

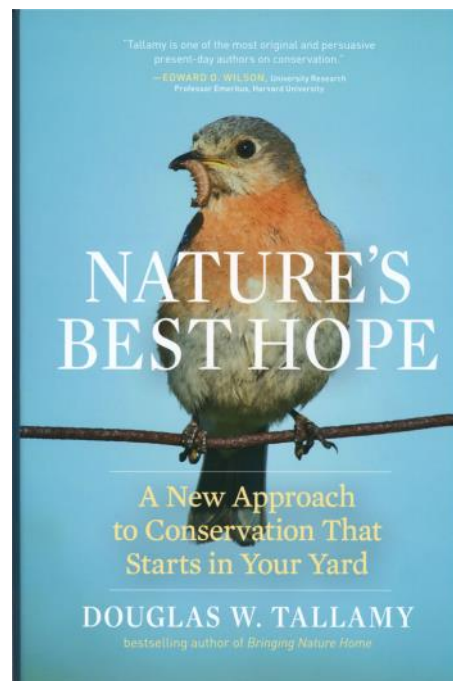
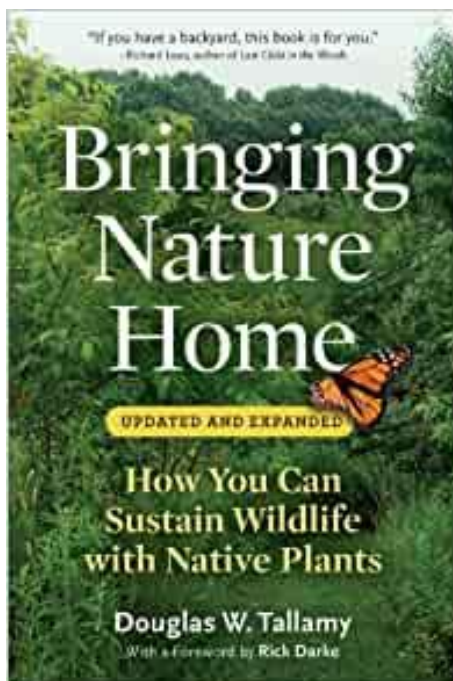


Wednesday, November 4th, Virtual Program:

Create a National Park in Your Backyard Douglas Tallamy

Come join us for a virtual meeting on November 4th to hear one of Douglas Tallamy's presentations on how you can create a more dynamic backyard for wildlife, especially birds. Tallamy is an entomology professor at the University of Delaware. He has spent most of his professional life studying the relationship between plants and insects and how it impacts things like birds. The message he broadcasts to everyone who will listen is we need to create national parks out of our backyards by simply having less lawns and using native plants. Our birds depend on insects and our insects breed, eat and live on native plants, not introduced non native plants.

Tallamy has written several books. If you have not read *Bringing Nature Home* we strongly recommend you get a copy. Another really good read by Tallamy is *Nature's Best Hope*.



Collier Preserve

As many of you know, Bob Collier donated a piece of land next to the Powell Library to Legacy Parks with the intention that land will eventually become a county park. A lot of work has been taking place on this property over the last year and its exciting to see the property is remaining so close to its original and natural state. KTOS is also working with Legacy Parks to reintroduce some native understory which should be very beneficial to the birds that use this area.

Collier Preserve is a 12 acre piece of land that is directly east of the Powell Library and lies mostly between Beaver Creek and Emory Rd. It is totally wooded but has an open area on the western end. There is a new kiosk that has been built and installed by Tony Headrick and there have been several sitting benches placed. A new PerkEpave walkway has been put down that runs thru the entire property.

Birds that use the area are typical of forests with a small waterway. Woodpeckers, nut-hatches and tits are common. Bob says there are Prothonotary Warblers in summer. This spot should soon become a new eBird hotspot.



Kiosk built by Tony Headrick. Note PerkEPave material below kiosk.

Projects in the Works

KTOS continues to be involved with a number of projects relating to conservation and education. Hopefully we will have some concrete news in the near future to share with you that involves a call for volunteers to help on these projects. Here is a summary.

KTOS has just sent out a proposal to Marble Springs State Historic Site to build and install a number of Eastern Bluebird and Screech Owl boxes. This property is the old John Sevier homesite on John Sevier Highway and they regularly have groups of school children visit the site. They currently have no bird boxes on the property but they are wanting to make the property more wildlife friendly. They have reached out to us with the idea of partnering with us where they will pay for the material and we will build and install the boxes. We are hoping they will monitor the boxes during the summer as they do out at Seven Islands.

We are putting together a team of volunteers who will build bird boxes when the need arises. If you have the tools to build birdhouses and want to be a part of this team please let us know. We will likely also build several new birdhouses for Seven Islands this winter to replace old boxes.

KTOS has been working with Legacy Parks on a plan for Collier Preserve where KTOS will restore areas with native understory. This will involve site preparation (killing off old invasives where needed), planting new plants and then do ongoing maintenance. We hope to partner with groups like the Powell Garden Club and the Tennessee Master Gardeners as well. If you are interested in being a part of a team that works on this project please let us know.

And of course, remember our project to plant natives. We will run this through November as several people are working on their yards and may not finish till after the 15th.



Marble Springs is a mix of open fields and forest. There are several original building that were owned by John Sevier that he used mostly for entertaining guests. The property is owned by the state but managed by a non profit foundation.

The property contains a natural spring and a couple of clear pools below the spring. A trail goes through the woods and is about a mile long. The open areas probably amount to 3 or 4 acres. It appears this site has been birded very little so it is unclear what all possibly nests here during the summer.

If you haven't taken a birding visit to this location we recommend doing so. Be aware it opens at 10 am but is closed on Monday and Tuesday.



Please go to: www.knoxbirds.org for all KTOS information.

- Calendar (Fieldtrip Info)
- Newsletters
- Membership Information
- Contact Us
- FaceBook
- Blog
- 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 knoxtbirds@gmail.com. Please remember to put "Membership" in the subject line.



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 Tom Howe at knoxbirds@gmail.com. Please remember to put "Field Trip" in the subject line.

Always check the Calendar at 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.

Due to the Covid situation, we are not taking orders for coffee. However, you can find a number of the Vienna Coffee House blends at Whole Foods, Fresh Market and Butler and Bailey in Rocky Hill.

 <p>Sun-Grown Coffee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Grows faster ✗ Requires more water, fertilizer and pesticides ✗ Supports less biodiversity ✗ Degrades ecosystems 	 <p>Shade-Grown Coffee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Grows slower ✓ Requires less water, fertilizer and pesticides ✓ Supports greater biodiversity ✓ Sustains healthy ecosystems ✓ Allows farmers economic diversification ✓ Tastes better
---	---



2020 Membership Renewals:

Annual dues can be turned in at KTOS meetings or mailed to KTOS, 1553 Dutch Valley Rd, Clinton TN 37716. Dues levels: \$26/individual, \$30/family, \$38/sustaining, \$13 student (high school or younger), or TOS life



2019 - 2020

Chapter Officers / Staff

President

Morton Massey

Vice President

Bill Keeler

Treasurer

Tony Headrick

Secretary

Laura Tappan

Newsletter Editor

Position Open

Website

Morton Massey

Discover Birds

Tom Howe

Field Trip Coordinator

State Directors

Ron Hoff

Chris Welch

Tom Howe

Letter from the President

Birding this fall has been most unusual. First, we had the disappointment of Eagle Bend Fish Hatchery being closed since the Covid on-set in the spring. Then fall shorebird migration at Rankin Bottoms did not happen due to the lake level remaining so high from all the gulf coast hurricanes.

But despite nearly no fall shorebirds in East Tennessee, there have been many positives. The most notable thing happening is the abundance of Pine Siskins, Purple Finches and Red-breasted Nuthatches that are present. A poor cone crop up north has pushed these birds southward very early in the season. Kat Barrow has been having over 100 Pine Siskins show up at her feeder up in Townsend the last week or so.

For those of us who work on multiple county lists, several other birds seem to be showing up in higher numbers than normal. Lincoln Sparrows, Orange-crowned Warblers and Philadelphia Vireos were all found regularly in a number of East Tennessee counties. Whether this is actually a real increase in these birds or just we are looking for them more its hard to say.

There have been very few rarities seen the last 30 days. One of the interesting developments though was the find of several Soras and a Virginial Rail at Chota Wildlife Refuge in Monroe County. There is some really good flooded habitat out there where these rails are hanging out. Unfortunately, Chota closes down November 15 as does Kyker Bottoms.

Happy Birding– Morton Massey

Upcoming Events

- Nov 4 - Monthly Virtual Meeting
- Nov 7 - Kyker Bottoms Bird Walk
- Nov 21 - Gupton Wetlands Bird Walk
- Nov 25 - Seven Islands Birding with Friends Walk



December's program is still To Be Determined.