- Chuck and Lola Estes and others were at the Yellow Rails and Rice festival in Louisiana. Saw king rails, yellow rails, Virginia rails, soras, and coots. This event is held annually on the last weekend in October.
- The winter TOS meeting is going to be held at Wheeler Wildlife Refuge in Decatur, AL on January 22-24, 2016. Great waterfowl.

#### **Presentation:**

Merikay Waldvogel introduced TOS member Danny Shelton, who discussed the making of his film, A Century of Birds: The Tennessee Ornithological Society, which documents the lives of TOS founders and the varied activities of TOS birding chapters since 1915.

Shelton found great photographs at the Tennessee State Library & Archives and the Nashville Public Library. He also found archives at the Nashville TOS chapter, which he has scanned. The Memphis chapter has a great scrapbook, which he also photographed. Additionally, he interviewed older bird club members and descendants of the founders.

Stephanie Durman, KTOS Secretary

## **October 7, 2015 KTOS Minutes**

Tom Howe, president, led the meeting.

### **Members & Guests:**

About 41 members and guests.

### **Bird sightings:**

- Jerry Ledbetter reported yellow-throated warblers at his house and Lakeshore Park.
- The Knox County bird count had about 71-73 species in one group, with 800+ individuals.
- State meeting in Nashville last weekend had lots of warblers, Philadelphia vireos, tanagers, gray-cheek and Swainson's thrushes, rose-breasted grosbeak.
- Warren Bielenberg had an Olive-sided flycatcher at Cades Cove. Gordon Massey reported bobolinks, clay-colored sparrow, white-crowned sparrows, savannah sparrows, and swamp sparrows, at Seven Islands with about 12-14 participants at today's Wednesday morning walk.
- Beth Schilling reported 17 Forster's Terns at the boat ramp at Concord Park last Saturday night.
- Tony King described green heron behavior. Tom described Cape May warblers yesterday with both of their bills straight up in the air like bitterns, with one walking back and forth.
- Mark Armstrong banded an albino ruby-throated hummingbird in Oliver Springs.
- Albino mockingbird seen on the Blount County bird count and several other times.
- Albinos don't tend to survive because their eyesight and immune systems are not as strong and because they are targeted.

### **Old Business:**

- At the state meeting, Tony King mentioned there was a concern raised that the Discover Birds activity books will run out around the beginning of next year. The chapters will be asked to chip in. They will have used 12,000 copies in two years.
- Tony King discussed the presentation at the state meeting of a check from KTOS for \$10,000 for the International Crane Foundation. The funds came from an anonymous donor. 20% of the eastern migratory population has been lost to gun shooting. Mac McWhirter suggested an additional \$500 donation.
- Hummingbird Festival cleared about \$4,000. Around 1,350 paid attendees, plus children. Billie is stepping down from managing the festival. Jennifer Roder at Ijams will take over management, but we still need to be involved.
- Mark thanked KTOS for making a generous donation to East Tennessee Avian Research to support banding, hummingbird research, saw-whet owl research. This is a new organization.
- Newsletter contributions are due October 26 (later than usual).
- KTOS is developing a new website that will pull together the various social media we have.
- A silent auction of books owned by J. B. Owen is proposed to raise money for the J.B. Owen Fund. We'll schedule this for one of our upcoming meetings.

- David Johnson presented the J.B. Owen Award of \$750 to Lee Bryant (via Skype) to study Louisiana Waterthrush at GSMNP. She was very thankful and expressed gratitude for the support of her research. This support is very encouraging.
- Tony King sent around the list for people to sign up to bring good eats to the next meeting.
- Today is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of TOS. Tony pointed out the article in the January/February edition of The Tennessee Conservationist.
- Operation Migration. 6 chicks left 5 days late, and got stuck there due to fog. Tony asked for a \$200 contribution to support Operation Migration.

#### **October field trips:**

- Wednesday, October 14 at 8 am. Seven Islands Wednesday Morning Walk – last one.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month Seven Islands walks will be ongoing.
- October 17, 8 am, at Seven Islands with a focus on sparrows (Tom Howe). There are about 16 species we might see.
  - From 11-2:30 that day, the Tennessee Clean Water Network will be hosting Sturgeon Fest at Seven Islands
- Thursday October 22, 9 am at Kingston Steam Plant (Tony King).
- Saturday October 31, at 8 am at Cove Lake. Meet at the picnic ground (Tom Howe).
- KTOS needs a new field trip coordinator. This person does not need to lead trips.

Merikay Waldvogel introduced Ron Hoff who presented a slide show of his May 2015 birding trip to Jamaica. Largish island with 28 endemic bird species.

Stephanie Durman, KTOS Secretary

May 6, 2015 KTOS Minutes

Merikay Waldvogel, vice president, acting president, led the meeting.

**Members & Guests:**

About 50 members and guests.

**Bird sightings:**

Lincoln sparrow and cuckoo at Cross Mountain, 3 solitary sandpipers in puddles at Lakeshore Park, Chestnut sided warbler, black-throated blue, and juncos in vicinity of Max Patch in NC.

**New Business:**

The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Spring Meeting of TOS held April 30-May 2 at Montgomery Bell State Park was wonderful. TOS President Ron Hoff handed the gavel over to Steve Routledge of Nashville. About 25 people from KTOS attended the meeting. Danny Shelton's excellent documentary of the history of TOS titled "A Century of Birds" was premiered on Saturday evening after the banquet. Copies can be purchased for \$15 or \$25 for blue-ray. Contact Danny Shelton at [dashelt@comcast.net](mailto:dashelt@comcast.net). It may be shown at our June 3 meeting.

Ron Hoff spoke about the news that was discussed at the business meeting. "Keeping Whooping Cranes Safe" is a new project funded by the International Crane Foundation to educate the public about the importance of the whooping cranes. Scott Somershoe's replacement as the TWRA state ornithologist is David Hanni. He starts June 15. KTOS member Mindy Fawver designed the new TOS logo. At the banquet, long-time KTOS member Marcia Davis received the TOS distinguished service award.

Nomination Committee chair, Dave Johnson, presented nominees for next year's KTOS officers: President Tom Howe, Vice President Merikay Waldvogel, Treasurer Carole Gobert, Secretary Stephanie Durman, State Directors Michel Plaster and Chris Welsh. KTOS members voted. No one opposed. The new officers will take office on June 3.

Tom Howe talked about May field trips:

May 7 will be the last bird hike at Sharp's Ridge. Meet at the ranger's house at 8:00 am..

May 9, Chuck Nicholson will lead a birding walk at Obed Wild and Scenic River National Park. Meet at Lilly Bridge, at 8:00 am. Maps and directions: [www.nps.gov/obed](http://www.nps.gov/obed)

May 9 at Ijams Nature Center, a birding brunch is scheduled for 10-12 am,

May 10, Chuck Estes, 865-207-0127, will lead a bird hike at Frozen Head State Park. Meet at 7:30 am at the amphitheater parking lot. Hike up 2 miles and back down 2 miles. Focus will mostly be on hearing birds.

May 21, Tony King, 865-988-6172, will lead a walk at Beverly Park off Tazewell Pike at 9:00 am.

May 23, Saturday, at 7:30 am Cades Cove Loop Bicycling Trip, Tom Howe is leading. Send him an email to confirm at [blountbirder@nxs.net](mailto:blountbirder@nxs.net)

Dean Edwards needs bird count submissions if you haven't sent them yet.

Chuck Estes mentioned new birding trails have opened at the old K-25 plant site in Oak Ridge. There will be a bird outing soon.

The June 3rd meeting is the annual potluck dinner at Ijams. We will not meet July-September.

Friday, May 15, there will be a Discover Birds Program at Sevierville Primary School on Sevierville Pike. There will be over 200 kids. They need volunteers. Thank you to Warren Bielenberg for donating binoculars and a scope.

Billie Cantwell spoke about the Hummingbird Festival scheduled for Saturday August 22. Banding will go from 8-12:00. Speakers will go from 9:00-2:00. We will need lots of volunteers.

Tony King told an incredible story about a few whooping cranes that were rescued and brought safely to Wisconsin through Operation Migration.

Bird banding at Seven Islands State Birding Park is scheduled for Sunday, May 10, at 7:30 am. There will also be a bluebird monitoring training at Seven Islands on Saturday, May 9.

Mike Nelson is back from his travels.

Merikay introduced our speakers tonight. Jen Jones is the new director at Tremont Institute. She spoke about the Citizen Science Projects at Tremont Institute. There are bird programs for all ages from 5-95. There are adult programs, college programs and programs for kids. 20,000 hours were spent last year on programs for teachers. She discussed a few new things going on there this year. They were chosen to be a part of a BEATLE program from UC-Berkeley. They began a new project, E-DNA, last night. It's about collecting DNA from the environment. In the future, they hope to start a "Otter Spotter" program to followup on otters that were released into the environment back in the 1980s. They're going to continue to do projects and get people to Tremont, and to get people in nature for the first time. They are hoping to get more partnerships and do more research. She encourages all of us to come to Tremont for programs, to volunteer, and to help with bird banding.

There was also a special presentation by Lee Bryant on her Louisiana Waterthrush project in collaboration with Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont. She is researching the "Potential Impact of Hemlock Decline on the Louisiana Waterthrush."

Karen Wilkinson, KTOS Secretary

April 1, 2015 KTOS Minutes

Merikay, vice president, acting president, led the meeting.

**Members & Guests:**

About 50 members and guests. Teal Pierce and Ethan Abbott, Scott Keller, Curtis Thomas and son, Banner, and Marie Dinzey were the guests.

**New Business:**

Nomination Committee, Dave Johnson, presented nominees: President Tom Howe, VP Merikay Waldvogel, Treasurer Carole Gobert, looking for a secretary, State Director Michel Plaster and Chris Welch, voting will be next meeting.

Dave also spoke about the shade grown coffee that the club sells to raise money for the club.

100<sup>th</sup> TOS Anniversary is coming up—April 29-May 3 at Montgomery Bell State Park. KTOS has committed to providing drinks and appetizers for the Friday night which have to be purchased through the state park. KTOS may need to pay up to \$500. No one opposed. Ron Hoff, President of TOS, encouraged everyone to attend the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Tom Howe talked about April field trips:

Saturday, April 4, 9:00 Sharp's Ridge cleanup, leader Tony King

Tony Headrick will be leading on Thursday mornings starting April 16. Meet at 8:00 at Sharp's Ridge for warbler migration.

Morton Massey is leading a hike at Seven Island at 7:30, April 19, Sunday. Mark Armstrong and others will be banding there that morning also.

April 25 Franklin Square Festival, west Knoxville, need 4 volunteers to run 2 different time periods to hand out brochures. Get in touch with Billie Cantwell at [BFCantwell@gmail.com](mailto:BFCantwell@gmail.com).

Discover Birds will be presenting at Norwood School on April 13. We will need a few volunteers.

J.B.Owen deadline for a grant is May 1.

Spring bird count is Sunday, April 26, [kde@utk.edu](mailto:kde@utk.edu).

Billie reported on the Hummingbird Festival. We have vendors and 4 committed sponsors. We would like some new vendors.

May meeting will be about Citizen Science Projects at Tremont Institute with a special presentation by Lee Bryant on her Louisiana Waterthrush project.

June 3rd meeting is annual potluck dinner at Ijams.

Justine C., Seven Islands, reported on the bluebird boxes, they need about 8 volunteers to monitor the boxes. There are 2 groups of 25 boxes. You would be responsible for once a month for 4 months.

Morton Massey gave KUDOS to Wildbird Unlimited. They are having talks there each month. They are a GOLD sponsor for the Hummingbird Festival. Go and support them.

Observations: Tony had a fish crow show up in his yard for the first time ever, Merikay and Jerry had a belted Kingfisher, 81 species, for their yard, migration of turkey vultures, Tom and field trip members saw roughwing swallows, barn swallows, cuckoo in William Hastie, Seven Island is seeing a lot of birds right now, Jean saw a chucker in Maryville,

Tony reported on Operation Migration. He strongly urges everyone to watch their progress on their website. There are 6 chicks. One flew off to Illinois with 2 adults, but the other 5 are hanging out in St. Marks, FL. OM has to be funded by people like us.

Merikay introduced our speakers tonight, Sierra Club Members, Ron Shrieves, Mac Post and Christine Hamilton. Their presentation was about their book that they researched and wrote together entitled "*Urban Hikes in Knoxville and Knox County*." Their book was published by the Legacy Parks Foundation and grew out of their desire to encourage hikers to rethink why and where they hike. More than just physical exercise, the authors were inclined to describe hike venues in terms of the potential for stimulating sightings of birds, flowers, geological formations, architecture, vistas, or their role in important historical events, all in areas close to home.

KTOS member, Ron Shrieves, an aspiring birder and nature photographer, presented a slide show about the book project: hiking the trails, photography, compiling data, maps, etc.

Mac Post discussed the Sierra Club's "Inspiring Connections Outdoors" (ICO) program for area youth, using Knoxville's "Urban Wilderness" as a venue for providing positive outdoor experiences. He sees possibilities for co-operation with the KTOS Discover Birds program. Contact Mac at [knoxvilleICO@gmail.com](mailto:knoxvilleICO@gmail.com).

Karen Wilkinson, KTOS Secretary



March 4, 2015 KTOS Minutes

**Members & Guests:** New members: Barry Spruce, Christine Jones, Toby Koosman, Dean Turley and Scott Keller, and about 40 KTOS members.

Merikay led the meeting. John O'Barr, the president, has resigned. The club is looking for a new president.

100<sup>th</sup> TOS Anniversary is coming up—April 29-May 3 at Montgomery Bell State Park. KTOS has committed to providing drinks and appetizers for the Friday night which have to be purchased through the state park. KTOS may need to pay up to \$500. No one opposed. Ron Hoff, President of TOS, encouraged everyone to attend the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Planning meeting is Monday, March 9 at 6:00 pm at Panera in Bearden. Discussion will include nominations, Hummingbird Festival, field trips, and other business.

Tom Howe talked about March field trips:

March 8, Sunday, Forks of the River, 8:00 am, leader Jason Sturner

Sat, March 14, Cades Cove picnic area, sewage pond, 8:00,

March 28, Maryville Greenway, start at Blount County library

Saturday, April 4, 9:00 Sharp's Ridge cleanup

Every Thursday through April, meet at 8:00 at Sharp's Ridge for warbler migration

Discover Birds: In February, Billie asked for a motion for KTOS to spend \$600 to buy 6 binoculars (6 are free for a total of 12). The motion was seconded. The total is coming to \$575 and includes shipping. At tonight's meeting, members were in favor. No one opposed.

April meeting will be by Ron Shrieves and his co-authors about the urban trail book they wrote. May meeting will be about Citizen Science Projects at Tremont Institute with a special presentation by Lee Bryant on her Louisiana Waterthrush project.

Ranger Justine C. spoke about the new trail map that is available on-line for Seven Islands State Birding Park.

Billie gave a tutorial on how to join and use the Yahoo KTOS website that was prepared by Jimmy Tucker and Amy Arwood.

Merikay introduced our speaker tonight, Dr. Todd Freeberg, of the UT Psychology Department. He presented "Why is the chick-a-dee call of parids so complex?" He described his ongoing research with his graduate students on the complex call of Carolina Chickadees. He's found that chickadees use a series of particular notes (the "dee" notes) recruiting others to join in at a feeder and another higher note in courtship. Research shows evidence of a sophisticated syntax. Others are studying the Tufted Titmouse, Great Tits (in Japan), and Black-capped Chickadees.

Karen Wilkinson, KTOS Secretary

February 4, 2015 KTOS Minutes

**Members & Guests:** 2 new members (Amy Arwood and Jimmie Tucker), 1 guest and about 45 KTOS members.

Birds seen recently: Billie spotted a juvenile Red-headed Woodpecker at Ijams. Ron Hoff went to the Sandhill Crane Festival and reported that there were 1000s of cranes this year compared to 100s last year. A Rufous Hummingbird was spotted in Cleveland. Tony King reported that the Lenoir City bald eagle started incubating an egg. A great horned owl and its chick have been spotted in Maryville and a falcon has been hanging out in downtown Maryville. Merikay Waldvogel and Jerry Ledbetter were in Saipan last week and reported seeing a very colorful Mariana Fruit Dove.

Tony King reported on the 7 Whooping Crane chicks at St. Marks in Florida. 2 of the adult whooping cranes were possibly killed by cougars.

Discover Birds: Billie Cantwell reported that Doug and Paula Schneeberger and herself went to Nature's Way Montessori School February 2 and worked with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The same students are going to Seven Islands next week to watch Mark Armstrong band. Billie asked for a motion for KTOS to spend \$600 to buy 12 binoculars. The motion was seconded. There will be a vote at March meeting.

100<sup>th</sup> TOS Anniversary is coming up—April 29-May 3 at Montgomery Bell State Park. A tri-fold needs to be made to showcase our Discover Birds and the Hummingbird Festival. KTOS has committed to providing drinks and appetizers for the Friday night which have to be purchased through the state park. KTOS may need to pay up to \$500. The motion was published in the newsletter and received a unanimous vote tonight.

Billie reported on what new members need to do to get KTOS info. There is a Yahoo list serve which holds the newsletters, minutes and emails that members send out about field trips and bird sightings. Email [bfcantwell@gmail.com](mailto:bfcantwell@gmail.com) if you want to be added to the Yahoo list serve. You have to be invited to receive the emails and have access to the list serve. New member, Jimmy Tucker, said he will give a tutorial on how to join and use the Yahoo KTOS website at the March meeting.

Field Trips:

Feb 14, 8:00 am, Forks of the River

March 1, 7:15 am, Kyker Bottoms

Feb 28, Bluebird presentation at Wildbirds Unlimited, call to make a reservation because there will be limited seating.

Feb 21, Friday, at Seven Island, 4:30, Barry Spruce, photographer, is leading a hike

Merikay introduced our speaker tonight, Dr. Indrikis Krams, a visiting Fulbright Scholar from Daugavpils University in Latvia. He gave a presentation entitled "Altruism in Birds." His research is focused on the vocal and social complexities in birds and humans.

Karen Wilkinson

KTOS Secretary