



The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

June Meeting

Ascension Lutheran Church
720 S Germantown Rd
Thursday, June 9, 2016

5:30 p.m. Executive Board
7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting

Program: Dr. David Aborn spent one week in Cuba in February learning about both the natural and cultural history. Cuba has the highest degree of biodiversity in the Caribbean, and David will be showing photos from the Zapata Biosphere Reserve, home to 21 of Cuba's 26 endemic birds, as well as many non-endemic birds and other wildlife.

No one has signed up for refreshments. If anyone would like to sign up, contact David Stone at rockyturf@epbfi.com or call 238-4234.

Thanks to Susan Hollyday who came down from Nashville and brought her collection of posters. It was previously displayed at the 100 year state meeting.



Eastern Kingbird by Hugh Barger

JUNE 2016 FIELD TRIPS

SATURDAY, JUNE 4 – BIRDING BY GOLF CART AT THE HONORS COURSE – 5:15 - 8:00 PM –

Leader: David Stone. Call David at 423-238-4234 or email rockyturf@epbfi.com to make a reservation. Space is limited to 10 participants.



Orchard Oriole by Hugh Barger

JUNE 4 – HINCH MOUNTAIN – 7:00 AM – Leaders: HAROLD BIRCH (423-903-1665) & DANNY GADDY – 7:00 AM

Meet at the Soddy Daisy Walmart at Harrison Lane exit from Highway 27 North. Hinch Mountain is one of the highest elevations on the Cumberland Plateau and attracts nesting birds not common at lower elevations. Bring lunch/drinks and dress for the weather. It may be cooler on the mountain. We usually return through Sequatchie Valley to see Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Grasshopper Sparrows and Dickcissels.

Field Trip announcements continue on page 2.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 11 –
SEQUATCHIE VALLEY SCISSOR-
TAILED FLYCATCHERS – 7:45 AM**

– Meet at Tractor Supply at the Sequoyah Rd. exit from Highway 27 in Soddy Daisy. We hope also to see Dickcissels, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Eurasian Collared Doves. Bring water/snacks. We usually stop at the Cookie Jar Café for lunch on the way back. Call Starr Klein (423-991-0249) if you need additional information.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 12 – BIRDING BY
GOLF CART AT THE HONORS
COURSE – 8:00 – 11:00 AM -**

Leader: David Stone. Call David at 423-238-4234 or email rockyturf@epbfi.com to make a reservation. Space is limited to 10 participants.



Yellow Warbler by Hugh Barger,
Photographed at Standifer Gap Marsh

In Memorium

It saddens us to report that Ruth Asgeirsson, wife of our member Arni Asgeirsson, passed away on May 11th. Our thoughts are with the family at this time of loss.

Editors Corner

Crow Planet:
Essential Wisdom from the
Urban Wilderness
Lyanda Lynn Haupt
Reviewed by Ray Zimmerman

*They press us to our own wilder
energies.* – From the text

The author of *Crow Planet* is fond of the term “zoopolis” defined as a place where human and wild geographies meet and mingle. Examples of this intersection of the human and wild geographies abound in her writing and on the grounds of her suburban home in Seattle.

Perhaps the overarching symbol in this book is “Charlotte,” a fledgling crow with a broken leg which appeared on her lawn one morning. (She briefly addressed the issue of naming wild animals, but without apology.) Haupt is an experienced wildlife rehabilitator, so she took action. She took in the fledgling, fed it appropriate foods, splinted the leg, and returned it to the lawn. The parent crows witnessed her actions and dive bombed her during the capture and the return.

The crows did not continue their attacks on her after that day, which is surprising. She cites literature documenting the memory and continued animosity of crows toward those who have captured and banded them and toward those who have approached too close to their young. “Charlotte’s” parent crows, atypically, go about their business and peacefully coexist with Haupt and her family.

As Haupt continues her narrative of the zoopolis, she cites numerous written sources of information, from scientific and naturalist writings as well as words from the literary sphere. Her sources include poets Emily Dickinson and Ted Hughes, and scientists Aldo Leopold and Edward O. Wilson. Her chapter titles reflect the chapter titles of Henry David Thoreau’s seminal work, *Walden*, titles such as “Reading,” “Walking,” “Dwelling,” and “Helping.”

In her investigation of the zoopolis, Haupt is well aware of the damage done to the natural world by human works. She also points out the importance of preserving wilderness areas both for the integrity of the biosphere and for the inspiration we gain from them. She also states that, just as humans have invaded the natural world with concrete and buildings, some creatures have thrived near our dwellings. Some invade our homesteads even as we are invading theirs. Haupt exhorts us to bring our concerns for wild nature to bear not only in the wilderness, but close to home where we have the greatest impact for good or ill.

Notes from the Field

May 21, 2016
Hamilton County, TN

Outside the UTC library this morning a Veery and a Connecticut Warbler were window casualties. Fortunately, they were both only stunned and flew off as I approached.
David Aborn

May 19
Highlights from a birding trip to Yuchi Refuge in Rhea County today included: Warblers – Prothonotary (at least 3 seen, FOS), Hooded (2 heard), Common Yellowthroat (several heard, FOS), Prairie (several heard), and Yellow-breasted Chat (1 seen and several heard); also a female Orchard Oriole (FOS), two or more Yellow-billed Cuckoos, and most surprising to me – a Ring-necked Duck.

A little after noon, I stopped to tell TWRA Yuchi Manager, Bernie Swiney, some of the highlights I'd seen. Bernie knows far more bird songs than I do. While we were talking, Bernie noted the nearby songs of a Northern Parula Warbler (I've never seen one), Scarlet

and Summer Tanagers, and at least two species of vireos!
Charles Murray
Birchwood, TN

May 18
I noted forty-eight species of birds today, most at my residence in Birchwood (Hamilton County) or at or near the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park or Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge – both at Birchwood, but in Meigs County. Some highlights follow:
Two Northern Bobwhites were heard from the gazebo at the HWR and another near Priddy Road which leads into the HWR.
Two hatchling Bald Eagles were flexing their wings on a nest. Both their parents were nearby in the same tree on the HWR.

Four species of warblers were seen or heard. I heard a Hooded Warbler at home. Two or three Black-and-white Warblers were heard and one was seen near the ramp at the CRMP. A Yellow-breasted Chat was observed on the HWR near Blythe Ferry Lane.
I heard a Yellow-billed Cuckoo at home and another at the CRMP.
I heard a Wood Thrush at home.
A female hairy woodpecker came to a peanut butter suet feeder at home.
Charles Murray

May 15, 2016
While on a boat between Harrison Bay and Island Cove Marina, on the east side of the islands I spotted a Brown Pelican. I was able to get some photos of it.
Joy Wemmer

May 17
This evening I observed two Snowy Egrets feeding with eight Great Egrets.
Bruce Dralle

May 17, 2016
While checking nest boxes at Chickamauga Dam this afternoon, I saw

a Brown Pelican, Ring-billed Gull, and a Lesser Scaup.
David Aborn

May 15

A CTOS field trip to Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center on Saturday resulted in 60 taxa being recorded. The trip was led by Starr Klein and Clyde Blum, and included Jennifer Rydell, Hugh Barger, OJ Morgan, Kerry Autry, and Pixie and Gary Lanham.

Canada Goose X

Wild Turkey X

Great Blue Heron X

Red-shouldered Hawk X

Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon) X

Mourning Dove X

Yellow-billed Cuckoo X

Chimney Swift X

Ruby-throated Hummingbird X

Red-bellied Woodpecker X

Downy Woodpecker X

Pileated Woodpecker X

Eastern Wood-Pewee X

Acadian Flycatcher X

Eastern Phoebe X

Great Crested Flycatcher X

Eastern Kingbird X

White-eyed Vireo X

Yellow-throated Vireo X

Red-eyed Vireo X

Blue Jay X

American Crow X

Northern Rough-winged Swallow X

Tree Swallow X

Barn Swallow X

Cliff Swallow X

Carolina Chickadee X

Tufted Titmouse X

White-breasted Nuthatch X

Brown-headed Nuthatch X

Carolina Wren X

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher X

Eastern Bluebird X

Swainson's Thrush X

Wood Thrush X

American Robin X

Brown Thrasher X

Northern Mockingbird X

European Starling X

Cedar Waxwing X

Worm-eating Warbler X

Kentucky Warbler X

Common Yellowthroat X

Hooded Warbler X

Northern Parula X

Blackpoll Warbler X

Pine Warbler X

Yellow-throated Warbler X

Chipping Sparrow X

Song Sparrow X

Eastern Towhee X

Summer Tanager X

Scarlet Tanager X

Northern Cardinal X

Rose-breasted Grosbeak X

Blue Grosbeak X

Indigo Bunting X

Brown-headed Cowbird X

House Finch X

American Goldfinch X

Gary Lanham

Join TOS

Membership dues:

\$28- individual \$32- Family

\$15- student \$40-

sustaining

\$460- Life (Life members must pay \$10 local chapter dues each year.)

Send checks payable to "TOS" to:

Gary Lanham, TOS Treasurer

21 Cool Springs Road

Signal Mountain, TN 37377

chattanoogatos@outlook.com

If you are a new member, please include your address, phone number, and an email address for Chat delivery and bird walk information.

All dues, donations, gifts, and bequests are tax deductible under Sec. 501 (c)(3), the Internal Revenue Code.