

## **KTOS Meeting Minutes 2019**

### **KTOS Year-end Picnic Ijams Nature Center 5 June 2019**

Pot Luck dinner was provided by the 25 members in attendance.

Outgoing president, Jimmy Tucker conducted a short business meeting after the meal. New officers of KTOS were introduced: President-Morton Massey (not in attendance), Vice President-Bill Keeler, Treasurer-Mindy Fawver, and Secretary-Laura Tappan.

- Amy Tucker is stepping down as website/Facebook editor. She has spent many hours fixing document preservation, etc. The group expressed their appreciation for her hard work. Jimmy asked if anyone would like to continue that work to please be in touch with Morton.
- It was suggested that for next year's picnic, KTOS should provide the meat/entrée, and let the members bring side dishes and desserts.
- Field Trips – Mindy would like to have them on the calendar a year in advance
- Sharp's Ridge – information given about recent improvements and the future outlook
- Hummingbird Festival – Ijams is open to KTOS being involved again.

Bird Sightings:

- Ron and DollyAnn: Mike Smith at Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery called them at 7:00 pm on 30 May, that he had 2 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks. Ron and DollyAnn drove out to see the ducks, and reported the sighting through TN-bird, but they the ducks were gone by morning.
- Painted Bunting at an apartment complex off Gallaher View
- Yellow Cardinal is still present at private home.
- Least Bittern still present at K-17 in Oak Ridge
- Connecticut Warbler seen by many at Seven Islands

Stephanie – Seven Islands

- A Green Heron has been at Shumpert's Pond, perching and calling
- The new bridge is about to open, they are currently deconstructing the temporary bridge. The island has a 1 mile trail. Ribbon cutting for bridge in Sept or Oct.
- A permanent bathroom will be put in behind barn by parking lot
- Kelly Lane and Boat Launch roads will be repaved along with the ADA trail to bridge
- Working on a birding kayak trip

- Barn Owl was flushed out of maintenance barn recently. Pellets have been found in the Blue Bird barn

Bill Keeler

- A huge thank you to Jimmy and Amy Tucker for all their hard work for KTOS over the past two years
- Morton is on vacation, returning soon
- Officers will get together soon to plan upcoming year
- We're hoping to have a picnic at Seven Islands in Sept. Ijams has become too costly
- State TOS Fall meeting is in Elizabethton, Sept 27-29

Laura Tappan

Secretary

### **September 4, 2019 Minutes**

The September 2019 KTOS was a potluck dinner held at Seven Islands State Birding Park.

KTOS would like to thank Diette Crockett, the Friends of Seven Islands, and the staff of Seven Islands for hosting and setting up our Fall Picnic. It was a wonderful opportunity for our club members to come out to the park and spend time together.

There were 48 people in attendance for our pot-luck picnic, including children, 7 Islands staff, and Friends of Seven Islands Board members.

**Program:** There was no formal program. Morton Massey, president of KTOS, welcomed the group and recognized park staff, Friends of Seven Islands board members, visitors, and new KTOS members. He followed with

KTOS officers have met every month over the summer to determine the direction KTOS should take in the coming year. State representatives met with the officers in early September as well. Morton gave an overview of where we are headed, and our plans for the future. We want the club to concentrate on 3 areas: Bird walks, Education, and Conservation.

**Bird Walks:** We want to offer ~36 walks over the year: expanding the 12 monthly week-day walks at Seven Islands to include quarterly walks on Saturdays and/or Sundays; 4 New Birder Bird walks at Ijams Nature Center, which will focus on how to use binoculars, field guides, and

points of identification of birds; members of the club have volunteered to lead more walks at a variety of locations (Cross Mtn, Frozen Head State Park, Kyker Bottoms, Gupton Pond, etc). Tony Headrick was thanked for his dedication in leading spring walks on Sharp's Ridge for the past 17 years! Discussion at the picnic brought the idea of including some overnight trips out of state as well.

**Education:** We want to take the Discovery Birds program to at least 4-5 schools this year, depending on volunteer availability. We are also working on providing birding information for visitors to Seven Islands State Birding Park, to make it more birder friendly. This will hopefully include bulletin boards inside the Bluebird Barn with information of where particular birds are likely to be found, distance and time for specific trails, and other helpful information.

**Conservation:** We want to get involved in one new conservation effort this year.

**By-Laws** have been reviewed, and need some updating, which will be worked on at a later date.

### **Announcements:**

State TOS meeting will be held Sept 27-29 in Johnson City.

Rangers Justine and Nate gave updates on Seven Islands. Justine stated that the bridge is nearly ready for public use; just a few more small items need to be finished before it can be opened. The rest rooms are not open quite yet, as they ran into some problems with the well, which has caused delays. Nate put maps of the park on each table, with color coded hiking routes, and asked the club members to suggest bird related names for each trail.

### **Old Business:**

There was no old business

### **New Business:**

Morton Massey discussed the fact that we currently did not have a proper group of state directors. Morton made the motion nominating Tom Howe and Chris Welch to be state directors with their terms expiring at the end of May 2021. He also nominated Bill Keeler and Ron Hoff as state directors with their terms expiring the end of May in 2020. The motion was seconded. The motion will be voted on at the October KTOS meeting.

**Next meeting** of KTOS is Wednesday, October 2, 6:45 pm at UT College of Veterinary Medicine, with Chuck Estes discussing his and Lola's recent trip to Madagascar.

Laura Tappan, Secretary

## October 2, 2019 Minutes

The October 2019 KTOS meeting was held at 6:45 pm at UT College of Veterinary Medicine

**Financial Report:** Treasurer Mindy Fawver reported account totals:

KTOS account: \$17,233.66

JB Owen: \$7,633.82

Marcia Davis: \$3,057.52

KTOS total of \$27,925.00

### **Old Business:**

Election of State Directors: At the September meeting, the following members were nominated:

Term ending May 2020: Ron Hoff, Bill Keeler

Term ending May 2021: Tom Howe, Chris Welch

The floor was open for additional nominations for the 5<sup>th</sup> allotted position. Chuck Estes nominated Tony Headrick to a term ending May 2020. All 5 directors were elected unanimously.

### **New Business:**

Memorial Fund requests: We have had two requests that have been fulfilled.

From the JB Owen fund, \$1000.00 to Doug Raybuck for his cerulean warbler research in the Cumberland Mountains.

From the Marcia Davis fund, \$650.00 for the Birders Information Board at Seven Islands.

Seven Islands information board: To be located in the Blue Bird barn beside the parking lot. Board will have 3 sections: birds to expect in park, photos of birds, and where to go – suggested routes with length of walks and hot spots noted where certain birds can be found. There will be a plate stating it was funded through the Marcia Davis Fund.

Karin Beuerlain will be writing a blog and articles for our newsletter

Morton is reworking the KTOS website. He also discussed other ways in which we communicate to interested birders: High Flyer newsletter, and Facebook, and the improvements being made to make them more informative and user friendly.

**Program:** Chuck Estes showed photos of the birds and other wildlife that he and Lola saw on their trip to Madagascar last year.

Next meeting: November 6, 2019, 6:45 pm at the UT College of Veterinary Medicine

Laura Tappan

Secretary

### **November 6, 2019 KTOS meeting Minutes**

The meeting was opened with a welcome by club president, Morton Massey, with 57 in attendance, including 6 UT students, and a dozen or so visitors/first time attendees.

Morton introduced Brittany Panos, a UT grad student who is working with Dr. Buehler. She started a student bird club at University of Florida, and is now working on starting one at UT as well. She gave a brief explanation of the UF program, and her work so far at UT.

#### **Old Business:**

- The bulletin board for Seven Islands Bluebird barn has arrived, costing a bit less than expected, \$570.00. It will be installed soon.
- Website – TOS has a new look on their site, and KTOS is planning to have our website look similar in format, platform, etc. Morton is working on this and hopes to have it ready soon. The new address will be [www.knoxbirds.org](http://www.knoxbirds.org), and “knoxbirds” will also be used for Facebook as well as email address.
- Seven Islands bridge will open on Friday, 8 Nov.
- Morton and Bill Keeler have recently had a KTOS/bird info table at Scout Fest, and they led a Montessori school walk out at Seven Islands.
- Morton also recently led a New Birder walk at Lakeshore Park.

**New Business:**

KTOS will be talking to Friends of Seven Islands about the possibility of hosting a bird festival maybe in late May.

**Announcements:**

- There will not be a coffee order placed in December
- Dean Turley announced that they had a Virginia's Warbler on their property in October, off and on for about a week. Only he, his wife Toby Koosman, and Barry Spruce saw the bird, although many others tried in vain! It is only the second sighting of a Virginia's Warbler in Tennessee history.

**Program:**

Stephen Lyn Bales, who has retired after a 21 year career at Ijams Nature Center, gave a humorous and informative program on Birds of Prey. He told some history of owls, hawks, and falcons, and how to identify them. He brought with him, Doc, an American Kestrel, who is in his care.

Laura Tappan

Secretary

**December 4, 2019 KTOS meeting Minutes**

The meeting was opened with a welcome by club president, Morton Massey, who introduced 6 visitors.

**Old Business:**

- Seven Islands – The bulletin boards in the Bluebird barn are up and look good with information filling up the spaces in each panel.
- The KTOS new website is live, [www.knoxbirds.org](http://www.knoxbirds.org), email is now [knoxbirds@gmail.com](mailto:knoxbirds@gmail.com), and facebook location is [knoxbirds](https://www.facebook.com/knoxbirds).
- A proposal has once again been submitted for a trail of bluebird houses on the hill at Lakeshore Park.

**New Business:**

- Nurturing Nature Facebook page – with the national attention to the massive loss of birds that has been noticed in recent years, it's more important than ever to do what we can, even in our back yards, to encourage and assist healthy environments for birds. KTOS

needs to be proactive in education towards this means. We want to create a Power Point presentation that would cover areas such as preventing bird loss (cats, pesticide use), the importance of planting native plants, and other areas of bird education. If you are interested in researching one of these areas, please be in touch with Morton.

**Announcements:**

- Meeting snacks – we are no longer passing a sign-up sheet, but members are bringing snacks on their own.
- Calendar note – correct date for Birding with Friends at 7 Islands is 18 December
- Mindy Fawver emailed from eBird, a very helpful Cornell article on how to count large groups of birds.
- Wild Bird Eggstravaganza at UT Gardens – Kathy needs plastic milk jugs of all sizes, as well as the plastic net vegetable bags for craft projects. They will also hold a non-food Easter egg hunt. Please bring any of these items to upcoming KTOS meetings.
- Ron Hoff would like KTOS to create and print new TOS bird list cards. The current, newer cards are too large and cumbersome, and we want to return to the smaller cards. Ron has been in touch with Danny, the TOS president concerning this.
- Christmas Bird Counts – check the website for exact dates and contact information.  
Norris – Dec 14, GSMNP – Dec 21, Knox Co – Dec 28, Cades Cove – Dec 29

**Bird Sightings:**

- Black-chinned Hummingbird at private residence, McMinn Co
- American Bittern at Cove Lake, Campbell Co.

**Program:**

Morton Massey presented a program on how to identify the confusing winter sparrows in East Tennessee. He suggested concentrating first on the breast, bill, and face of the birds. He will also lead a walk at 7 Islands on Saturday, paying particular attention to sparrows at the park.

**Next meeting: January 8.** Members are to email Bill Keeler if they want to show bird photographs.

Laura Tappan

Secretary