

## Archived Minutes 2020

### February 5, 2020 KTOS meeting Minutes

The meeting was opened by club president, Morton Massey, with a welcome to new members and visitors.

Morton mentioned the 3billionbirds.org site in regards to the incredible number of birds lost in N America since 1970. He encouraged us to go to the site and incorporate as many of the recommendations of the “7 Simple Actions to Help Birds” as possible.

**Financial Report:** Treasurer, Mindy Fawver reported that KTOS has \$17,609.84 in checking/saving accounts, and \$10,279.34 (combined total) in the Davis/Owen accounts.

#### Old Business:

- Seven Islands – The bulletin boards in the Bluebird barn are up and look good.
- Sharp’s Ridge – the project is coming along, still working on getting proposals on what plants need to be planted after invasive species are removed.

#### New Business:

- Meeting minutes will now be sent out along with the newsletters. This way all can be more informed as to what is happening in our meetings. Minutes will also be approved at the following meetings.
- Dogwood Home and Garden Show is 14-16 Feb at the Convention Center, and KTOS has been invited to have a table in the main hall. We had very little notice and no time for prior financial approval, so the executive committee decided to go ahead with the event, and ask the club to approve the expenditures next month. **Morton Massey moved for permission to spend up to \$500 for materials needed for a table at the Home and Garden Show.** The motion was seconded by Bill Keeler, and will be voted on at the March 4<sup>th</sup> KTOS meeting.

#### Announcements:

- A winter TOS meeting will be held 7-9 Feb in Manchester
- Bird outings: Tom Howe reminded us to check the calendar at [knoxbirds.org](http://knoxbirds.org) for updates on birding trips. Results from the outings will be linked to ebird on the calendar after each trip.
- Congratulations to Ron Hoff and Dollyann Myers on their stellar numbers reported on worldwide counts: Number of species in the world: Dollyann #5 with 8524 (plus ~40 from recent trip)  
Ron #6 with 8485 (plus 40). Number of species photographed, Ron is #1 with 5057!  
Well done!

- The UT bird group, headed up by Dawson, is going well. Morton was their first speaker at a recent meeting.
- Ron Hoff mentioned that Mike, the manager at Eagle Bend Fish Hatcheries, is retiring in Dec. He is no longer living on site. He has been wonderful over the years, allowing weekend openings for birders. Ron thought it would be nice for KTOS to give Mike a gift in appreciation.
- Tom Howe mentioned that TNbird freelist, through Yahoo, is going away. The archived information may disappear. Morton said he will talk to the group at the winter meeting for ideas.

### **Bird Sightings:**

- The Great Horned Owl is active in the same tree behind the school on Cumberland Ave
  - A Barred Owl has been nesting for 7 years in a man's yard, Morton will let us know if it shows up this year.
  - 4 Long-eared Owls are in Dyersburg. Information will be forthcoming on opportunities to see it.
  - Tom Howe reports a Red-throated Loon at Ish Creek Bay
  - Greater White-fronted Goose amongst a flock of Canada Geese at Louisville Point Park
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- Dean Turley has cleared out many invasive plant species from his property, and has seen an increase in the number of birds.
  - Market Square Farmers Market has vendors who sell potted rescue native plants

**Program:** Barry Spruce showed photos and discussed winter birding in New England, mostly along the coast of Maine, with a focus on the Snowy Owl.

**Next meeting: March 4, 6:45 p.m.** Todd Freeberg, associate head of the UTK Psychology Department and KTOS member, will do a presentation on songbird social psychology.

Laura Tappan

Secretary

### **March 4, 2020 KTOS meeting Minutes**

The meeting was opened by club president, Morton Massey, with a welcome to new and returning members and visitors. Morton introduced Joy Grissom, who he met at the Home & Garden Show. Joy is with the non-profit group, Native Plant Rescue Squad, and will be helping at Sharp's Ridge with native plantings.

### **Old Business:**

- Motion on the floor from 02/05/20 KTOS meeting, to approve expenditure of up to \$500 for costs of having a booth at the Home & Garden Show at the Knoxville Convention Center. Morton reported that actual costs were under the limit, and asked for a final vote and approval from the club members. The motion carried, unanimously.
- Sharp's Ridge – Morton and Joy have met up on the ridge, and stated that decisions about the costs of planting will not be made until the fall.

### **New Business:**

- Summer Picnic: Where to have it? Some options are: Victor Ashe \$50, Lakeshore \$150, Ijams \$150, Seven Islands is free. With Victor Ashe being more centrally located and a reasonable cost, club decided to have the picnic there in June.
- Seven Islands: They are talking about KTOS managing the 50 Eastern Bluebird and 5 Prothonotary Warbler houses (that Mark Armstrong has recently installed), that are all over the park.
- KTOS Officer Nominations: David Johnson has volunteered to be the head of the Nominations Committee, and will come back next month with his slate of officers, which will be voted on at the May meeting.
- Morton is looking to change the name of our club in familiar and social contexts. The official/legal name would remain KTOS, but a more descriptive name would be more memorable and easier to use.

### **Announcements:**

- The High Flyer, KTOS monthly newsletter, is now being sent from Mail Chimp and looks a bit different. You can sign up to receive it through a link on the newsletter.
- Tom Howe is still collecting plastic jugs and vegetable net bags for use at UT Gardens Eggstravaganza on April 13. Please bring your rinsed out jugs to the April meeting.
- Bird outings: Remember to check the calendar at [knoxbirds.org](http://knoxbirds.org) for updates on birding trips. Tom Howe led a walk at Kyker Bottoms, which was well attended by both people and birds! A lot of waterfowl was seen, and also a Peregrine Falcon, which flew away and behind a ridge. Some upcoming walks: March 14: Cades Cove, led by Tom Howe and Warren Bielenberg, 28<sup>th</sup>: Halls Greenway with Tony Headrick, April 2: New Birders walk at Lakeshore, led by Morton Massey.

### **Bird Sightings:**

- Pine Siskins at Kat Barrow's home in Townsend, show up every day.
- Short-eared Owl seen by many in club in W TN
- Black-chinned Hummingbird is still present at private residence in McMinn Co.
- Rufous Hummingbird at private residence in Clinton

- Loggerhead Shrike at the 411 pond in Blount Co.

**Program:** Todd M. Freeberg from the UT Dept of Psychology & Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Animal Behavior Dept, gave a very interesting talk on the study of songbird social psychology. The concentration was on flock complexity and Chickadee behavior, studying physical behavior and vocal communications in Chickadee and Titmouse flocks. It was very fascinating, and included comparisons to human social behavior.

**Next meeting: April 1, 6:45 p.m.** Several KTOS members will be making a presentation on Better Backyards for Birds, a program created to help educate people about what they can do in their backyards to help reverse the dramatic loss of birds in North America.

Laura Tappan

Secretary

Note: There were no meetings after March 2020 until October 2020 due to Covid

## **October 7, 2020 KTOS meeting Minutes**

The online Zoom meeting was opened by club president, Morton Massey, at 7:10 p.m. With 37 members present, a quorum was established.

Karin Beuerlein, has recommendations for native planting in your back yards. She has begun a challenge to plant at least one tree, shrub, or perennial native to N America by 15 Nov. We hope to have 500 native plantings by the deadline.

**Financial Report:** There was no report this month

### **Old Business:**

- **Nomination Committee:** David Johnson, chair of the Nominations Committee, emailed the slate of officers to members of KTOS. Morton Massey asked the Zoom attendees if there were any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Ron Hoff moved to close the nominations. After it was seconded, the vote to approve was unanimous. The officers elected: President – Morton Massey, Vice President – Bill Keeler, Treasurer – Tony Headrick, Secretary – Laura Tappan. Morton thanked Mindy Fawver for her service as Treasurer.
- **November program:** Due to illness, Lyn Bales will not be able to provide the scheduled program. Morton is looking into showing a Youtube program, Bringing Nature Home.

### **Bird Sightings:**

- Lots of Red-breasted Nuthatches this year, more than in past years. Also, an increased numbers of House Wrens

- Brenda noted that there were many migrants traveling through Cumberland Mountain State Park
- Robin Nichols has had Great Horned Owls in Timbercrest subdivision

**Program:** Ron Hoff presented a wonderful slideshow of birds he and Dollyann saw on their trip to the Northern Territory of Australia.

Laura Tappan

Secretary

## November 7, 2020 - KTOS meeting Minutes

The online Zoom meeting was opened by club president, Morton Massey, at 7:10 p.m. With 16 members present, a quorum was established.

Many people apparently forgot about the meeting, so Morton asked how we can best remind our members. Laura suggested a same-day email reminder with the connection information.

Morton also asked for ideas for future virtual meeting programs.

**Financial Report:** There was no report this month

### Old Business:

- **Native Backyard Plantings:** While there have been no formal reports turned in to Morton, many people have talked to him about planting native species in their yards.

### New Business:

- **John Sevier Homeplace:** In Marble Springs, John Sevier Hwy. There is a walking trail through the woods. KTOS has sent a proposal to install some birdhouses since they have none. It might be a good place for monitoring Blue Birds
- **Collier Reserve:** Located next to the Powell Library, donated to Legacy Parks by Dr. Bob and Louise Collier. Legacy Parks is making improvements to the park, then will turn it over to the County Parks Department. KTOS would like to plant some shrubbery to restore the understory, making it a better bird habitat. It will also be a good education opportunity to discuss the benefits of native planting for birds.
- **Tony Headrick, Treasurer:** Our memorial funds committee, Jean Alexander, David Johnson, and Chris Welch approved a recommendation of donating \$500.00 from both the Marcia Davis and JB Owen Funds to provide native plants for Collier Preserve. Since this was approved by the committee, no greater membership vote is needed.
- **Clare Dattilo, ranger at 7 Islands:** She would like to begin having official Christmas Bird Counts at 7 Islands, Ijams, and south Knoxville. This year would be a trial year to do

the circle bird count. Volunteers are needed, and the date will be scheduled as to not interfere with the other area Christmas counts.

**Program:** Douglas Talamy's video "Nature's Best Hope", showing the relationship between plants and insects. He discovered, as students were counting bugs on plants, that exotic plants don't host insects, so no birds will be found in those plants. The video was quite fascinating, showing the relationship between native plants, the insects they host, and the birds that come in to feed upon them. Many plants host specific insects, that won't lay eggs on any other plants.

"Plant Native – Raise Insects – Help Birds"

Laura Tappan  
KTOS Secretary

No minutes were submitted for December 2020