



## What is KnoxvilleTOS?

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- Have you ever wanted to go on a field trip but couldn't find your newsletter to get the details?
- Have you ever forgotten about a meeting?
- Would you like to post photos of that extra special bird you spotted so other club members could see it?

You can find all this and more at KnoxvilleTOS. This is a Yahoo! listserv where you can find links to the history of the club, birding areas and photos of past events. You can voice your opinion, ask a question, or post a great birding trip!

We now have 125 members on KnoxvilleTOS. (A big thanks to all that have joined!) This is where all the KTOS information will be available and members have the ability to communicate with each other. We want to encourage all members to join so that we are all connected with all the events and discussions that affect KTOS.

It is easy to join. New members receive an email saying "bfcantwell@gmail has sent you an invitation to join the KnoxvilleTOS group." All you have to do is click on "Join this group." Another page will come up with a summary of the group and again asking you to click on "Join this group". If you are not a Yahoo member, you will need to answer a few questions when you register, e.g., your gender, your birthday. This information is not shared on the site. You will also need to select a Yahoo ID and password. **PLEASE** make your ID your name.

You are almost done. The next thing you will be asked is to select the email address that you want to use and choose your message delivery - individual emails, a daily digest, or **NO** emails! That's it! Now you can be part of the new and up-to-date KnoxvilleTOS.

If you have not joined and want to, or have questions, problems, or concerns, please contact Billie Cantwell, [BFCantwell@comcast.net](mailto:BFCantwell@comcast.net).

## February Meeting: Altruism in Birds

Please join us on **Wednesday, February 4, 2015** for a presentation entitled "Altruism in Birds" by Dr. Indrikis Krams, a visiting Fulbright Scholar from Daugavpils University in Latvia. While at UTK, Indrikis is working with graduate students in the Experimental Psychology Program in the Department of Psychology. His research is focused on the vocal and social complexities in birds and humans.

How does ornithology inform human psychology? Or vice-versa? Come and find out what's happening at UTK. Read about Dr. Krams work: [http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Indrikis\\_Krams](http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Indrikis_Krams).

The meeting begins at 6:45 pm in Room 118 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. For directions, please visit the meetings page on the KTOS website at: [www.tnbirds.org/chapters/knoxvill/KTOS\\_Meetings.html](http://www.tnbirds.org/chapters/knoxvill/KTOS_Meetings.html)



Dr. Indrikis Krams with a Hooded crow.

## Welcome New Members

Please welcome the following new members: Katherine Baine, Joyce Baker, Kathy Hyland, Judy Luetkemeyer, Ron and Sandy Stoner, and Laura Tappan.



Photo: Mike's Birds (Red Crossbill) Uploaded by Magnus Manske [CC BY-SA 2.0 (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0)], via Wikimedia Commons

# Presidential Perch

Hello Everyone,

What a great January we are having, despite a few very cold nights, the weather has been decent. This is a fantastic start to the birding year so far. The CBC on January 3, 2015 showed near record results, Merlins were reported in several locations in our area. There have been other locally rare bird victors this year to include in a Red-throated Loon in Campbell County at the beginning of the year, Long-tailed ducks and Surf Scoter near Concord, Snow Goose at Hardin Valley, and Greater White-fronted geese at Hardin and Bethel Valleys. This makes me wonder what is next to show up.

I have noticed through the use of social media, birding groups, birding pages, etc., that information sharing among birders in our area has dramatically increased. I am really excited about this! When I see new birders out there, listing long-tailed Ducks and Merlins, this is the heart of birding, teaching others to identify and love seeing new species. This should be the focus of our organization above all things, to share our passion with others, to see the look of satisfaction on the faces of newcomers seeing their first Greater Scaup or Black-crowned Night Heron. It is through teaching others this wonderful thing we do, walking in the rain, driving half way across our state for a new sparrow, that promotes the awareness of our outdoor world, and the desire to preserve it.

I am so proud to be a part of KTOS, and I thank all of you for helping me learn so much in the last two years. I really believe that KTOS has a fantastic future of educating new people on the importance of the world around us, how fragile it is, and hopefully plant a heart of caring in the people we meet, to preserve what we can.

I hope everyone has a wonderful February, sees lots of birds, and has the opportunity to show someone a species they have never seen before.

*John O'Barr*



Long-tailed Duck, a recent visitor to Concord Park. Source: BBy Wolfgang Wander (http://www.pbase.com/image/70763534) [GFDL (http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html) or CC-BY-SA-3.0 (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)], via Wikimedia Commons

## Get Out and Get Birding! February/March Field Trips

**Concord Park**  
**Sunday, February 1, 2015 @ 8:30 a.m.**  
**Leader: John O'Barr, [jonhop11@yahoo.com](mailto:jonhop11@yahoo.com), (865) 279-9043 and Jason Sturner, [flowerpetalsonthecreek@yahoo.com](mailto:flowerpetalsonthecreek@yahoo.com), (865) 244-7819**

We will meet on the west side of Dock Road at the Marina (10903 South Northshore Drive, Knoxville, Tenn.) Target birds are wintering waterfowl. We will work west to The Cove for additional water and land birds.

**Forks of the River WMA**  
**Saturday, February 14, 2015 @ 8 a.m.**  
**Leaders: Tom Howe, [blountbirder@nxs.net](mailto:blountbirder@nxs.net), (865) 407-9620 and Jason Sturner, [flowerpetalsonthecreek@yahoo.com](mailto:flowerpetalsonthecreek@yahoo.com), (865) 244-7819**

We will meet at the parking lot at 8 a.m. For directions, please see: [tinyurl.com/lv5qe3c](http://tinyurl.com/lv5qe3c)

**Kyker Bottoms Refuge**  
**Sunday, March 1, 2015 @ 7:15 a.m.**  
**Leader: Tom Howe, [blountbirder@nxs.net](mailto:blountbirder@nxs.net), (865) 407-9620**

We will meet at 7:15 a.m. at the paved parking lot by the "old" observation platform on Big Gully Road. Early migrants, late winter sparrows, waterfowl, wrens, and rails may be some of birds that may be seen on this field trip. It may be possible that the fields may be wet, so please wear appropriate clothes. We will meet at 7:15 a.m. For directions, please see [www.tnbirds.org/birdfinding/KykerBottoms.htm](http://www.tnbirds.org/birdfinding/KykerBottoms.htm).



Red Crossbill, Source: By Mike's Birds (Red Crossbill) Uploaded by Magnus Manske [CC BY-SA 2.0 (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0)], via Wikimedia Commons

## KTOS Financial Report Calendar Year 2014

	2013	2014
<b>Income:</b>		
• Dues	\$2,727.00	\$4,006.00
• Shade Grown Coffee	\$1,947.50	\$1,539.55
• Interest	\$62.53	\$49.63
• Owen Memorial Fund donations	\$203.00	\$182.00
• Wine-tasting event	\$490.00	\$0.00
• Hummingbird Festival	\$10,413.45	\$5,548.35
• Activity books/class	\$80.00	\$118.00
• 2013 Spring Meeting	\$2,840.00	\$0.00
• Donations	\$329.00	\$36.00
• Newsletter - USPS refund	\$191.17	\$0.00
• T-shirt sales	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$19,283.65</b>	<b>\$12,679.53</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
• Newsletter	\$346.02	\$161.61
• Supplies	\$305.60	\$533.54
• Shade Grown Coffee	\$1,839.56	\$1,540.45
• Member Dues to TOS	\$2,498.00	\$2,354.00
• JB Owen Award	\$700.00	\$500.00
• "Discover Birds"	\$1,250.00	\$0.00
• Wine tasting event	\$200.00	\$0.00
• Hummingbird festival	\$6,492.06	\$6,036.45
• Operation Migration	\$200.00	\$200.00
• 2013 Spring Meeting	\$2,027.22	\$0.00
• T-shirts	\$0.00	\$887.40
• Harmony project nest boxes	\$0.00	\$327.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$15,858.46</b>	<b>\$12,540.45</b>
<b>Account Balances</b>		
• KTOS Checking & Savings	\$9,328.87	\$13,048.10
• J.B.Owen Memorial	\$8,660.73	\$8,382.03
<b>Memberships</b>		
	137	139

## Tennessee Birding Trails

This project has been a few years in the making and it is finally online. This site has been a partnership between TWRA and TOS. Many TOS members helped over the last few years in a variety of ways to get the site to where we are today. The site is simple and straightforward, without distractions. One can search for places to go birding by region of the state, specific species (the common targets in TN), species groups, or season. And yes, the site is still growing. Get started today by visiting: [tncbirdingtrail.org](http://tncbirdingtrail.org).

## Great Backyard Bird Count

The 2015 **Great Backyard Bird Count** (GBBC) will take place **Friday, February 13, through Monday, February 16, 2015**. Everyone is welcome—from novice birders to experts. It can take as little as 15 minutes on one day, or as long as you like each day of the event. The GBBC is free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds, too.

Participants will tally the number of individual birds of each species they see during their count period. The data will be entered by each participant at the GBBC website. For additional information please visit [gbbc.birdcount.org](http://gbbc.birdcount.org).

## Hummingbird Festival: 2015

It is time to start getting sponsors and vendors for the upcoming Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival set to be on August 22, 2015 at Ijams Nature Center. I am happy to say we already have three sponsors who have sent in their donations, Perky Pet and Wild Birds Unlimited (GOLD Level) and Food City (Bronze Level).

Sponsorship forms and introduction letter have been uploaded to the [KnoxvilleTOS](#) folder "Hummingbird Festival 2015." Please print this form or download it and spread this around to business owners that you know. I would love to see local business support this festival. If you have a favorite vendor that you would like to see at the festival ask them to contact [bfcantwell@comcast.net](mailto:bfcantwell@comcast.net).

Thank you for your help and support on this!

*Billie Cantwell*



**KTOS membership:** Join or renew by mailing your annual dues to Carole Gobert, 1304 Barcelona Drive, Knoxville, TN 37923. 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.



[www.tnbirds.org/KTOS.html](http://www.tnbirds.org/KTOS.html)

**2014 — 2015  
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*State Directors, 2014 – 2016*

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Harold Howell  
David Johnson

*State Directors, 2013 – 2015*

Michael Plaster  
Chris Welsh

*through the biKNOXulars*  
725 Mountain Pass Lane  
Knoxville, TN 37923

**POSTMASTER:** Send changes of address to: *through the biKNOXulars*, 725 Mountain Pass, Knoxville, TN 37923

## Still Getting This Newsletter in the Mail? Please Reconsider!!

We are trying to keep our dues at the current low level to ensure that KTOS is affordable to all those interested in birding in the Knoxville Metropolitan Area. One of our monthly expenses that continually increases is the production and postage costs associated with sending a paper copy of the newsletter. If you are receiving a paper copy and you have access to a computer, it is simple to switch. If you would like a paper copy, you could simply print it on your home printer. Please contact Michael Plaster ([KTOS.Editor@gmail.com](mailto:KTOS.Editor@gmail.com)) to make the switch and save KTOS money. Please contact Billie Cantwell, [BFCantwell@comcast.net](mailto:BFCantwell@comcast.net) to join [KnoxvilleTOS](http://KnoxvilleTOS) where the newsletter is posted.

## Upcoming Vote

KTOS is hosting a social at the TOS 100th anniversary celebration, at Montgomery Bell State Park, on May 1, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. The cost for hosting this event, including food and drinks provided, could be up to \$500. A vote will be held at the February meeting to approve the funds for this event.