



The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

Meeting

Ascension Lutheran Church
720 S Germantown Rd
Thursday, August 10, 2016
5:30 p.m. Executive Board
7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting

Program: For our August 11 meeting Chris Sloan will do the program on Shorebird Identification. For those bored with the common birds this will be your chance to broaden your knowledge as they can be difficult. Chris is one of the state's best birders and has given us great programs for the last several years. No one has signed up for refreshments. If anyone is interested contact David Stone, rockyturf@epbfi.com.

FIELD TRIP AUGUST 2016 FIELD TRIP

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13 –
AMNICOLA MARSH - 8:00 AM -
Meet at the Marsh viewing area to look for early arriving shorebirds, herons, etc. Depending on the weather/heat, we will visit other sites in the area; i.e., W. R. Grace, Chickamauga Creek Boardwalk, Brainerd Levee, and Standifer Gap Marsh. Dress for the weather and bring water and snacks. For directions or questions, please call Starr at 423-991-0249.

News Items

The link below is from the ABA blog concerning the AOU's recent "Check-

list" Supplement. It's a brief rundown which I found to be much easier to read than the original document. Have fun checking it out. See if your ABA list increases.

<http://blog.aba.org/2016/07/2016-aou-supplement.html>



McMinn County White Ibis, Photo by Hugh Barger

Greetings friends,
As some of you know, I have spent the last 8+ years as Statewide Project Manager of Colorado's second Breeding Bird Atlas project. During the past few years, I've spent countless hours writing and editing our end project, The Second Colorado Breeding Bird Atlas, a 750+ page book documenting distribution, habitat use, and breeding phenology of Colorado birds. The book follows in the footsteps of Colorado's first Breeding Bird Atlas and documents changes in breeding bird populations across a 20-yr interval. It is a landmark achievement in Colorado ornithology and will be used by wildlife managers for long-term bird conservation projects and management.

At this time, we are nearing the point of delivering the completed manuscript to the printer. Co-publishers Colorado Bird Atlas Partnership and Colorado Parks and Wildlife seek to pre-sell as many copies as possible and implement a mass distribution upon book launch. The proceeds will go directly to meeting the costs of publication, with any amount leftover saved for the initiation of Atlas II (in 2027).

I am writing to ask for your support for my life's most important achievement. If you have any interest in birds or simply wish to support me, please consider placing a pre-order. The link to pre-order a book is

www.cobreedingbirdatlasii.org/buy.html.

Check out the amazing Atlas database website. We hope to send the book to the printer in about a month or so, and from there it may take a couple of months until the book launch. I look forward to closing this challenging but rewarding chapter in my life and to move on to other endeavors. Thank you for your consideration, and I hope to see many of you soon. Please send this along to any other friends you think might be interested in the Atlas.

With love
Lynn Wickersham

Notes from the Field



Cattle Egret by Hugh Barger
More photos on every page

July 26

This morning I ran into a small mixed flock of migrants at the park.

The highlight was a Cerulean Warbler the first for the month of July.

Other migrants seen:

Black-and-white Warbler

Black-throated Green Warbler

Red-eyed Vireo

White-eyed Vireo

Scarlet Tanager

Bruce Dralle



Photo by Jim Pfitzer, Chattanooga
Storyteller, Amnicola Marsh, Wood Stork
and Canada Goose.

July 9

As of this morning, the immature Wood Stork is still present at Amnicola Marsh.
Bruce Dralle

July 26

I visited the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge viewing area in late morning and heard a Northern Bobwhite calling. Then I went to the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park where a female Black-and-white Warbler was noted near the covered area at the top of the viewing ramp. Both of the areas visited are in Meigs County at Birchwood.

Charles Murray

July 25

I have a complete set of USGS Topographical Quadrangle maps covering the Highland Rim and Central Basin. These maps were used to conduct the TN Breeding Bird Atlas Project. I have tried to turn them over to the TOS but have found limited interest. I hope someone out there can make good use of these maps. They fill two standard file boxes. If you are interested these, please contact me and we can make arrangements to transfer the boxes.

David Vogt



Young Loggerhead Shrike, Ooltewah,
Photo by Hugh Barger.

July 20

A beautiful male scarlet tanager was in the middle of Priddy Road this morning. Priddy Road (Meigs County at Birchwood) leads into the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge. Another highlight of the day was a singing wood thrush at my home in Birchwood (Hamilton County) this evening.

Charles Murray

July 9

I took a quick detour last evening (July 8) in hopes of a glimpse of the Wood Stork. It was around 7 p.m. CST, but I was unsuccessful.

I did have other nice views. Highlights included:

Great Blue Herons

Great Egrets

Green Heron

Killdeer

Chimney swifts

Red-winged Blackbirds

Snowy egret

Grackles

Luckily I have seen Wood Storks before. On a historical note concerning Wood Storks, my friend Ruth McMillan and I were lucky enough to view one of the first northern wayward stragglers in our area. Georgia did not have these (have to look for my notes - I recall we were lost but excited to have this sighting so all was well!), 30 or so years ago and it was such a rarity that she took time to send in the documentation, etc. to a Georgia birding group).

Melissa Turrentine

July 7

The Wood Stork was still at Amnicola Marsh today as of about 2pm. There was a group of school kids there today who had heard that there was "a bird that was supposed to be in Florida" there. They had 2 scopes and a couple pairs of binoculars and a couple field guides, and they were all working real hard to ID them all. I was happy to give them some pointers and help one young lady ID the Little Blue Heron and Wood Stork :). All in all there were 6 wader species: Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, Little Blue Heron, Yellow-Crown Night Heron, Green Heron, and Wood Stork.

Josh Stevenson

July 7

This afternoon I saw the Wood Stork and several Great Egrets at Amnicola Marsh. A Wood Duck with five Young swam in the shallows. I also saw several Great Blue Herons, Canada Geese, Killdeer, and Red-winged Blackbirds. On the 8th, I returned and spotted a Green Heron and a Little Blue Heron, as well as the plentiful Great Egrets (29) and Great Blue Herons; no Wood Stork.

Ray Zimmerman

July 6

Both the Wood Stork and the immature Little Blue Heron are still at Amnicola Marsh.

David Aborn

July 5

The Wood Stork was still present this afternoon. I saw it from approximately 3:30 until 4:30. Also seen were 11 Great Egrets, 1 Green Heron, 1 immature Little Blue Heron along with numerous Wood Ducks with around 8 several months old young. I observed a Killdeer feeding 3 young birds as well. Sunday we had a high count of 16 Great Egrets.

Jimmy Wilkerson

July 4

Immature Wood Stork still at Amnicola Marsh. Also an immature Little Blue Heron sitting in tree to left. Both visible from viewing area

Harold Birch

July 3

Rhea county

6:15 pm

Two Laughing Gulls floating and flying around Baker island. GPS coordinates if anyone is interested in chasing.

35.659034,-84.781831

It is also a hotspot on Ebird. I would have posted closer to the time but reception was not very good. This spot is only accessible by boat.

Chris Agee

May 27

Yesterday morning I stopped by Couch and Lytle Creek Rd. to check for the Scissor-tailed Flycatchers that have been reported. My first sightings were two loggerhead shrikes at the end of Couch Rd. Moments later a scissor-tail flew to a perch on the fence and began feeding. It flew to a nearer perch and posed nicely.

A second bird soon showed up farther down the fence. Further down Lytle Creek Rd. a third flycatcher perched on a utility wire. It had to dodge a Cooper's hawk that flew in. An Eastern Kingbird helped encourage the hawk to move on, Driving on to Discovery Wetlands in Murfreesboro I found two adult and one immature yellow-crowned night-herons with the help of Greg Tomerlin.

Hugh Barger



Photo by Hugh Barger

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.