



*Wednesday, January 6th, Virtual Program:*

On January 6, join us for our annual members picture sharing program. This will be a virtual meeting on Zoom. Several KTOS members will share their photos and talk about when and where they took the pictures.



This picture was taken in Maryville on December 30th by Victor Stoll. This interesting far western US flycatcher hung out for at least 3 days along a creek near downtown Maryville. This is either a Cordelion or Pacific-slope Flycatcher. These two species were originally lumped together and were called Wester Flycatchers. Most experts say you cannot identify these birds by sight, like our Willow and Alder Flycatchers, but you can separate them by call and summer range. Its very possible they will be lumped together again. In the winter though its really tough to figure out what they are. The Stoll brothers got some poop and hope to send it off for DNA analysis. Originally found by Evan Kidd and is a first state record.

# Allen's Hummingbird

In 2015 and 2016, Pat Phillips was fortunate enough to have a Rufous Hummingbird overwinter at her house. On Halloween this year, a hummingbird showed up at her backyard feeder and nearby Salvia. Pat assumed it was another Rufous but she noticed it did not have a full rufous belly like the one she had previously. After three weeks she called Mark Armstrong and told him about the bird. Mark went out, caught the bird and made measurements. His conclusion came back a first year Allen's Hummingbird.



Allen's and Rufous Hummingbirds are basically identical to the naked eye. The only way to distinguish them is by looking at the tips of the tail feathers. Rufous hummers have broader and more rounded tail feathers. Allen's are more narrow and pointed. Notice on the photos to the left how much more narrow the outer two tail feathers are on the Allen's Hummingbird.

During the summer, Rufous Hummingbirds go well north to breed, starting in Oregon and going all the way up to middle Alaska. Allen's Hummingbirds breed in very southern California and Arizona.

Pat always likes visitors and welcomed everyone who wanted to see the bird. For three days a large number of birders came by Pat's house and most were rewarded with seeing a few seconds of this extremely rare Tennessee bird foraging in Pat's salvia. But the bird got nervous and decided to feed elsewhere. Fortunately after several days of being absent, the bird began to come back and feed again but on a much less frequent basis. No one knows why some hummingbirds are less tolerant of people than others. The Black-chinned Hummingbird that overwintered in Monroe County last year was seen by probably 100 birders from across Tennessee and a few other states.

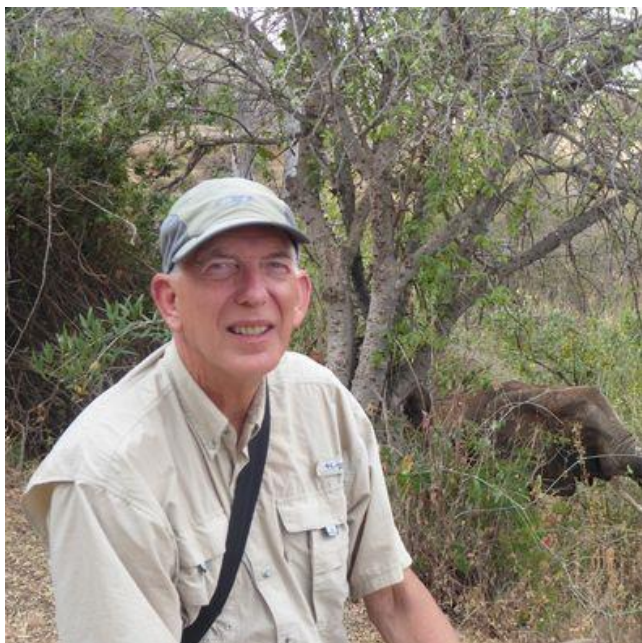


Photo by Howard Cox



# Milestone

Proud to announce KTOS has had a 3rd member who reached the major milestone of seeing 300 Tennessee birds. Chuck Estes joins Bob Collier and Bill Keeler who earlier this year achieved this lofty height. Chuck's 300th bird was the Cassin's Kingbird that showed up at Bell's Bend Park outside Nashville and stayed for several days in early December. This was the first record of a Cassin's Kingbird in Tennessee. Not a shabby bird for number 300.



Cassin's Kingbirds spend the summer in Arizona, New Mexico, southern California and a few go as far north as Colorado and Wyoming. They winter in middle and southern Mexico. Surprising this is the first Tennessee record for one.

This Cassin's Kingbird seemed to sit up in a bare tree many mornings to warm up and preen. When it started feeding it usually went down into the vegetation in the warm season grass fields and was rarely seen. This is very different from our Eastern Kingbirds that seem to be feeding from a conspicuous tree top most of the day. Fortunately many KTOS members were able to go to Nashville and see this bird.



Cassin's Kingbird



Please go to: [www.knoxbirds.org](http://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](mailto:knoxtbirds@gmail.com). Please remember to put "Membership" in the subject line.

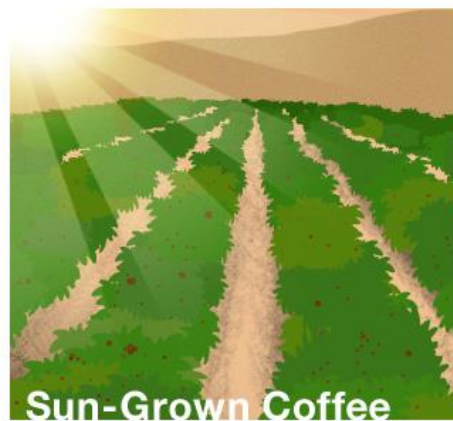


Field trips and social gatherings are a great way of getting to know one another. Fields trips can be lead by any of our members regardless of skill level. We all can learn from one another. If you have an idea or would like to lead a trip, please contact Tom Howe at [knoxbirds@gmail.com](mailto:knoxbirds@gmail.com).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

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.*

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.



### Sun-Grown Coffee

- ✗ Grows faster
- ✗ Requires more water, fertilizer and pesticides
- ✗ Supports less biodiversity
- ✗ Degrades ecosystems



### Shade-Grown Coffee

- ✓ Grows slower
- ✓ Requires less water, fertilizer and pesticides
- ✓ Supports greater biodiversity
- ✓ Sustains healthy ecosystems
- ✓ Allows farmers economic diversification
- ✓ Tastes better



**2021 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



2020 - 2021

**Chapter Officers / Staff**

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Morton Massey

*Vice President*

Bill Keeler

*Treasurer*

Tony Headrick

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Laura Tappan

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Position Open

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Morton Massey

*Discover Birds*

Tom Howe

*Field Trip Coordinator*

*State Directors*

Ron Hoff

Chris Welch

Tom Howe

## Letter from the President

As 2020 closes out what is left to say. A year most of us want to forget in many ways. But from a birding perspective, it was a really great year. Winter started out slow with very mild temperatures and very few waterfowl. But things got hot after that and Tennessee had one of its best years for rare birds and we had a wonderful Spring migration. Here are some of the highlights for 2020 on new records.

New records for Tennessee.

- Cassin’s Kingbird
- Western Flycatcher, either a Cordelion or Pacific-sloped)

New records for Blount County

- White-rumped Sandpiper
- White-faced Ibis
- Alder Flycatcher
- Little Gull
- And the Western Flycatcher

New for Knox County

- Long-billed Dowitcher
- Brown Pelican

Happy Birding and go birding in 2021 – Morton Massey

### Upcoming Events

- Jan 2 - Knox Christmas Bird Count
- Jan 3 - Seven Islands Christmas Bird Count
- Jan 6 - Monthly Virtual Meeting
- Jan 27 - Birding With Friends at Seven Islands

February’s program is TBD.

