



# The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter  
Tennessee Ornithological Society

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## June Meeting

### Ascension Lutheran Church

720 S Germantown Rd

Thursday, June 8, 2017

5:30 p.m. Executive Board

7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting

#### Program:

Jeff Schaarschmidt will do a program on ebird and other technology that can help your birding. There are several great tools Jeff will demonstrate. Bring your cell phones (and laptops if desired). Jeff will show apps that can refine your birding trips so they are the most productive.

**Thanks** to Happinest Wildlife Rehabilitation and Rescue for presenting our May program.

## FIELD TRIPS

Birding at The Honors Course:

Saturday, June 3 - 5:15 PM - 7:30 PM

Sunday, June 11 - 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Space is limited to 10 birders each day  
Email David at [rockyturf@epbfi.com](mailto:rockyturf@epbfi.com) or  
call 413-4033

### Friday, May 26 – Tennessee River Gorge Bird Banding Station –

**Leader: Rick Huffines** – Meet at 07:15 in the parking lot of the old Food Lion in Tiftonia. Take the Brown's Ferry exit from I-24, turn north (right if coming from Chattanooga), for approximately 100 yards, just past the LaQuinta Inn. You can expect an update

on the Louisiana Waterthrush geolocator recovery project and see bird banding up close.

### Saturday, June 3 – Hinch Mountain (postponed from May).

Meet at 07:00 at the Soddy-Daisy WalMart at the Harrison Lane exit from Highway 27 North. Leaders: Danny Gaddy (423) 316-57647, Debbi and Roi Shannon. Hinch Mountain, one of the highest elevations on the Cumberland Plateau, is home to nesting birds not common at lower elevations. Bring a lunch, snacks and drinks. Dress for the weather, as it may be cooler on the mountain but hot on the way back. Time and weather permitting, the return is usually through Sequatchie Valley to see Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Grasshopper Sparrows and Dickcissels.

**Wednesday, June 7** – Meet at 6:00 PM in the lower parking lot at the Chickamauga Park Visitor Center to caravan to Kensington, GA, home of Kerry and Brian Autry, and to fields in McLemore Cove. Hopefully, we will see Shrike, Blue Grosbeak, Whippoorwill, Chuck-will's-widow, etc.

### Spring Meeting

I would like to thank Tom Howe and all the good folks in the Knoxville chapter for hosting a wonderful Spring Meeting. Despite the rain on Saturday, I think everyone was able to get a warbler or two and had fun in doing so. The evening culminated in an extremely informative and entertaining

presentation by Dr. David Buehler regarding the plight of the Golden-winged Warbler.

Also, congratulations to Bill Haley and Jimmy & Cynthia Wilkerson as our TOS 2017 Distinguished Service Award recipients for their nearly 25 years of dedicated hawk-watching on Soddy Mountain. If you get a chance, please join them this fall on Soddy Mountain. Not only will you learn a bit more about raptor identification, you will gain appreciation for the tireless efforts they have endured for this past quarter of a century. Thanks to all of you who have helped Bill, Jimmy, and Cynthia over these many years.

Lastly, make plans for the fall meeting in Kingsport October 6-8. Should be another fun place to go birding that most of us have not visited. Details on our website and in The Warbler Steve Routledge

### **Bird Photography**



Eastern Wood Pewee, Signal Mountain  
Gary Lanham



Barred Owl Nestling, Radnor Lake by  
Hugh Barger



Great Crested Flycatcher, Nashville  
Hugh Barger



Chestnut Sided Warbler, Cherohala  
Skyway - Gary Lanham

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Northern Bobwhite, female, Rutherford County, Hugh Barger

### **What Have You Seen**

#### **Migration Count**

The Hamilton County Migration Count was held on Saturday May 6. Thirteen observers tallied 123 species, which is quite a bit below average but some great species were seen. Migration has been quite spotty and weak this spring in Hamilton County with less diversity than usual. The one bright spot was the Cravens Unit of Lookout Mountain which has been above normal with its migrant numbers. Another hot spot has been the wet fields near the Wilcox Driving Range across Shallowford Road from the Brainerd Levee. It provided the only decent shorebird spot this spring.

#### **Highlights included:**

Upland Sandpiper – I found it at the Wilcox Driving Range, has not been seen in Hamilton County in a few years.  
Stilt Sandpiper – Wilcox Driving Range  
Peregrine Falcon – flew across Broad Road  
Canvasback – Chester Frost  
Bufflehead  
Least Flycatcher – Cravens House  
Black-throated Blue Warbler – Cravens House, uncommon migrant in Hamilton County.  
(26 species of warblers for count)  
Marsh Wren – Standifer Gap Marsh

I want to thank everyone who helped with the count!!  
Kevin Calhoon



Orchard Oriole, Honors Golf Course  
Gary Lanham

May 13

This morning I led a bird walk at the Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center. Here is our list:

Great Blue Heron  
Canada Goose  
Turkey Vulture  
Mourning Dove  
Chimney Swift  
Downy Woodpecker  
Red-bellied Woodpecker  
Pileated Woodpecker  
Acadian Flycatcher  
Barn Swallow  
Tree Swallow  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow  
Blue Jay  
American Crow  
Carolina Chickadee  
Tufted Titmouse  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Carolina Wren  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Eastern Bluebird  
American Robin  
Swainson's Thrush  
Wood Thrush  
Brown Thrasher  
Cedar Waxwing  
Red-eyed Vireo  
White-eyed Vireo  
Yellow-throated Vireo  
Black-and-white Warbler  
Yellow-throated Warbler  
Common Yellowthroat  
Northern Parula  
Kentucky Warbler  
Scarlet Tanager  
Summer Tanager  
Northern Cardinal  
Rose-breasted Grosbeak  
Indigo Bunting  
Common Grackle  
Brown-headed Cowbird  
American Goldfinch  
David Aborn  
Chattanooga, TN

May 10 – 12

Banding on Wednesday (10 May) was very slow (2 White-eyed Vireos and a cardinal); there weren't even that many birds around, especially compared with Monday. Today (12 May) was better, but still pretty slow (2 Downy Woodpeckers, 1 cardinal, 1 titmouse). There was a nice surprise, however, which was also a new species banded out there...Swainson's Warbler!  
David Aborn

May 8

Hamilton County, TN  
The weather cooperated so that I was finally able to get back out banding at Greenway Farm. Much of my study area was under water, although the nets are out of the flood zone. I only caught 3 birds, all of them Northern Waterthrushes. There were about 8-10 other Northern Waterthrushes singing. I did not see or hear any migrants that haven't already been there for a while; Red-eyed Vireo, White-eyed Vireo, Gray

Catbird, Great-crested Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.  
David Aborn

Dan Jacobson and I did our annual Hamilton County Big Day on May 2. We ended up with 126 species, quite a bit below our record of 139 from 2015, but we had a great day and saw some good birds:

Highlights included:

28 species of warblers

Including Black-throated Blue (always rare in SE TN), our first FOS American Redstart and Yellow-breasted Chat.

Canvasback – Chester Frost Park  
Sora – Brainerd Levee

Only six species of shorebirds including Pectoral and Least Sandpipers.

Chuck-wills-widow – VW

Least Flycatcher – Cravens House  
Red-breasted Nuthatch – Cravens House

Marsh Wren – Brainerd Levee

Kevin Calhoon

### 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  
[chattanoogaoutlook.com](mailto:chattanoogaoutlook.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