



The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

January Meeting

Ascension Lutheran Church
720 S Germantown Rd
Thursday, January 12, 2017
5:30 p.m. Executive Board
7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting
Program:

"Birds and Butterflies of The Lower Rio Grande Valley" will be our January 12 program. Our presenter will be one of our long-time birders, David Spicer. David will show pictures he made this past fall on his visit to south Texas. This is a well-known birding hotspot.

Christmas Bird Count

Annual Hiwassee Christmas Bird Count: January 1
Contact Kevin Calhoon (423-785-4070 or kac@tennis.org) if you are interested in participating.



Woodcock Photos by Hugh Barger

Thanks:

Thanks to Rick Huffines of the Tennessee River George Trust for

presenting our December program on Louisiana Waterthrush and Worm-eating Warbler conservation. Thanks to Pixie Lanham, Starr Klein, Katherine Boyles, and Jennifer Rydell for providing refreshments.



Field Trip

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19 – 8:00 AM - BIRDS & BATTLES – LEADER: JIM OGDEN – Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot – Jim Ogden is the Park Historian as well as a birdwatcher, and he will begin with a bird walk, then take us to some of the important Civil War battle sites and give us insight into what occurred there. This should be an outstanding field trip.

JANUARY 14-15, 2017 – SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL – BIRCHWOOD, TN HIWASSEE REFUGE & BIRCHWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER – 8:00 AM TO 4:00 PM DAILY – On Saturday, Lizzie Condon from the International Crane Foundation will be speaking on Whooping Crane

conservation efforts and the Tennessee Aquarium will be providing two- hour guided crane and eagle boat tours on the Hiwassee River featuring various migratory and resident birds, but also Cherokee heritage. The Cherokee Memorial will be hosting Native American folklorists and crafts. Free buses will run from the Birchwood Community Center to the Hiwassee Refuge and the Cherokee Removal Memorial. Volunteers will have scopes set up at each location to help novice birders and curious visitors.

The Tennessee Aquarium is now registering visitors for crane and eagle watching tours along the Hiwassee at <http://www.tnaqua.org/plan-your-visit/rivergorge-explorer/sandhill-crane-cruises>



Sandhill Cranes

Editors Corner

Nightwalk: A Journey into the Heart of Nature

Chris Yates, Author

William Collins, Publisher

Reviewed by Ray Zimmerman

Chris Yates presents a lyrical view of the world of night. He describes an entire night spent walking from twilight until well after sunrise walking in the British countryside. He lives far enough north that

summer nights are short, and he completes his walk in a few hours.

Yates views creatures from rabbits to Barn Owls to goatsuckers and is particularly intrigued by the various species of wild deer that inhabit the countryside. He is a noted fisherman, who writes about his expeditions. This book demonstrates his skill as a nature observer as well. Being published in Great Brittan and lacking an ISBN number, copies are somewhat difficult to obtain, but it is an entertaining read.

Notes from the Field

December 23

Four Greater White-fronted Geese were observed from the viewing area at the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge in Meigs County at Birchwood about 5 PM today.

Charles Murray

December 21

I looked for the Long-tailed Duck that was seen yesterday at the Vincent Road boat landing, but did not see it. There were lots of Bufflehead, coots, and Pied-billed grebes, 4 Horned Grebes, 3 loons, and great looks at 2 Bald Eagles; 1 adult, 1 immature. A nice surprise was when one of the loons called when the immature eagle flew over it!

David Aborn

December 20

Today about 1:00 PM I observed a female Long-tailed Duck from the Vincent Road boat ramp in Hamilton County. The bird was diving with a large flock of Common Goldeneyes and Buffleheads. Except for one

preening session, the bird kept diving and it was hard to keep track of her.

I was joined by Bruce Dralle and Dan Jacobsen and we refound the bird farther upriver. The bird eventually flew upriver, following the goldeneye flock upriver.
Hugh Barger

December 11

The Ross's Goose is still present at Camp Jordan in East Ridge. I saw it swimming in the pond with other water fowl.
Hugh Barger

December 11

Winter visitors come to the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge in Meigs County at Birchwood to see numbers of cranes, ducks, American White Pelicans, Bald Eagles, and more. Yesterday all of those were present, including a first-of-season group of 8-10 Buffleheads. The Buffleheads were seen from the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park overlook. Additionally, I counted 8 Snow Geese (4 white and 4 blue phase) plus one first-of-season Ross's Goose (no "smile patch"). A few dozen shorebirds, a little smaller than Killdeer, flew in and foraged in the mud in front of the gazebo. I couldn't identify them. A friend, mixing Southern accent and pun, agreed that they were "shore birds."
Charles Murray

December 6

On my return trip from Atlanta, GA this afternoon, I made a quick stop at Camp Jordan Park.

The highlight was a white morph Ross's Goose feeding with a large flock of Canada Geese.

Bruce Dralle

December 4, 2016

There is a single Whooping Crane visible right now from the Gazebo at the Hiwassee wildlife observation area in field across the slough.
Tony Watson

December 1, 2016

This morning about 10:30 I spotted an American Woodcock feeding near the corner of my house. This is an unusual find for broad daylight. The bird fed for about 30 - 40 minutes, pulling up earthworms at a good clip from the newly dampened soil.
Hugh Barger

October 26, 2016

Today was the last day of fall banding at Greenway Farm. I banded on 27 days, for a total of 864 net-hours (1 net open for 1 hour = 1 net-hour. I operated 8 nets for 4 hours per day). It wasn't a bad season, and certainly better than the spring! There were some notable misses, including Tennessee Warbler and Indigo Bunting, and other species were down (e.g. American Redstart). Here are my totals:

Magnolia Warbler = 22

Yellow-rumped Warbler = 20

Gray Catbird = 16

Hooded Warbler = 15

Wood Thrush = 15

White-eyed Vireo = 12

Ovenbird = 11

Brown Thrasher = 10

Northern Cardinal = 10

White-throated Sparrow = 8

Canada Warbler = 7
 Blue Jay = 6
 Carolina Wren = 6
 Winter Wren = 6
 American Redstart = 5
 Swainson's Thrush = 5
 Tufted Titmouse = 5
 Eastern Towhee = 4
 Gray-cheeked Thrush = 4
 Hermit Thrush = 3
 Black-and-white Warbler = 2
 Field Sparrow = 2
 Northern Waterthrush = 2
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet = 2
 Song Sparrow = 2
 Swamp Sparrow = 2
 Black-throated-green Warbler = 1
 Blue-winged Warbler = 1
 Chestnut-sided Warbler = 1
 Common Yellowthroat = 1
 Downy Woodpecker = 1
 Eastern Phoebe = 1
 Eastern Wood-Pewee = 1
 House Wren = 1
 Least Flycatcher = 1
 Northern Mockingbird = 1
 Red-bellied Woodpecker = 1
 Veery = 1
 Worm-eating Warbler = 1
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher = 1
 Yellow-shafted Flicker = 1
 TOTAL = 216

I also recaptured 26 birds, most of which were residents, or migrants I had banded a day or two previous. I did recapture a chickadee I banded in 2012, and since it was an adult when I originally banded it, the bird is at least 5 years old. I also recaptured a White-throated Sparrow I banded in 2013, indicating faithfulness to the wintering ground (the champion I had for that was a Hermit Thrush that returned every

year for 7 straight years). I will be back out in the spring!
 David Aborn

October 25
 Around 10 A.M. today I walked about 75 yards down the TWRA road at Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge in Meigs County at Birchwood. I was surprised to see about 25 American White Pelicans in the slough in front of the viewing area. They had been out of view to the west of the gazebo. Then I went about a mile further down the road toward the east. While returning to the gazebo about 11 A.M., I heard and then saw two sandhill cranes flying low over the refuge heading south. When I got back to where the pelicans were observed they had gone.
 Charles Murray

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.