



Ruby-throated hummingbird (male).

Source: By Joe Schneid, Louisville, Kentucky (Own work) [CC BY 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>), via Wikimedia Commons]

Volunteers Needed at Tremont Institute

Lee Bryant, our speaker at the May meeting, asked if anyone has any interest in volunteering for vegetation and hemlock health surveys as part of her M.S. thesis project. Vegetation surveys run June to the end of July. Hemlock health surveys run October-February. If you are interested please contact Lee at leecbryant@gmail.com.

No Meetings during July and August

KTOS will not meet in July or August. However, you can see current KTOS announcements on our [website](#), [FaceBook](#) page, and on our [Yahoo! Group](#) where most announcements are made.

June Meeting: End of Year Potluck Supper

Please join us on **Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.** for our annual Potluck Dinner at Ijams Nature Center. Please bring an entrée, veggie, salad, dessert, beverage, etc. Plates and silverware will be provided. Bring your own cup or glass. Come early to bird the trails. We will install next year's officers and show a portion of the DVD "A Century of Birds" by Danny Shelton which includes some memorable interviews of well-known Knoxville birders.

KTOS does not meet during the summer months. We will reconvene and eat again at Ijams on September 2, 2015! Have a great summer. Ijams Nature Center is located at Ijams Nature Center, 2915 Island Home Ave., Knoxville, Tenn. [phone, (865) 577-4717]

Welcome New Members

Please welcome the following new members: David, Jared, and Stephanie Johnson, Diane Davidson, and Joe Johnson.

New Officers Elected

A motion was passed at the May meeting to accept next year's nominated KTOS officers. The following people have been voted in to fulfill the following roles for the 2015–2016 year: President, Tom Howe; Vice President, Merikay Waldvogel; Treasurer, Carole Gobert; Secretary, Stephanie Durman and 2015–2017 State Directors: Michael Plaster and Chris Welsh. The new officers will be installed at our June picnic.



Presidential Perch

I don't remember a month of May quite like this one. All that mating and cooing that went on in April resulted in lots of baby birds in our yard and surrounding woods. When they fledged, they stayed and made quite a squawking fuss. We had two new White-breasted Nuthatches, three Eastern Bluebirds, two American Robins, three Carolina Chickadees, and four Carolina Wrens. We are still waiting on the two Blue Jays who have been taking turns sitting on a nest. And now, a Carolina Wren has started a second nest close to a window through which we can watch it all again.

May also was a good month for banding at Seven Islands, for birding trips to the Obed River, Frozen Head State Park, Beverly Park, and Cades Cove Loop. Our Discover Birds team went to Sevier Elementary School and enthralled a lot of kids. All the leaders were KTOS members who continue to share their skills and knowledge.

Let's celebrate a great year. Let's all meet at Ijams Nature Center on Wednesday, June 3 for the year-end Potluck Supper. Officers will be installed and we'll show a segment of the new documentary "A Century of Birds" by Danny Shelton.

I will be returning to the post of Vice President in charge of monthly programs. Tom Howe will take over as President in June. We are lucky to have such a knowledgeable and personable birder to lead us. Those of us who have been with him on a walk in the woods know what I mean.

It has been a privilege to serve KTOS in its 91st year. I urge others to get more involved in our club. It's a fun group of people. Why not give a program, suggest and lead a walk, bring a scope to Discover Birds, help Billie Cantwell with the August 22 Hummingbird Festival, help Tony King with the Hospitality Table—as they say "the sky's the limit." Have a great summer!

Merikay Waldvogel



Red-shouldered Hawk observed during KTOS May fieldtrip to Cades Cove. Photographer: Tom Howe.

Get Out and Get Birding! June Field Trip

Halls Greenway

Thursday, June 11 @ 9:00 a.m.

Leader: Tony King (865) 988-6172 and Chris Hamilton

Meet at the Food City parking lot near the Halls Greenway. (7202 Maynardville Highway, Halls Plaza Shopping Center, Knoxville, Tenn.)

East Tennessee Technology Park (DOE K-25 Site),

Saturday, June 6, 2015, 7:30 a.m. until noon

Leader: Chuck Estes (865-207-0143 cell)

Meet at the old guard house (white concrete block building) parking lot at the west end of Oak Ridge on the north side (right side going west) of the Oak Ridge Turnpike (Hwy. 58 South) approximately 4.3 miles west from the Illinois Ave. and Oak Ridge Turnpike intersection in Oak Ridge.

Great Crested Flycatcher, a summer visitor to Knoxville.

Source: By Andy Reago & Chrissy McClarren (Great Crested Flycatcher) [CC BY 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons

Fifth Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival August 22, 2015!

by Vickie Henderson

Hummingbird breeding season is well underway with Ruby-throated males giving fast chase to females visiting nectar feeders in their territory. Other than feeder activity, most of what is happening during hummingbird nesting season remains a mystery to the average hummingbird enthusiast. David Pitts, Professor of Biology at UT Martin, has made it his business to find and monitor hummingbird nests in his yard in middle Tennessee and his results are intriguing. His research is revealing previously unknown information about where Ruby-throated hummingbirds nest, how close together females build their nests, and how many seasons the nests remain in use.

You will have an opportunity to hear Dr. Pitts speak on his research on Saturday, August 22, 2015 at the fifth annual Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival, at Ijams Nature Center. Visitors to the festival will also get to see hummingbirds up-close with Master Bander, Mark Armstrong, as he demonstrates how hummingbirds are captured, weighed and measured, and banded before being released to continue their migration journey.



August and September are busy migration months in east Tennessee when thousands of hummingbirds from northern breeding territories are moving south through our state on their way to wintering grounds in Central America and southern Mexico. In addition to banding, this year's festival will treat visitors to renowned speakers on nature topics, live animal demonstrations, guided nature walks and vendors selling food and drinks, locally made arts and crafts, bird feeders and supplies, garden items, and other nature-related items.

This year, naturalist Paul Schneeberger will present a special slide show to children and lead them on nature walk. Steve McGaffin, Naturalist and Educator for the Knoxville Zoo, will lead a butterfly walk and other nature walks will be held throughout the day. Lynne McCoy, a wildlife rehabilitator who takes in 600-800 birds and mammals per year, will bring a few of her mammals and birds of prey to meet festival visitors, and Dr. Louise Conrad, Ijams' veterinarian, will exhibit Ijams' resident rat snake.

Expert speakers will present programs from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. T. David Pitts will speak on hummingbirds. David Unger, Professor of Biology, Maryville College, will speak on bears and other predators. Chris Ogle, with TWRA, will talk about the Golden Eagle Project in Tennessee. Stephen Lyn Bales, naturalist and author, will speak about the Secrets of our Backyard Birds.

The Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival will take place Saturday, August 22, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and has an admission fee of \$5.00 per person, except children under six will be admitted for free. Hummingbird banding will take place from 8:00 a.m. to noon. The festival is co-sponsored by the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society and Ijams Nature Center, and will be held at Ijams Nature Center, 2915 Island Home Ave., Knoxville, Tenn. [phone, (865) 577-4717]

For more information about the festival or to join the festivities as a volunteer, contact Billie Cantwell at (865) 567-4273.

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

**2015 — 2016
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