



The Chattanooga Chat

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November, 2016: Vol. 41, No 1

A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

Meeting

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

Program: For the November 10 meeting TOS president Ron Hoff will present a program about his trip to Columbia. Ron is one of the most traveled birders in the world. He has given this talk to one of the other state chapters recently. I heard it was really good.

If someone wants to offer refreshments email David (rockyturf@epbfi.com).

Thanks to Tommie Rogers who gave a presentation on her December 2015 trip to Panama at our October meeting.



Red Headed Woodpecker by Hugh Barger

Field Trip

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12,
CHICKAMAUGA LAKE, 8:00 AM.

LEADER: STARR KLEIN – 423-991-0249:

Meet at Chickamauga Dam to look for early waterfowl. From there we will go to several hotspots above the Dam. Dress for the weather. Scopes will be helpful, but not required. Please call if you have questions.



Yellow Throated Warbler by Hugh Barger

Editors Corner

Lab Girl

Hope Jahren

Alfred A. Knopf, Publisher

Reviewed by Ray Zimmerman

Lab Girl is a compelling story well told. Only one portion of the book is the story of her development as a female scientist, beginning as a little girl playing in her father's physics lab. She continues the story through her current status as a mature scientist with a PhD and a lab team conducting research which she orchestrates and for which she finds funding year after year.

Into this narrative, she weaves the story of the trees which she researches and of her associate Bill who keeps the machinery running and conducts many of the experiments in the research process. This is an important work about the nature of scientific research and the unique struggles of women scientists.

News Items

TWRA REQUESTS PUBLIC INPUT FOR 2017-18 WATERFOWL AND OTHER MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING SEASONS

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is soliciting comments for its 2017-18 waterfowl and other migratory bird hunting regulations, including Sandhill Cranes. This is an opportunity for the public to provide ideas and share concerns about hunting regulations with TWRA staff. The comment period is open Oct. 15-Nov. 15, 2016.

Sandhill Cranes and Whooping Cranes are on the move. Here's a website from which birders can learn how to report sightings of Whooping Cranes. <http://www.bringbackthecranes.org/what2do.html> Happy birding!
Cyndi Routledge

Winter Meeting

The TOS Winter Meeting is currently scheduled for Paris Landing State Park during President's Day weekend, February 17-19. Currently, we have 20 rooms set aside for TOS until January 1st, although my understanding is that nearly 80 rooms are available overall at this time. I do not believe we have a special rate but you may reference our TOS Group # 6904 if you wish. During the weekend we will likely be traveling to various vantage points around Kentucky Lake and the Big Sandy River including: Britton Ford,

Eagle Creek, Paris Landing Park, Bennett's Creek Overlook, Pace Point and other hotspots in and around the TN NWR Big Sandy Unit as well as possibly the Duck River Unit.

We may see a wide diversity of waterfowl such as Common, Red-throated and Pacific Loons (a Yellow-billed Loon was spotted there in 2004). We expect to see mergansers and grebes (occasionally Western!), dabbling and diving ducks and scoters, etc. Wintering sparrows should be abundant and raptors are usually plentiful with a healthy population of Bald Eagles and an occasional Golden Eagle generally present.

TOS conducts no business at the winter meeting, so just come and enjoy the camaraderie with birders from around the state. We should have a great time.

I look forward to seeing you there!
Steve Routledge

Notes from the Field

On Monday, October 24, I observed a pair of American Wigeons from the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge viewing area in Meigs County at Birchwood. Another first-of-season species was a Hermit Thrush seen at home in Birchwood.
Charles Murray

October 23

For only the second time ever, I observed a Blue-headed Vireo at home in Birchwood (Hamilton County) October 20. Hundreds of new "water birds visited the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park in Meigs County at Birchwood on October 21, following the passage of a major cold front. Most were in the Tennessee River too far away to identify with certainty. I identified Mallards and first-of-season Gadwall in the Hiwassee River near Hiwassee Island. American Coots were likely the

majority of the new migrants. I also found several of them for the first time this season near the campground on Armstrong Ferry Road in Meigs County. I also noted two adult Bald Eagles and one immature on the same day at the CRMP. Late today, October 23, I identified a new life bird at home – a Red-breasted Nuthatch!
Charles Murray

October 21

I am a bit behind on reporting my banding activity. Last week was slow, but there were still migrants coming through. Despite the winds, today was the best day in the past 2 weeks.

12 October:

White-throated Sparrow = 2,
Hermit Thrush = 1

14 October:

Swainson's Thrush = 1

17 October:

Ovenbird = 1,
Swainson's Thrush = 1,
Gray Catbird = 1,
Wood Thrush = 1

21 October:

Yellow-rumped Warbler = 4,
Swamp Sparrow = 2,
Gray Catbird = 2,
Wood Thrush = 1,
Hermit Thrush = 1

Next week will be the last week of the season, and I hope it ends on a good note!

David Aborn

October 12

I saw two Red-breasted Nuthatches in our yard this morning. I still have Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (for three weeks). Our last hummer appeared on Sunday, October 9th - early for my last date. Hope to get a straggler.
Carol Fegarido

10 October 2016

Hamilton County, TN

High winds forced me to close the nets early today (10:30), but there was a lot of movement, and wintering migrants continue to increase.

Wood Thrush = 5

Winter Wren = 3

Magnolia Warbler = 1

Hooded Warbler = 1

Gray Catbird = 1

White-throated Sparrow (FOS) = 1

I also saw Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and heard Golden-crowned Kinglet, both FOS for me. I also heard a Rose-breasted Grosbeak and a Common Yellowthroat.

David Aborn

October 7:

White-eyed Vireo = 2

Gray Catbird = 2

Wood Thrush = 1

Ovenbird = 1

Hooded Warbler = 1

Magnolia Warbler = 1

Winter Wren (FOS) = 1

October 5:

Gray Catbird = 4

Wood Thrush = 2

Hooded Warbler = 1

Gray-cheeked Thrush = 1

Magnolia Warbler = 1

David Aborn

October 5

Today was my best warbler birding day ever. Beginning about 8:15 A.M. at home in Birchwood (Hamilton County), I observed Tennessee, Magnolia, and Black-throated Green warblers. I then traveled to the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park (also Birchwood, but Meigs County). From about 10 A.M. until 11:45 A.M., I identified six warbler species. They were: Tennessee, Cape May (LIFE BIRD), Magnolia, Bay-breasted (FOS), Blackburnian (FOS), and Pine warblers. I also saw a "blue/gray" headed warbler for a very

brief time that I could not identify. The CRMP warblers all stayed within 30 yards of the ramp.

Some additional migrants of note at home were: Ruby-crowned Kinglet (FOS), Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager, and Gray Catbird. I also located a Scarlet Tanager at CRMP. There are HUGE numbers of ripe wild grapes at home, in addition to other berries. For this reason, I've been seeing dozens, if not hundreds, of American Robins and more Gray Catbirds in the past two or three weeks than in all previous years of my life!
Charles Murray

October 2

Today we unofficially declared as the last day for Broad-winged Hawk migration for 2016. There will still possibly be more reported in the next few days but we don't expect more than single digit numbers.

Today we counted 5 Broad-winged Hawk stragglers. We also had 1 Osprey; 1 Northern Harrier; 8 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 1 Red-tailed Hawk. The Red-tail was probably one of the darkest Red-tails I have ever seen. On the spot we ruled out Harlan's.

After coming home and looking at other references, we decided it could have been a Harlan's however, I think it may have been a form of Western Red-tail. Who knows?
Counters were Bill Haley and Jimmy & Cynthia Wilkerson.

Soddy Mountain year-to-date totals are:
13 Osprey
18 Bald Eagles, (11 adults/7 immature)
9 Northern Harrier
46 Sharp-shinned Hawks
6 Cooper's Hawks

3 Red-shouldered Hawks
1408 Broad-winged Hawks (**one dark morph seen Sept. 27**)
2 Red-tailed Hawks (*Western?*)
16 American Kestrel
2 Merlin
6 Peregrine Falcon

1529 Total
11 species seen
21 days coverage
151.75 hours on the watch

It's not too late to KEEP LOOKING UP! More sharpies and Cooper's will come through in October, and the Red-tails and Turkey Vultures migrating in November. Bill Haley will count most of those.

Watch Cynthia's Blogspot for future numbers and reports for the other half of hawk watching Part 2 season 2016.
<http://soddyMountainhawkwatch.blogspot.com>

Jimmy Wilkerson

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
chattanooga@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.