



The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

May Meeting

Ascension Lutheran Church
720 S Germantown Rd
Thursday, May 11, 2016
5:30 p.m. Executive Board
7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting
Program:

Alix Parks and Sherry Teas (along with their cohort Zeno Beaty) will do the May 11 program. Alix started Happinest Wildlife Rehabilitation & Rescue, Inc. She has been taking care of injured birds for years. She has pictures of some birds rescued and stories about the personalities of many of the birds that are quite interesting. She will also entertain questions about orphaned bird care including when to do nothing.



wildlife rehabilitation & rescue, inc.

Thanks

Thanks to Fran Hiestand for presenting our April program and to Fran Heistand, and Sandy Caldwell for providing refreshments.

Birding Opportunity

David Stone is offering to have 1-2 people bird The Honors Course with him this spring. He says Mondays are good and Tuesday (esp. in the mornings) are usually OK. Contact him at rockyturf@epbfi.com for his availability on these and possibly other days.



Wild Turkey by Hugh Barger

MAY 2017 FIELD TRIPS

SATURDAY, MAY 6 –
MIGRATION COUNT – ALL
DAY - If you wish to participate,
contact Kevin Calhoun:
kac@tennis.org.

TUESDAY, MAY 9 –
CHICKAMAUGA PARK – 6:30
PM TO LOOK/LISTEN FOR
CHUCK-WILLS-WIDOWS –
LEADER: DANNY GADDY –
Meet at the Visitor Center to bird the
area until dark, then we will caravan

to areas in which the birds have been heard recently.

SATURDAY, MAY 27 – HINCH MOUNTAIN – 7:00 AM – Meet at Soddy-Daisy Walmart at Harrison Lane Exit from Highway 27 North – Leaders: Danny Gaddy (423-316-5647) and Debbi and Roi Shannon. Hinch Mountain is one of the highest locations on the Cumberland Plateau and is home to nesting birds not common at lower elevations. Bring a lunch, snacks and drinks, and dress for the weather, as it may be cooler on the mountain. Usually the return is through Sequatchie Valley to see Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Grasshopper Sparrows and Dickcissels.



Cape May Warbler, Signal Mountain, April 23 by Gary Lanham

Editors Corner

I am pleased to serve as the organizer again this year for the Little Owl Music and Arts Festival at Audubon Acres.

The Chattanooga Audubon Society invites you to enjoy the sixth annual Little Owl Festival, Saturday, May 13, 2017, 11:00 am to 6:00 pm, at the Audubon Acres sanctuary. Join us

for a fun filled day of music, art and nature.

- Michael Gray returns as Stage Producer and M.C.
- Nature hikes and activities for people of all ages.
- Birds of Prey from Harrison Bay State Park
- Arts and Crafts vendors
- Educational Exhibits
- Food Vendors

Beautiful and historic Audubon Acres is the perfect place for this festival. Not only is this East Brainerd sanctuary the homestead of Chattanooga Audubon's founder Robert Sparks Walker, it reflects his values and creative genius as an author and editor. It is Chattanooga's oldest land trust. The festival takes place at the height of the spring season. Migrating birds have already arrived. Spring wildflowers are in bloom.

Contact: Chattanooga Audubon Society, (423) 899-1499
littleowlfestival@chattaudubon.org

Notes from the Field



Prothonotary Warbler, 2017, Radnor Lake by Hugh Barger

April 22

Bruce Dralle saw a Snowy Egret feeding and resting with a Great Egret and a Great Blue Heron at Amnicola Marsh.

April 14

This afternoon there was an American Golden-Plover with Solitary, Spotted, Greater Yellowlegs and Wilson Snipe at the Brainerd Levee.

Bruce Dralle

14 April 2017

Banding at Greenway Farm yielded:

White-throated Sparrow = 3

Hermit Thrush = 2

American Robin = 1

Northern Cardinal = 1

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher = 1

Orange-crowned Warbler = 1

I also heard my first Great-crested Flycatcher of the spring.

David Aborn



Indigo Bunting, Hardy Trail, April 22 by Gary Lanham

April 12

Based on reports from Bruce Dralle I went by Standifer Gap Marsh this afternoon on my way to the airport

in Hamilton County. I found a Virginia Rail and Sora (heard both) at the north end of the marsh where they are usually found. I then went to the south end along the road and stepped up on a green platform that goes out into the swamp a short distance. I flushed the American Bittern there. It flew a short distance and disappeared in the tall grasses. It was very hot and most the warblers seen earlier in the day were not present.

Morton Massey

April 11

This afternoon at Standifer Gap Marsh there was an American Bittern observed in the large marsh. The location is behind the small marsh along the dirt road. Observers also noted an Orchard Oriole and a Sora.

Bruce Dralle

April 8

In my post about Greenway Farm yesterday, I forgot to mention that we saw a Vesper Sparrow.

David Aborn



Yellow Billed Cuckoo, Cravens House, April 22 by Gary Lanham

April 7, 2017

I took my ornithology class to Greenway Farm for some banding. Given the windy conditions, I wasn't expecting to catch anything, but it turned out to be a good afternoon. We caught:

White-throated Sparrow = 6

Tufted Titmouse = 2 (both recaptures from the fall)

Yellow-rumped Warbler = 1

Ruby-throated Hummingbird = 1
(female, released without banding)

We also saw a couple of Chimney Swifts.
David Aborn

April 6

This afternoon there was a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron feeding in a drainage area along Greenway View Drive off of Lee Highway.

Bruce Dralle

March 31, 2017

Hamilton County, TN

I took my Ornithology class up to Craven's House, and we saw a Blue-headed Vireo and heard 2 White-eyed Vireos. Both of those species were FOS for me.

David Aborn

March 28

This morning there were a couple of Brewer's Blackbirds feeding in the open fields at Standifer Gap Marsh.

Bruce Dralle

News Items

According to an article in the Shreveport Times, Louisiana's first wild hatched Whooping Crane since 1939 recently turned one year old. Her parents chased her away from their territory and may be preparing to nest again.

The International Crane Foundation in Baraboo, Wisconsin reports on Whooping Crane reproduction efforts at their facility and at wild crane nests in Wisconsin. See www.savingcranes.org

Technicians at the center collected 26 fertile eggs from wild nests in Wisconsin. Numerous pairs have laid a second clutch and are incubating. The captive pairs have laid 9 eggs at this point. One was broken in the nest and the other eight will be checked for fertility later this month.



Red Headed Woodpecker, Chester Frost Park by Gary Lanham

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.