



# The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter  
Tennessee Ornithological Society

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## March Meeting

**Ascension Lutheran Church**  
**720 S Germantown Rd**  
**Thursday, March 9, 2017**  
**5:30 p.m. Executive Board**  
**7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting**  
**Program:**

For the March 9 program we are happy to welcome TWRA Bird Conservation Coordinator David Hanni. David replaced Scott Sommershoe about a year and a half ago. This will be David's first meeting with the Chattanooga TOS. Prior to coming to Tennessee, David was Director of the Science Division for the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory for 10 years. He helped develop large scale bird monitoring programs through the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains regions. He will bring us up to date with what is going on and future work in Tennessee. Let's have a good turn out and make David welcome. By March 9 there should have already been some birds returning for the spring & summer so come and find out what people are seeing.

## Thanks

Thanks to Braam Oberholster for presenting a program about "Florida Birds" for our February 9 meeting. Sharon Schier provided refreshments to the February meeting.

## News Item

Thanks to the efforts of Bristol's Bill Bridgeforth, we now have an

outstanding TOS 100 Year Anniversary commemorative patch available for purchase. The three inch patches are \$3 apiece. I will be bringing them to the winter meeting, but will also have them available to any member or chapters that may want them. Just contact me directly at [eyerout@bellsouth.net](mailto:eyerout@bellsouth.net) and I will get them to you. We currently have 96 left, but can easily get more!  
Cheers,  
Steve Routledge



## Field Trips

**Saturday, March 11 – 8:30 AM**  
**Brainerd Levee**

**Leader: Tommie Rogers** – Meet at the Shallowford Road end of the Levee to look for waterfowl and shorebirds. Bring water and sunscreen and dress for the weather. Scopes will be helpful, but not required.

**Sunday, March 19 – 8:30 AM  
More Birds and Battles at  
Chickamauga Park**

**Leader: Jim Ogden, Park**

**Historian** – Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot to caravan from there. His previous trip was very informative as well as lots of fun. He knows about birds and battles!

**Saturday, March 25 – 8:00 AM  
Greenway Farm in Hixson**

**Leaders: Pixie and Gary Lanham**

Expect to see lots of migrants along North Chickamauga Creek, in the open fields, and in the new growth areas. Meet in the parking area near the cabin and maintenance building. Do not park in the lot on the Hamill Rd. side of the farm.

**Editors Corner**

Here is an excerpt from my booklet, *We Are Water* in which each color photograph is combined with a haiku.



Catesby's Trillium

Found a rare plant  
Pointed it out to hikers  
Fewer grow there now

**Notes from the Field**

Soddy Mountain Hawk Watch  
Hamilton County, Tennessee - For the archives before I forget to record totals for Soddy Mtn. Hawk Watch 2016.

2016 Season totals:

38 Black Vulture  
413 Turkey Vulture  
14 Osprey  
35 Bald Eagle (21 adults/14 immature )  
13 Northern Harrier  
110 Sharp-shinned Hawk  
13 Cooper's Hawk  
13 Red-shouldered Hawk  
1408 Broad-winged Hawk ( 1 dark morph seen on 9/27/16---we only saw 10 all day---one of the last 2 seen was the dark morph! )  
53 Red-tailed Hawk ( Bill Haley saw 1 Krider's on 11/3/16 ). In his report he made several remarks about its tail being as white as a Bald Eagle adult.  
21 American Kestrel  
3 Merlin  
7 Peregrine Falcon  
\*\* 1 unidentified falcon species  
2142 total raptors  
272.25 hours  
46 days coverage  
Keep Looking Up! -Jimmy Wilkerson

January 19

This afternoon I relocated three of the four White-winged Scoters and the Long-tailed Duck from the boat ramp at Booker T. Washington State Park.

Libby Wolfe stopped by the Vincent Road boat ramp and saw the Long-tailed Duck and White-winged Scoters.

Other species seen:

Red-breasted Merganser (2)

Horned Grebe (88)

Pied-billed Grebe (65)

Common Loon (44)

Common Goldeneye (188)

Bufflehead (48)

Lesser Scaup (52)

Sandhill Cranes (67) flying North.

Bonaparte's Gull (56)

Ring-billed Gull (63)

Herring Gull (1) immature.

Bruce Dralle

Hamilton County TN

January 24

There were 6 Surf Scoters between the boat ramp at Chickamagua dam and Booker T Washington at 2:00 today in Hamilton County, including 3 adult males and 3 females seen from the boat ramp

Morton Massey

Knoxville, TN.

January 26

Today was the first time this winter I checked the Island View boat ramp. I usually find good birds in this section of the Tennessee River, and today I wasn't disappointed.

The boat ramp is located on Thatch Road. This afternoon around 3 pm, I found a large raft (approximately 350) mixed of Greater and Lesser Scaup. Also in the mix were Redheads, and one female Black Scoter. Libby Wolfe

February 10

With a favorable wind behind them, a number of Sandhill Cranes estimated to exceed 2,000 flew north over Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge in Meigs County at Birchwood between 5 and 6:15 PM today. When the wind calmed and dark was near, several hundred cranes landed on Hiwassee Island and nearby sandbars, apparently to roost for the night. From the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park overlook, around 60 American White Pelicans were also seen on a Tennessee River sandbar. Charles Murray

2/19/2017

Forty-seven birders enjoyed a wonderful weekend at Paris Landing State Park and surrounding environs. Birders from Memphis to Kingsport gathered to enjoy the wintering waterfowl as well as each other's company as the group totaled 95 species seen or heard collectively. Aside from the variety of birds we were seeing, another major highlight was the generous BBQ lunch hosted by Joan Howe and the refuge staff and Friends of TNWR. The complimentary hospitality room provided by Paris Landing State Park served as the perfect venue to unwind both Friday and Saturday night. As always, it was great fun catching up with old friends and making several new ones.

Here is a summary of birds reportedly seen or heard as far as we know now:

Greater White -fronted Goose  
Snow Goose  
Canada Goose  
Tundra Swan  
Wood Duck  
Gadwall  
American Wigeon

American Black Duck  
Mallard  
Northern Shoveler  
Northern Pintail  
Green-winged Teal  
Canvasback  
Redhead  
Ring-necked Duck  
Greater Scaup  
Lesser Scaup  
Bufflehead  
Common Goldeneye  
Hooded Merganser  
Common Merganser  
Red-breasted Merganser  
Ruddy Duck  
Wild Turkey  
Common Loon  
Pied-billed Grebe  
Horned Grebe  
Double-crested Cormorant  
American White Pelican  
Great Blue Heron  
Black Vulture  
Turkey Vulture  
Osprey  
Northern Harrier  
Bald Eagle  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
American Coot  
Sandhill Crane  
Killdeer  
Bonaparte's Gull  
Ring-billed Gull  
Herring Gull  
Lesser Black-backed Gull  
Forster's Tern  
Mourning Dove  
Eastern Screech Owl  
Barred Owl  
Belted Kingfisher  
Red-headed Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker  
Downy Woodpecker  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
American Kestrel  
Peregrine Falcon  
Eastern Phoebe  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Horned Lark  
Tree Swallow  
Carolina Chickadee

Tufted Titmice  
 White-breasted Nuthatch  
 Brown Creeper  
 Winter Wren  
 Carolina Wren  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
 Eastern Bluebird  
 American Robin  
 Brown Thrasher  
 Northern Mockingbird  
 European Starling  
 American Pipit  
 Cedar Waxwing  
 Pine Warbler  
 Yellow-Rumped Warbler  
 Eastern Towhee  
 Chipping Sparrow  
 Field Sparrow  
 Savannah Sparrow  
 Song Sparrow  
 Swamp Sparrow  
 White-throated Sparrow  
 Dark-eyed Junco  
 Northern Cardinal  
 Red-winged Blackbird  
 Eastern Meadowlark  
 Common Grackle  
 House Finch  
 American Goldfinch  
 House Sparrow  
 Honorable mention: Golden Eagle at the  
 Duck River Unit seen Friday

So there you have it! Thanks to everyone who travelled from far and wide to join us this weekend. You really helped to make our winter meeting a rousing success. Hope to see everyone (and all others) again very soon. Mark your calendars for the first weekend in May for our Annual Spring Meeting in Knoxville and for the first weekend in October for our Fall Meeting for the very first time in Kingsport!! Good Birding to One and All !!!  
 Steve and Cyndi Routledge

February 17  
 Fifty species were identified in the Birchwood area today. Many were noted at the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge, the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park, or on Blythe Ferry Lane, all in Meigs County. Others were found at or near my home in Hamilton County. One highlight was 9 species of

ducks. Species seen from the HWR viewing area were: Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked, and Lesser Scaup. Ducks observed from CRMP were: Wood Duck, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, and Bufflehead.

A Northern Harrier was seen at HWR, and a few Bald Eagles were seen both there and from the CRMP. A total of fewer than 100 Sandhill Cranes were noted at each of these two sites. The principal highlights from my home today were a Brown-headed Nuthatch, a Hermit Thrush, several Wild Turkeys, and several Purple Finches.

Thanks to Libby Wolfe for identifying good spots to search, I was able to locate a first-of-year Fox Sparrow on Blythe Ferry Lane east of the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park property.

Charles Murray  
 Birchwood, TN



Green Heron by Ray Zimmerman

### 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](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), the Internal Revenue Code