



## J.B. Owen Memorial Fund Recipient of Gift

Jean Alexander and David Johnson have made a donation to the J.B. Owen Memorial Fund in memory of Nancy Tanner, longstanding member and supporter of KTOS.

## Volunteers Needed

It's that time of year when we start the Discover Birds program again.

We have two programs scheduled for October. The first will be at Dean Hill Recreation Center for k-5 homeschool group at **1:00 p.m. October 1, 2015**. This is a small group of about 20 kids. Morton Massey will be doing the slide show presentation and Doug Schneeberger will be doing the show and tell. We need one more person to help with the field trip and to help take pictures.

The second program is on **October 5, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Halls Library for another k-5 homeschool group. This will be a larger group with about 50 kids. I need three people for the outside field trips.

Please let me know if you will be able to help with either, or both, of these programs.

*Billie Cantwell*  
BFCantwell@gmail.com  
(865) 567-4273

## Welcome New Members

Please welcome the following new members: Gene Perkins, Sammi Stoklosa, Warren and Tiffany Hamlin.

## Start the New KTOS Year with a Potluck Dinner September 2<sup>nd</sup> at Ijams Nature Center

Come join us on **September 2, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.** at Ijams Nature Center for our fall potluck to start the new KTOS year and celebrate the success of our Fifth Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival! Bring a dish to share, with a serving utensil, and your own drinks (water will be available). This is a great way to reconnect with everyone, socialize, and hear about summer bird trips/sightings, and vacation news. Come early and do a little birding around Ijams or walk the trails if you would like! Hope to see you there! Ijams Nature Center is located at Ijams Nature Center, 2915 Island Home Ave., Knoxville, Tenn. [phone, (865) 577-4717]

## WVA and Sharp's Ridge

Recently, the Knoxville Chapter of the Women Veterans of American (WVA) announced a goal is to make Sharp's Ridge Park more community friendly and to create an environment more befitting a Veterans Memorial Park and included the following changes: (1) a new overall Veteran Theme throughout the park; (2) a high visibility stone wall and signage on Broadway; (3) clearing the panoramic view; (4) improvements to the picnic areas with the addition of a playground; (5) increased parking space and ADA/Handicap accessibility; and (6) addition of a new overlook on the ridge top featuring flags and veteran monuments.

I admit I was nervous about their plans for Sharp's Ridge. Any loss of habitat can be a significant problem. After the meeting I was greatly relieved upon hearing their plans. They want KTOS input. Any invasive plants that will be cutback will be replaced by native species based on the advice of arborists and botanist supporting this project. They plan to clean-up around the first picnic area on the right coming up the hill to the park. They will repaint and replace rotten wood at the J.B. Owen Overlook. At the cul-de-sac, they plan to install a court of flags to honor all branches of the military. They also plan to move the memorial rock placed in 1953 to the court of flags. All plans are in the first stages and will be modified with input from all parties concerned. I hope the KTOS can help the WVA make decisions that will benefit both organizations. *Tony Headrick*

Loggerhead Shrike. © Steve Hurrell



## Presidential Perch

Greetings everyone! I hope you have enjoyed watching your yard birds rear and fledge their young this summer. The morning chorus has died down and many birds have dispersed but we still have two Great-horned Owls screeching all night at our house as they beg for another meal. Soon they will be on their own, I hope.

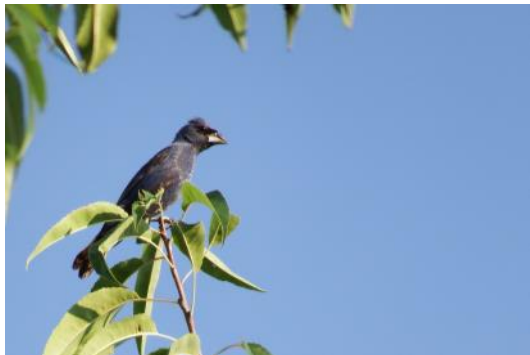
Fall migration is already upon us. Some warblers have left and migrants are beginning to pass through. Shorebirds and terns are trickling into Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery and Rankin Bottoms. By the time you read this, their numbers will already be swelling. So get out, record what you see and report all to [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org). This growing body of information at this site has become invaluable to researchers and laypeople alike.

We have several county-wide birds counts this month in addition to other field trips. All are invited to participate by contacting the compiler to be assigned a territory or join with others, no matter what your experience is. Counts are exciting and a tremendous way to boost your birding skills.

Well, another great Wonder of Hummingbird Festival has passed—many thanks to all who helped out. Billie Cantwell, who began this outreach, is stepping down as the coordinator, so we will need another, or others, to step into her place. Billie, we owe you a great debt of gratitude for your vision and efforts that have benefited, not only KTOS and Ijams Nature Center, but all of Knoxville and surrounding communities. Our hats are off to you.

I also wish to thank all the others who have enabled KTOS to continue and thrive—far too many to mention here. But I would like to note the newest member of our team effort, Amy Arwood. Amy has agreed to manage our media sites including the new newsletter link to current field trips. Thank you Amy! We are growing in this arena and appreciate any and all members' input and patience. Let us be sure to fully enjoy one another as we promote the enjoyment, study and conservation of birds.

*Tom Howe*



Blue Grosbeak,  
Photographer: Tom Howe

## Get Out and Get Birding! September Field Trips

**Powerhouse Trail @ Oak Ridge Heritage Center (a.k.a. East Tennessee Technology Park and K-25 Site)**

**Thursday, September 16, 2015 @ 9:00 a.m.**

**Leader: Tony King, (865) 988-6172;  
[tonytheking1027@aol.com](mailto:tonytheking1027@aol.com)**

Meet at the main entrance to K-25 (Heritage Center) across from the small pond. Parking lot is on the right. For a map of the center, please see: [www.ettpreuse.com/pdf/S\\_02\\_10\\_003\\_ETTP%20Tour%20Map%206\\_7\\_12.pdf](http://www.ettpreuse.com/pdf/S_02_10_003_ETTP%20Tour%20Map%206_7_12.pdf).

**Foothills Parkway Hawk Watch  
Sunday September 13, 2015 @ 8:00 a.m.**

**Leader: Tom Howe, (865) 407-9620;  
[blountbirder@nxs.net](mailto:blountbirder@nxs.net)**

Meet at the beginning of the Parkway in Walland at 8:00 a.m. for fall migrants, or at the first double-sided pull-off up the Parkway at about 9:30 a.m.. We will probably be done before noon.



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher observed on a KTOS fieldtrip to Sequatchie Valley.  
Photographer: Jason Dykes

© Jason Dykes

## Newest birder on the block

KTOS members Angela Hoffman and Seth McConchie recently welcomed their first nestling to the world. Nathaniel Michael Lee Hoffman-McConchie was born on Monday, August 10, 2015, at 4:21 p.m., weighing 7 pounds, 12 ounces, and was 20 inches long.



## Success: Fifth Wonder of Hummingbirds Festival

What a glorious day it was for a hummingbird festival! Rain all week, clearing on Friday for setup and a beautiful day on Saturday.

The day started early with volunteers arriving at 6:00 a.m. at Ijams Nature Center to get ready for the 36 vendors and all the expected visitors. Traps were set, tents put up, and the banding station was ready when people began arriving at 7:30 a.m.. Peg Beute dazzled volunteers, vendors and visitors with a wonderful breakfast. Thank you Peg! The day was on its way to becoming one of the best festivals yet.

The line to see the hummingbirds went almost all the way back to the admissions tent. Visitors passed through two stations before reaching the banding table and were informed how and why the hummingbirds were captured and banded, asked to keep an eye out for wintering hummers, and informed of the importance of proper hummingbird nectar (red dye could be harmful) and clean feeders. Once they reached the banding table they were wowed by Mark Armstrong's banding and knowledge of hummers. Some people were actually escorted off the bridge to allow the next group to get in on the action.



A special thanks to David Pitts, David Unger, Lyn Bales, Chris Mahoney, Peg Beute, and Chris Ogle for their educational and entertaining talks. Thanks to Sean Armbruster for taking care of the A/V set up for our speakers. Paula Schneeberger gave two slide show presentations to youngsters that was followed up with a walk with Tom Howe to identify birds. The kids activity area was always busy, thanks to Kathy McGinnis Craft and her team. I would also like to give a big thank you to Chris Welsh, Jay Sturner, Steve McGaffin, Lynne Davis, and Mark Campen for their highly regarded nature walks.

It takes a lot of volunteers to make this a success and a special thanks to each of you for doing a great job. This is a fantastic fundraiser for KTOS and Ijams. It is a great way to educate kids and adults about hummingbirds and other wildlife. As I step down as chairperson for this event, know that this has always been dear to my heart and I would like to see it continued. Again it could not and would not happen without all the wonderful people who helped to make it a success. Mark Armstrong, Colin Leonard, Vickie Henderson, Mindy Fawver, Patty Ford, Eddy Whitson, Doug Schneeberger, Merikay Waldvogel, and Jerry Ledbetter, Ginger Goolsby, and of course, everyone at Ijams.

## Fall Bird Counts

The annual Knox County Fall Bird Count will be held on **Sunday, September 27, 2015**. Everyone is encouraged to participate by joining a group in the field or counting birds in your backyard and neighborhood (for those living in Knox County). For more information on how you can participate, please contact the compiler, Dean Edwards (see below for contact information). It is also very important to contact the compiler, if you normally participate in the count but are unable to do so this year so that we can get someone else to cover your territory. Your tallies need to include the following: (1) checklist with number of individuals for each species observed, (2) location covered, (3) time of day you started and stopped counting, (4) separate tallies of miles and hours travelled by foot, car, etc., (5) tally of miles and hours spent owling, (6) tally of hours spent watching feeders, (7) names of all participants with contact information for at least one person in the party. information as for the Fall Migration Bird count and what time of day you counted. Please submit your count results to the compiler as soon as possible. Dean Edwards 1615 Meadow Chase Lane, Knoxville, TN 37931, [kde@angst.engr.utk.edu](mailto:kde@angst.engr.utk.edu). Other counties are as follows:

- Anderson County Count is Saturday, September 12. Contact Ron Hoff, (865) 435-4547, [aves7000@bellsouth.net](mailto:aves7000@bellsouth.net),
- Loudon County Count is Saturday, September 19, 2015. Contact Tony King (865) 988-6172, [tonytheking1027@aol.com](mailto:tonytheking1027@aol.com)
- Blount County Count is also Saturday September 19, 2015. Contact Jean Alexander at (865) 977-0052, [jjadmj@yahoo.com](mailto:jjadmj@yahoo.com)

**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)

**2015 — 2016  
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**POSTMASTER:** Send changes of address to: *through the biKNOXulars*, 725 Mountain Pass, Knoxville, TN 37923

## **White-winged Dove Spotted in Knox County**

James Tucker had an uncommon visitor, a White-winged Dove, to his feeder in late July for a couple of days.



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