



# The Chattanooga Chat

Ray Zimmerman, Editor: [znaturalist@gmail.com](mailto:znaturalist@gmail.com)

(423) 718-9393

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter  
Tennessee Ornithological Society

## Meeting

**Ascension Lutheran Church  
720 S Germantown Rd**

**Thursday, October 13, 2016**

**5:30 p.m. Executive Board**

**7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting**

**Program:** Tommie Rogers will give a presentation on her December 2015 trip to Panama. During our winter months Panama hosts a number of our spring/ summer birds. It is also home to a number of year round residents which we never see. Tommie is an experienced birder and a member of our local chapter. This program is sure to be a hit with both veteran birders and novices new to the field.

If you would like to provide refreshments, contact David Stone, [rockyturf@epbfi.com](mailto:rockyturf@epbfi.com)

## Thanks

Thanks to Dr. David Buehler who presented our September program.



American Redstart, Cravens House, by Hugh Barger

## October Field Trip

Chickamauga Battlefield

Thursday, October 20, 8 AM

Danny Gaddy

(423) 316-5647

Meet at the Visitor Center



Hooded Warbler, Female, Standifer Gap Marsh, by Hugh Barger

## Editors Corner

The Hour of Land

Terry Tempest Williams

Reviewed by Ray Zimmerman

*It is a better world with some buffalo left in it, a richer world with some gorgeous canyons unmarred by sign boards, hot dog stands, super highways, or high-tension lines, undrowned by power or irrigation reservoirs. If we preserved as parks only those places that have no economic possibilities, we would have no parks. And in the decades to come, it will not only be*

*the buffalo and the trumpeter swan who need sanctuaries. Our own species is going to need them too.* – Wallace Stegner, *This is Dinosaur*

Terry Tempest Williams included this quotation early in her book *The Hour of Land*, which is her celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Park Service. She includes stories of enjoying the pristine beauty of National Parks she has known and loved, parks she has visited on family vacations, including Acadia National Park in Maine and Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. Along the way, she encounters memorable persons.

She first introduces the reader to Bill Summers, a veteran of the first Iraq War who is finding solace by volunteering in the National Parks. They meet by chance as she is visiting Big Bend National Park in Texas, and discuss the importance of parks as refuges and places of healing. Bill has just filled out an application to volunteer at the park, and his past experience as a park volunteer is likely to get him in the door.

When she tells him she is from Utah, they embark on a discussion of the beauty of the parks there, which he has also visited. They discover they have a mutual friend in Doug Peacock, the Vietnam veteran who found solace by carrying a map of Yellowstone National Park in his hip pocket while serving in a war zone. He studied Grizzly Bears and says that the grizzly saved his life. Peacock authored the book *Walking It Off* and served as the real life model for the character George

Washington Hayduke in the Edward Abbey novels *The Monkey Wrench Gang*, and *Hayduke Lives*. He is also said to have carried Abbey's body to its final resting place, an illegal grave on federal land.

She concludes the book with a visit to Peacock who is, at the time, despondent about failure to gain protection for wolverines. He wrote an article on the subject for the online magazine *The Daily Bread*. He read Williams a note from the publisher, Chris Dickey, son of the late Georgia poet, James L. Dickey. Dickey included a copy of his dad's poem, "For the Last Wolverine."

These two examples serve as bookends for the nearly 400 page work which is *The Hour of Land*. Her twelve chapters about twelve units of the National Park Service include a diverse array of natural areas.

## Notes from the Field

9/24/2016

A spotted sandpiper was seen along the shoreline moving from the Booker T. Washington boat ramp towards the marina.

J Marty Paige

Soddy Mountain Hawk Watch

9-24-2016

79 Broad-winged Hawks

1 Sharp-shinned Hawk

1 Bald Eagle (adult)

It seemed like a family reunion as various counters from the past continued to show up. Today Lora McBride made a return appearance! Jim Rowell also appeared until he had to leave for a football game. We

welcomed Steve & Cyndi Routledge, first time visitors. We only regret we couldn't show you guys more hawks. After so many days of 90+ degree heat, we are so looking to Monday and Tuesday's promise of temperatures to reach only into the upper 70's!  
Cynthia & Jimmy Wilkerson

Soddy Mountain Hawk Watch  
9-23-2016

127 Broad-winged Hawks

1 Osprey

1 Sharp-shinned Hawk

1 American Kestrel

5 Bald Eagles

Our old friend Jim Rowell showed up for the count today! Also counting were Bill Haley; Debbie & Roi Shannon.

Cynthia & Jimmy Wilkerson

9/23/2016

Banding this morning was a bit slower than the past couple of times. I really need a good front to come through and push birds this way, but it looks like it will be at least next week before that happens.

3 White-eyed Vireo

2 Hooded Warbler

2 Gray Catbird (FOS)

I will be out at Greenway Farm tomorrow morning doing a banding demonstration for UTC's Wildlife Zoology Club, and others are welcome to come watch.

David Aborn

Soddy Mountain Hawk Watch

9/22/2016

The first day of autumn 2016. We had much more cloud cover later in the day but it seemed as if the hawks stopped coming through once it became easier to spot them. Those that were seen were mostly distant

specks and very high up in the sky. We all received liberal doses of "hawk neck".

Our totals for the day were 254 Broad-winged Hawks of which 137 of them were counted during the noon hour. We also tallied 3 Sharp-shinned Hawks 1 Cooper's Hawk and 2 American Kestrels.

For only the second time in our 24 year history we saw AMERICAN WHITE PELICANS. Years ago Bill Haley counted 11 and then today we had 26 fly over, circle many times gaining altitude and then glide away toward the northwest. When first spotted by Cynthia, these birds were low and gorgeous and appeared radiant as the sun reflected off their white and black feathers.

Five members of the HIGHLAND RIM chapter TOS visited our lookout today. They were: Ruth Ann Henry (McMinnville); Rachel and Dr. Jim Harwell (Fayetteville) and Joyce and Dewayne Adams (Winchester). Regular Soddy counters were Bill Haley and Cynthia and Jimmy Wilkerson.

Cynthia & Jimmy Wilkerson

9/22/2016

Hummingbird numbers are way down this morning. From mid-August through last week I was using 20 lbs sugar a week. Last week I used only 10 lbs.

I have 12 feeders up and have cleaned/refilled them two to three times a day. Some that are up have not been filled since Tuesday evening. I have at least one adult male now.

Carol Fegarido

9/21/2-016

Hawk counting from Sept 11 thru 17 was sporadic at best. During those days we counted 111 Broad-winged Hawks. On Sunday, 9/18 we had rain all day. Monday, 9/19 we counted 275 Broad-wings along with a very good assortment of other raptor species. I guess the most notable would be a Merlin and 2 Peregrine Falcons. Tuesday, 9/20 we counted 170 Broad-wings. Today, 9/21 in almost totally blue skies we pulled out a respectable 236 broad-winged Hawks for a season total of 792 BW's.

Thanks to Bill Haley, Roi & Debbie Shannon, Clay Seneker, Larry & Suzy Bowers, from Estill Springs, Ruth Ann Henry and Hugh Barger for helping count the hawks. Saturday we also had a couple visit from Ooltewah who were first time visitors. Sorry, I wasn't present at the time so I don't know your names. THANKS FOR COMING! (jrw)  
<http://soddymountainhawkwatch.blogspot.com>  
Keep Looking Up  
Cynthia & Jimmy Wilkerson

21 September 2016

It was a pretty good morning of banding at Greenway Farm:

White-eyed Vireo = 3

Magnolia Warbler = 2

American Redstart = 1

Black-throated-green Warbler (FOS)  
= 1

Blue-winged Warbler (FOS) = 1

Ovenbird = 1

Wood Thrush = 1

With those birds (along with the resident species I have been catching, but not reporting), I reached a milestone. I banded my 5,000th bird at Greenway Farm (5,006 is my total after today)! I went back through my data to see specifically which was the 5,000th bird I banded. It was the Black-throated-green Warbler I caught this morning; After-hatch year (it was born in 2015 or earlier) female, band #2680-23672.

David Aborn

### **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, CTOS Treasurer

21 Cool Springs Road

Signal Mountain, TN 37377

[chattanoogatos@outlook.com](mailto: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), Internal Revenue Code.