



Please join us on **Wednesday, February 7, 2018** at 6:30 pm in Room 118 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, located at 255 EJ Chapman Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919.

**This month's topic is "Birding in Northwest Peru" by Ron Hoff.**

Come along as Ron Hoff shares photographs of his trip this past summer to Northwest Peru with fellow KTOS members Dollyann Myers, Jerry Ledbetter and Merikay Waldvogel. The group guided by Miguel Lezama of Tanager Tours saw nearly 450 species including the colorful and elusive Flame-faced Tanager, Wire-crested Thorntail, Rufous-crested Coquette, Long-whiskered Owlet and Marvelous Spatuletail. Besides amassing an impressive life list with Dollyann of more than 8250 species, Ron Hoff has photographed nearly 4500 bird species on their worldwide adventures together.



Come early to socialize and network with fellow birders. Stay after the meeting for refreshments. For directions, visit the KTOS webpage at [www.knoxvillebirding.org](http://www.knoxvillebirding.org). Please note: Outside doors at CVM lock early. If you arrive after 7:00, you may have to call, text or email someone inside at the meeting to open the doors.

**Food for Thought: "Bird Spark"**

Do you remember the bird that ignited your love of bird watching? Most birders can recall a specific "spark bird" that led them to a life that includes binoculars, field guides and bird feeders.

Unlike most kids today, I enjoyed playing outside in my childhood even though I wasn't truly aware of birds in the wild. We had parakeets as pets and I always enjoyed bird shows that we saw at family vacation destinations. My parents weren't particularly into exploring nature, but we did watch nature shows together on television.

Then, one day several decades later, I was entranced by a small brown bird with a very large voice that seemed mismatched to its tiny body. I was sitting on my deck when across my field of vision flew this little creature into my hanging plant! It disappeared then reappeared within seconds and flew off again, only to return with something in its beak. It was building a nest – how thrilling! For weeks, I watched transfixed from my deck as not one but two Carolina Wrens (as I learned they were called) built the nest and then fed the nestlings until they fledged. Inspired, I made "peanut- butter- birdseed- pine- cone-feeders" with my daughters and they gave me my first bird house as a Mother's Day present.

Eight years later and birding is a way of life for me and my husband, Jim. I can be in mid-conversation with someone and if I hear that "tea-kettle, tea-kettle, tea-kettle" call of my Carolina Wren friend, I can't help but smile. Birds remind us that we are surrounded by beauty.



What was YOUR spark bird?

*Article by: Dawn Greenway, KTOS Member*



Please go to: [www.knoxvillebirding.org](http://www.knoxvillebirding.org) for all KTOS information.

- Calendar (Fieldtrip Info)
- Newsletters
- Membership Information
- Contact Us
- FaceBook
- Photo Share
- Resources



Being part of a like minded community is important. Please remember to check the status of your membership. Morton Massey will be happy to answer any questions. You can email him at [knoxtnbirds@gmail.com](mailto:knoxtnbirds@gmail.com). Please remember to put "Membership" in the subject line.

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR  
**MEMBERSHIP**  
TODAY!



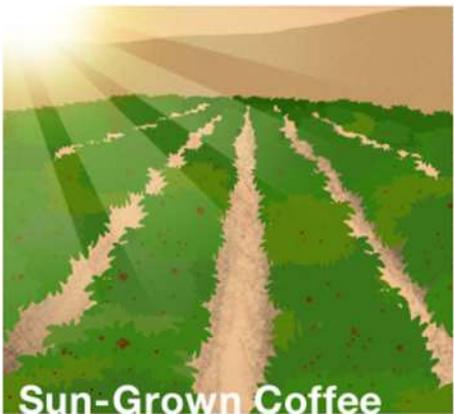
Field trips and social gatherings are a great way of getting to know one another. Fields trips can be lead by any of our members regardless of skill level. We all can learn from one another. If you have an idea or would like to lead a trip, please contact Melinda Fawver at [knoxtnbirds@gmail.com](mailto:knoxtnbirds@gmail.com). Please remember to put "Field Trip" in the subject line. Please remember to tell Melinda that she is doing an amazing job!

Since field trips are ever changing, we will not be adding them to the newsletter. Always check the Calendar at [www.knoxvillebirding.org](http://www.knoxvillebirding.org) to view upcoming Field Trips, Festivals, Bird Counts and Social Gatherings.

Shade grown coffee is a great product and environmental friendly for our beloved feathered friends.

To order shade-grown coffee, email David Johnson and Jean Alexander at [jjadmj@yahoo.com](mailto:jjadmj@yahoo.com). Your order must be turned in Thursday night before for meeting each month. David and Jean bring orders to the monthly meetings.

Thank you, David and Jean for your continued service!

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|  <p><b>Sun-Grown Coffee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ Grows faster</li> <li>✗ Requires more water, fertilizer and pesticides</li> <li>✗ Supports less biodiversity</li> <li>✗ Degrades ecosystems</li> </ul> |  <p><b>Shade-Grown Coffee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Grows slower</li> <li>✓ Requires less water, fertilizer and pesticides</li> <li>✓ Supports greater biodiversity</li> <li>✓ Sustains healthy ecosystems</li> <li>✓ Allows farmers economic diversification</li> <li>✓ Tastes better</li> </ul> |
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# 2018 The Year of the Whooping Crane

On January 3, 2018 the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) conducted the latest aerial survey of Whooping Cranes (WCs) in the Eastern Partnership flock. The current maximum population size is 110. The total number includes the two wild-hatched chicks from WI, the six parent-reared juveniles mostly from Patuxant MD. and the seven costume-reared cohort.



By the time you read this all WCs will have migrated south from WI, to Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Louisiana (1) and Goose Pond, Indiana (13). For the best viewing opportunities for WCs, journey to Wheeler Wildlife Refuge H.Q. in mid-January 2018. Ducks galore and both crane species are guaranteed.

The Operation Migration staff will be on the road tracking those that have transmitters and keeping up with the location of each crane. This task continues through winter. You may keep up with OM's findings by visiting "In The Field With Operation Migration" website. Jeff Weingarz, the newest Operation Migration Board Member, sums up his WC experience "In the Field" on October 17, 2017. In 2007 he departed his home in IL. at 3 a.m. for the 3 hour drive to Necedah W.R. in Wisconsin. With a stop for coffee on the way, he arrived at the viewing platform, in the wildlife refuge at 6 a.m. He and others anxiously awaited their first sighting of WC's during their early morning flight. They could hear the trike, but it was coming in low over the trees to the right. It was not visible until the last second when it flew over the platform (Brooke as pilot). Behind the trike were the 9 cranes in formation, struggling a bit to keep up with the trike as it was a little warm and humid that morning. Nevertheless the sight was overwhelming and another craniac was born. At this event we were able to visit with many of the OM team for the first time and with that memorable trip was the beginning of what has been a 10 year love affair with WCs and OM. I had the same life changing experiences at Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge in 2002 to 2005. That was how this craniac was born!

While there is so much more work to do to insure the continued protection and expansion of the Eastern flock, all of us should take a moment and appreciate what has been accomplished. All of us as individuals should take pride in this accomplishment no matter how small a role that you played. It has been absolutely critical to the success that has been achieved so far.

With the recent announcement of the closing of Patuxant MD, we are faced with several unknowns moving forward, but know that the OM and EMP team is continuing to focus on efforts to ensure forward progress. There will always be change. OM will use this change to look for opportunity and use it for the advantage of Whooping Cranes. What more reason does one need to support an organization?

OM's staff reminds us that monthly contributions may be processed more efficiently than one time gifts, resulting in a higher percentage of your gift being diverted to our work. At any time, you may increase, decrease, pause or stop your support at your convenience. Your monthly gift will help ensure that we are able to continue our work to safeguard Whooping Cranes and continue our education and outreach efforts.

Continuing on the discussion about how difficult it is to capture a WC. The current GSM units last about three years before they need replacing. In order to change its non-functioning transmitter, go to OM's "In the Field" section on the website and read the entry for October 27, 2017 and WC 28-05. It is a miracle that any are recaptured for transmitter replacement. This bird had been avoiding humans for about 12 years and is now fitted with a new VHF color coded transmitter.

When spring happens, the migration north to WI by most WCs will complete the cycle. Then we anticipate a successful nesting season. We look forward to seeing an increase in the population of the Whooping Crane in The Year of the Bird.

Bird On! Tony King, Certified Craniac

Update: Tony King, Bill Keeler and Laura Tappan saw a Whooping Crane amidst the Sandhill Crane's at the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge January 8, 2018. I am sure all will be excited to hear about the sighting at the next meeting.

**KTOS membership:** Join or renew by mailing your annual dues to Morton Massey, 6932 Westland Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919. 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.



2017 - 2018

**Chapter Officers / Staff**

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Jimmy Tucker

*Vice President*

Merikay Waldvogel

*Treasurer*

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For more information :

knoxtnbirds@gmail.com

Please remember to put your inquiry in the subject line. Example: Membership, Discover Birds, etc...



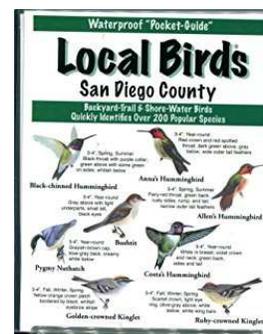
## Presidential Perch

Hello KTOS - We are on vacation. We will catch up in next newsletter - Amy



# we are on VACATION.

leave a message at the beep.



### Get Wild with a Wild Birds Unlimited Knoxville Exclusive KTOS Offer!

Liz and Tony Cutrone, owners of Wild Birds Unlimited Knoxville and KTOS members, have generously made an exclusive offer to the members of KTOS.

1. For every 20lb bag of birdseed purchased - WBU will donate 50 cents back to KTOS.
2. For every "non-bird food" item purchased - 10% discount. KTOS member can choose to take discount for themselves on the item or donate the 10% back to KTOS. They must tell us at time of purchase. Note: this offer is only for in-store purchase NOT online.

**KTOS Members:**

- KTOS member MUST tell us at time of purchase they are a member and be must be confirmed on the Master List.
- KTOS member MUST add on the note section of online purchases they are a KTOS MEMBER to get 50 cents donated.
- Orders must be placed the day before the monthly meeting if you need the seed to be delivered to the meeting. You must put that a KTOS staff member will deliver in the notes section.
- This offer can't be used in conjunction with any other discount coupons.

If you would like seed delivered to the KTOS meeting, please order / pay online and in the notes section reference if a KTOS staff member needs to pick it up to deliver to the meeting.

Wild Birds also offers a variety of lectures and seminars. Please check their website or the KTOS calendar for WBU events.

**Jimmy & Amy's favorite things:**

Sign up for the Daily Savings Club. For an annual membership fee of \$25, you'll receive 15% off regular, every day bird and wildlife food prices and an additional 5% off sale prices of birds and wildlife food (in-store). And by joining the Daily Savings Club, you'll get a \$10 Bird Buck for every \$200 dollars you spend on any merchandise in the store. These Bird Bucks add up and you can treat yourself to something special!

Wild Birds Unlimited  
7240 Kingston Pike  
Knoxville, TN 37919

