

January 6, 2016 Minutes**Meeting of Knoxville chapter of Tennessee Ornithological Society**

President Tom Howe opened the meeting. Attendance was 52 with 3 guests and several new and renewing members, including: Jim Campbell, Rose Thorn, Sue Stone, Kirk Huffstater, Meredith Moore, John Fort and daughter Olivia, and Sheila Marsh.

Tom and Tony also acknowledged Jim Campbell, who has been a KTOS member since 1962. He was featured in the Century Of Birds film, on the history of TOS.

Old Business: Tony King reported on Operation Migration. The whopping cranes were in Carroll County, TN by mid December, and then it took them 11 days to cross Tennessee to Alabama. They are now in central Alabama. 95% of miles of the Operation Migration project are sponsored, including a \$200 donation from KTOS.

New Business:

Jimmy Tucker discussed a fundraising possibility with the group. The film: The Messenger has been winning awards at film festivals this fall. He explored the possibility of having it shown locally at Regal or Carmike cinemas and then reached out to the film makers themselves. It would cost about \$350 to purchase the film with the right to show it for educational purposes. He suggested showing it at Ijams. In that case, a donation could be charged. He will discuss it further with Paul James and Tom Howe.

Recent Sightings: Ron Hoff said Wilson's Snipes are at Eagle Bend. Warren Bielenberg reported a number of ducks at Kyker Bottoms.

Report on Eastern Shore Trip (Dec 18-22) led by ChrisWelsh: saw nearly 100 species, lots of Snow Geese, Gulls (Lesser Black-backed and Great Black-Backed), Harlequin ducks, Purple Sandpipers, etc. Chris Welsh was not in attendance, but the other six travelers were.

Announcements:

Jan 16-17: Sandhill Crane Festival at Hiwasee Wildlife Refuge.

Jan 22-24 - TOS Winter Meeting in Wheeler NWR Decatur, Alabama. See newsletter for details. There is no business conducted at this meeting. Expect good birding opportunities.

End of April/First of May – Tenn State Parks is planning birding festival for Norris, Seven Islands SP, etc. More information is to come later, per Morton Massey.

Newsletter: The deadline for the February 2016 issue is January 18, 2016. Send submissions and photos to ktos.editor@gmail.com

Field Trips: None Announced

Festivals: See calendar and Dec/Jan Newsletter at new website www.knoxvillebirding.org for details.

Jan 16-17 - Tennessee Sandhill Crane Festival 2016 – Hiwassee Refuge near Birchwood, TN

This Evening's Program: "Members' Photo Share"

Eleven photographers had more-or-less five minutes to present their slides. These included:

Jimmy Tucker (E. Tenn Birds, many from the recent Knox County Christmas Bird Count); Scott Keller (Birds from various recent trips to Maine, Ohio, Florida, etc.); Ron Stover (Birds from McGee Marsh, Vancouver, and Central California); Gisele Schoene (Tropical birds from Brazil); Ron Hoff (with a newly acquired lens, he showed high-definition photos of well-known birds that are difficult to distinguish one from the other); Warren Bielenberg (Local birds as well as birds from trips to South America); Melinda Fawver (Birds from trips to Arizona and California as well as a spectacular photo of a Cedar Waxwing taken with her new lens); Ron Shrieves (Kayaking trips to see birds in Florida and at Rankin Bottoms); Barry Spruce (Dramatic action photos of owls, raptors and Florida shore birds); Dean Turley (Bird behaviors caught by his camera—pelagic and shore birds); and Chuck Estes (Short video/sound clips of birds on Galapagos Islands including Magnificent Frigate Birds, Brown Noddies, Boobies, etc.).

Meeting closed at 9:00 pm with refreshments and socializing.

Submitted by
Gisele Schoen and MerikayWaldvogel

February 3, 2016 Minutes
Meeting of Knoxville Chapter of Tennessee Ornithological Society

Intro: President Tom Howe recognized eight guests (another joined later) including Billie Minser, retired UT professor of Forestry and friend of the speaker. He is creating an outdoor nature teaching trail on the grounds of Carpenter Elementary School in Maryville, Blount County. He wants our help to design one or two bird signs for the trail depicting which birds inhabit which habitat.

Old Business: Paul James of Ijams (per Jimmy Tucker) has agreed to split the cost of the Cornell "Messenger" movie about the plight of migratory birds that Jimmy discussed with us last month. A motion was made by Chuck Estes and seconded by Tony King to contribute the approximately \$185 to the cause. A members' vote will take place at next month's meeting. The film may be shown at Ijams, but details will be determined later. A discussion ensued on why we don't just approve it since it was under \$200 but the by-laws stipulate that items over \$100 must come to a vote.

Tony King spelled out how the Operation Migration's program of escorting first-year Whooping Cranes south using ultra-light planes is having their funds terminated and is therefore shutting down. There has been a dismal record of reproduction success among these cranes for reasons not yet fully known.

New Business: Newsletter submissions are due to Michael Plaster by 5 p.m., Saturday, February 20th.

Holly Sledjeski Jones of UT Gardens approached the president via email looking for volunteers to help teach children, up to 12 years old, about birds at their annual spring Eggstravaganza event being held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, March 19th at UT Gardens. Their own volunteers will be doing some bird related crafts and wanted experienced birders to join them and teach identification. A sign up sheet was passed around. More discussion will ensue next month. Questions can be directed to Holly at hjones@utk.edu.

Bird Sightings: A Ross's Goose had been present on Hitch Pond in Louisville and three White-winged Scoters were nearby in Ish Creek Embayment per Marcia Davis. Ron Hoff was there and visited some hunters and found they had two scoter carcasses with them. Dr Bob Collier reported seeing the Ash-throated Flycatcher and the Common Redpoll reported from middle Tennessee.

Jimmy Tucker gave a quick summary of the winter TOS meeting at Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge in January. Eighteen of the twenty-one attendees were from the Knoxville branch since the ice and snow prevented most others in the state from travelling. Good numbers of ducks, eagles and Sandhill Cranes were seen and a few fortunate ones some saw the Whooping Cranes that were also present. The boat trip event had to be cancelled. Refuge manager Dwight Cooley was among the trip leaders.

Field Trips: Tony King's trip is to Gupton Wetlands, Thursday, Feb 18th. Meet there at 9am. Jay Sturner has three trips planned: Concord Park, Sunday, Feb 14th from 8-11:30 am; Seven Islands State Birding Park, Wednesday, Feb 24th at 8 am; and UT Plant Sciences Farm (**TENTATIVE**), Saturday Feb 27th. This last

trip is for KTOS members only and the number allowed is limited. You must RSVP to Jay at flowerpetalsonthecreek@yahoo.com to sign up and get details.

The Program: Dr David Buehler, UT professor of Wildlife Biology gave a presentation of his department's research on the declining Golden-winged Warblers throughout the eastern United States. The cause is habitat loss due to succession. He captured and fitted the birds with geolocators that continuously recorded daylight patterns. When coupled with the date, this data can pinpoint the bird's location anywhere in the world within about 60 miles. The birds have to be recaptured and the geocator removed for the data to be downloaded. Everyone was fascinated by his excellent presentation. The highlight of his research was his happenstance discovery that newly arrived males on Cross Mountain in Caryville, TN immediately left the breeding grounds when violent storms were approaching from west of the Mississippi River. (He surmises that they could have actually heard the storms coming.) The birds returned to Florida and one even to Cuba then immediately returned after the storm passed—all within a few days while the researchers waited out the storm before setting up their mist nets. Because of their successful work, they were awarded additional grants to expand their project across the east and are now eagerly awaiting the return and recapture of last year's birds when they return this spring. Dr. Buehler has also published management plans for all who wish to help perpetuate this species. Grant monies are also available from NFWF to any landowners willing to manage habitat for the Golden-winged Warblers. Much good questioning followed the program before we were dismissed for refreshments.

March 2, 2016 Minutes

Meeting of Knoxville Chapter of Tennessee Ornithological Society

Intro: President Tom Howe,

Guests: David Vogt, Beverly Bittner, Nick Mann and Jason Gaus coworkers of Justine Cucchiara from Seven Islands

Sightings: Marcia Davis: 53 white pelicans Ish creek. Doug Schneeberger: at Woodcock Park saw Barn Owl in almost broad daylight. Plant Science farm: Virginia Rail (2). Tom Howe: 3 Soras and Virginia Rail. Kimberly Lake Redheads. Chickamunga Dam: White-winged Scoter. Marcia Davis: Osprey. Chuck Estes: Montezuma Quail on truck. Tony King: boat trip on Wheeler with Ron & Dolly Ann, 3 Pacific Loons, 128 Common Loons 3 Whooping Cranes, Sandhill Cranes. Attention: Rusty Blackbirds need to be reported during the month of March on eBird for the annual Rusty Blackbird Bioblitz.

New Business: UT Gardens needs volunteers from 10 am-2pm on Sat. 19th of March to teach bird IDs to children.

Road kill Cooper's Hawk and Ruddy Duck passed around in plastic bags.

Discussion of purchase of "The Messenger" documentary.

Field Trips: tomorrow at Forks of the River: 8 am, Kyker Bottoms March 5, Victor Ashe Park with Tony King March 17. See website for schedule.

Played Trailer of The Messenger.

Vote to approve purchase: All in favor. And everybody would like to see it.

Eagles' nest below Loudon Dam was disturbed, clutch died. Beverly Bittener has been observing the nest for TWR for seven years. TVA may close area around nest. Disturbance happened on the 7th of February. The Eagle may or may not relay eggs. She would like a web cam for the nest. Contact: Beverly Bittener. reesegirl7@yahoo.com 865-387-2613 Signage regarding the nest also needed.

Blue Bird Project at Seven Islands: contact Mark Armstrong at woodthrush@bellsouth.net. Training on the 12th of March.

Justine: TN Spring birding tour: Friday, April 29 thru Sunday, May 1, 2016
Norris Dam/ Seven Islands/Cove Lake

Articles for newsletter due by 25th of March

Tony King: Operation Migration is over.

Mary Kay introduces speaker: David O. Hill from the Memphis chapter: He has a lifetime of conservation work. (Didn't get all the details)

Summer Birding at the tip of Gaspé. (Peninsula in Northern Quebec Province, Canada) He shared photographs taken over several years from mid May to mid October. He first went to Gaspé in 1956 as a sixteen year old. He studied the Gannet population on Bonaventure Island.

(1620 miles from Knoxville)

Meeting: April 6, 2016

Began: 7pm

President Tom Howe

Introduction:

Guests: Ann Gibson, Norm Rockwell, Danny Nash, Melissa Fentress, Mary Lucal, Landon Wilhite
Our Treasurer, Carol Gobert, is here to receive dues.

New Business:

JB Owen Award: Request for nominations for award, due by June 1st. Award is for research or conservation of birds.

There will be a silent book auction of JB Owen's books to raise money for the award at the June picnic.

Trips: Thursday mornings 8 a.m. at Sharp's Ridge, April 14th through May 5th.

Saturday 9 a.m. April 9th is clean up of Sharps Ridge. Saturday April 23, 7:30 a.m. at Maryville College with Tom Howe, meeting at parking lot by soccer field.

Sunday May 1st Frozen Head State Park with Chuck Estes. Cross Mtn. on 8th details to follow. TOS: Real Foot, Spring Meeting is May 6th-8th.

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Election of Officers:

David Johnson put forth nominations: Tom Howe for president; Merikay Waldvogel for vice president; Morton Massey for Treasurer Carol Gobert, retiring as Treasurer in 2016.; Talissa Ralph for Secretary; Ron Hoff and Dollyann Myers for State Directors. Vote will be at May meeting. We still need one more State Director to represent us at state meetings.

Discover Birds: April 15th Clayton Bradley School, volunteers needed, time yet to be determined. Someone is needed to run the slide show.

April 20th Wed. 9-12 noon at Jefferson City Library for parents and students of True Life Church. Volunteers are needed for bird walks.

Sevier Elementary School on May 23rd, all day, need volunteers especially for bird walks

Tony King: Beverly Bittener: Eagles' nest being bothered. Two new eggs were observed in the nest and were both thought dead, but one eaglet survived. Operation Migration: 5 Whooping Cranes are headed to Wisconsin. They may be in Illinois now.

Sightings: Eagles Nest in Rutledge. Chickadee collecting cat hair. Warblers: Black-throated Green, Yellow-throated, Black-and-white, plus Blue-gray

gnatcatcher,. Purple Finches in outskirts of Knox. Osprey nest on the water. Two Pine Siskins. Blue-winged Teals. Canada Goose in Osprey nest.

Lecture: "2015 Osprey Reintroduction and Tracking in Southeast Michigan"

By: Anna Walker. An excellent and passionate presentation on the success of their efforts.

November 2, 2016

KTOS Meeting Minutes

President Tom Howe: Welcome to visitors and new members.

Nelda Griffith and Frances Presnell, Luke Poff , ninth grader, Jennie Ritchie, Debbie McAlley and Ellen Bean

Old Business:

Vote for matching funds for Chimney Swift Tower at Seven Islands carried.
(\$3,000 estimate for construction per Morton Massey)

New Business:

TWRA has requested public input for waterfowl and other migratory bird hunting, including the expanded Sandhill Crane hunt, for 2017-18

Interesting Sightings:

Seven Islands: fox sparrow, red-breasted nuthatch

Maryville: Peregrine Falcon (downtown, on cell tower, hospital), Northern Harrier,

Brown Booby on Duck River

Lakeshore Park: Merlin

Corryton: 3 adult and one juvenile red-headed woodpeckers

Introduction by Merikay Waldvogel

Speaker: Barry Spruce

Topic: "A Raptor's Life"

Barry is a nature and wildlife photographer who lives in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains in Townsend, Tennessee. Growing up in New England, he was exposed to a great variety of nature and birds from the rugged rocky coastline to the highest peaks of the White Mountains. He is a member of KTOS as well as the Southern Appalachian Nature Photographers (SANP) and past president of Blount County Photo Club.

The presentation covered raptors and their habits in the Eastern Time Zone of the USA.

Mike Nelson will be the December meeting speaker. Expect high quality photos.

KTOS Chapter Meeting: December 6, 2016 Minutes

Welcome longtime members: Jim Campbell, Richard Gammage

Sightings: Northern Wheatear female sighted by Tony King in Loudon. Tony was presented with a framed photograph of said bird. Another framed photograph will be given to the landowner who patiently cooperated with birders trooping around his farm.

Bohemian Waxwing found by Colin Sumrall in Sequoia Park, Rufus hummingbird, immature Red-Headed Woodpecker in North Knox, Whooping Crane at Hiawassee,

New Business: Dues are due.

Dec. 17th: Christmas Bird Count Norris, and Great Smoky Mountains (this count may be affected by the recent wildfire). Contact Warren Bielenberg, compiler

Dec. 31st: Christmas Bird Count, Knox County, Dean Edwards, compiler

Jan. 1st: Christmas Bird Count, Cades Cove, Susan Hoyle

See our calendar for contact info if you're interested in joining in

www.knoxvillebirding.org

UT Plant Science: 10 people needed limited entry field trip, first Saturday in January

Contact: Jay Sturner, 865-244-7819

Old Business:

Sharpe's Ridge Update: Only a clean up is planned for now. Morton Massey and Tony Hedrick will go to county/city meetings about plans for the veterans park. Any tree removal or new plantings will need approval. KTOS will be involved in any decisions.

Operation Migration: (Tony King) The 5 remaining chicks are still in Wisconsin. Half of the adults haven't migrated south yet either.

Presentation: Mike Nelson, a professional birding tour guide for Bird Tour Asia, gave a topographically informative and beautifully photographed lecture on all the areas the company he works for provides tours in Asia with an emphasis on area endemics.