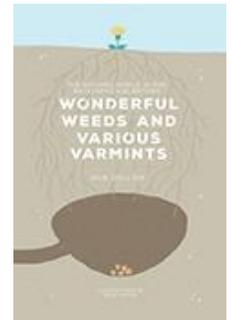




Please join us on **Wednesday, December 5th** at 6:30 pm in Room 118 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, located at 255 EJ Chapman Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919. Stay afterwards to socialize and have refreshments.

This month’s speaker is Dr Bob Collier talking about his book “Wonderful Weeds and Various Varmints”

Come enjoy long time KTOS member and Knoxville birder and outdoorsman Bob Collier and learn about his new book, “Wonderful Weeds and Various Varmints”. The book is a collection of many of Bob’s newspaper articles that were published in the East Tennessee Shopper News under the title “Nature Notes”. Bob is a retired general surgeon who worked at St Mary’s Hospital.



Bob will be signing and selling copies of his book. Proceeds from sales of the book will go to the non-profit group Narrow Ridge Earth Literacy Center in Grainger County. You can learn more about Bob’s book at <http://utpress.org/title/wonderful-weeds-and-various-varmints/>



Red-breasted Nuthatch

Fall Invasion of Finches and Nuthatches

Many of you who feed backyard birds may have noticed a sharp increase in our wintering finches and nuthatches. Well, there seems to be a good reason behind it. Cone and birch seed crops up north in places like Ontario were very poor this year which is pushing more species like Purple Finches and Pine Siskins south.

We have also see an extremely large number of Red-breasted Nuthatches in East Tennessee. Some of these nuthatches are staying for several weeks in the same backyards where they are feeding on peanuts, sunflower seeds and other common bird seed.

So keep those feeders filled with goodies and maybe you get really lucky and have an Evening Grosbeak show up this winter.

International Birding

In November Ron Hoff, Dollyann, Chris Welch and Beth Schilling were in Peru for several weeks. Chuck and Lola Estes went to Madagascar and South Africa on a 5 week trip.

KTOS Awards 3 Grants for Research

One of the primary parts of the mission of KTOS is to help with the research and study of birds. This year we have been fortunate to award 3 research grants to graduate students studying in the state of Tennessee.

The **KTOS Chapter** awarded \$1,000 to University of Tennessee grad student Doug Raybuck to assist with his research on the distribution of Cerulean Warblers in the Cumberland Mountains. As part of the research, geolocators will be placed on a number of birds with the hopes of recapturing the birds in subsequent years to see where they spend their winters and what migratory paths they take. Doug and fellow UT student Evan Buck plan to visit Colombia this January to do additional research on the Cerulean Warbler wintering grounds.



The **J B Owen Fund** awarded \$500 to Sylvia Powell for her work on “Do Louisiana Waterthrush (*Parkesia motacilla*) place their nests in locations with lower predation risk?” Sylvia is pursuing a master’s degree at Austin Peay and Stefan Woltmann is her advisor.

The **Marsha Davis Memorial Fund** awarded \$500 to Amber Stanley for her work on “Evaluating the effects of urbanization on the avian seed disperser community of Eastern Poison Ivy” and how that has an impact on birds that feed on their seeds. Amber is at East Tennessee State University and works with Fred Alsop.

And the # 1 Birdfood Is?



While many of us shell out a lot of money on black-oiled sunflower seeds, thistle, safflower, millet, and mixed nuts and fruit blends, which is the best? Well, no one really can answer that for sure. But if you want to know which bird food is actually eaten by more species of birds it is suet and suet blends. And in the winter, suet is the king with its high fat content.

If you are looking for a very versatile type of suet try Bark Butter from Wild Birds Unlimited. It can be put in the typical logs with holes but it can also be spread in cracks in trees or other crevices.

If you want to go with traditional suet blends which include seeds there are dozens to choose from. Below is a recipe I have been using for 40 years that you can make at home and it stores well in the refrigerator.

FRAPP ROSE'S BIRD FOOD RECIPE

2 Lbs. Plain Lard	1 Lb. Peanut Butter
2 Lbs. Cornmeal	2 Lbs. Wild Bird Seed
2 Lbs. Flour	

Melt lard at low temperature. Stir in peanut butter — then add other ingredients. Store in lard cans with lids or jars in a cool place. Will last 6-8 months. All wintering birds will be attracted to this food. Apply food to holes or cracks in bird feeder.



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

- Calendar (Fieldtrip Info)
- Newsletters
- Membership Information
- Contact Us
- FaceBook
- Photo Share
- 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 Melinda Fawver at knoxtbirds@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.

To order shade-grown coffee, email David Johnson and Jean Alexander at jjadmj@yahoo.com. Your order must be turn in Thursday night before for meeting each month. David and Jean bring orders to the monthly meetings.

Thank you, David and Jean!

<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



2019 Membership Renewals Due in December.

Annual dues can be turned in at KJOS meetings or mailed to KJOS, 6932 Westland Drive, Knoxville, TN 37919. Dues levels: \$26/individual, \$30/family, \$38/sustaining, \$13 student (high school or younger), or JOS life membership for \$450 with \$8 annual fee to Chapter.



2017 - 2018

Chapter Officers / Staff

President

Jimmy Tucker

Vice President

Bill Keeler

Treasurer

Morton Massey

Secretary

Talissa Ralph

Newsletter Editor

Position Open

Website

Amy Tucker

Discover Birds

Tom Howe

Field Trip Coordinator

Melinda Fauver

State Directors, 2016 - 2018

Ron Hoff

Dollyann Myers

State Directors, 2015 - 2017

Michael Plaster

Chris Welsh

For more information :

knoxtnbirds@gmail.com

Please remember to put your inquiry in the subject line.

Example: Membership, Discover Birds, etc...

Incredible Fall East Tennessee Birding

If this past winter wasn't spectacular enough with all three north American Swans showing up in East Tennessee, the fall rarities the past 2 months have been just as incredible. Probably the biggest surprise of all is that we had not just one rare Ammodramus sparrow show up but we had two. A Nelson's Sparrow was found by Chris Welch at Cherokee Farms and stayed a couple of days. Then, Tom Howe discovered a Le Conte's Sparrow at Kyker Bottoms that stayed around about a week. These are two very secretive grassland sparrows that look almost identical and both nest in middle to midwestern Canada. They migrate thru west Tennessee in small numbers but have very rarely been seen in East Tennessee.



LeConte's Sparrow
Photo by Tom Howe



Nelson's Sparrow
Photo by Terry Crowe

Note that both birds have very orange faces and streaked backs. The best way to distinguish the two is to look to see if it has a gray un-streaked nape (Nelson's) Also, the LeConte's has a white central crown stipe while the Nelson's has a gray central crown stripe.

Other rare birds that have been seen in East Tennessee in the past two months are Clay-colored Sparrow at Cherokee Farms (Colin Sumral), Dickcissel at Cherokee Farms (Morton Massey), Common Gallinule at Gupton Wetlands (Roane County) and Kyker Bottoms (Randy Winstead) and an American Avocet on a farm pond in Loudon County (Katie Sellers). The two hurricanes that partially came thru East Tennessee recently brought in a couple of Parasitic Jaegers up at Dutch Bottoms (Beth Schilling) and hundreds of Common Terns.

Not in East Tennessee but the first record of a Boat-tailed Grackle was in Davidson County recently. This bird stayed for over a week and was seen by dozens and dozens of birders from around the state.

Next months is our annual show and tell picture sharing meeting. Please let Bill Keeler know if you plan to participate with some of your pictures. whkeelerjr1@gmail.com



If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please have your submissions in by the 15th of each month. Please send to: knoxtnbirds@gmail.com and in the subject line put "newsletter submissions".