



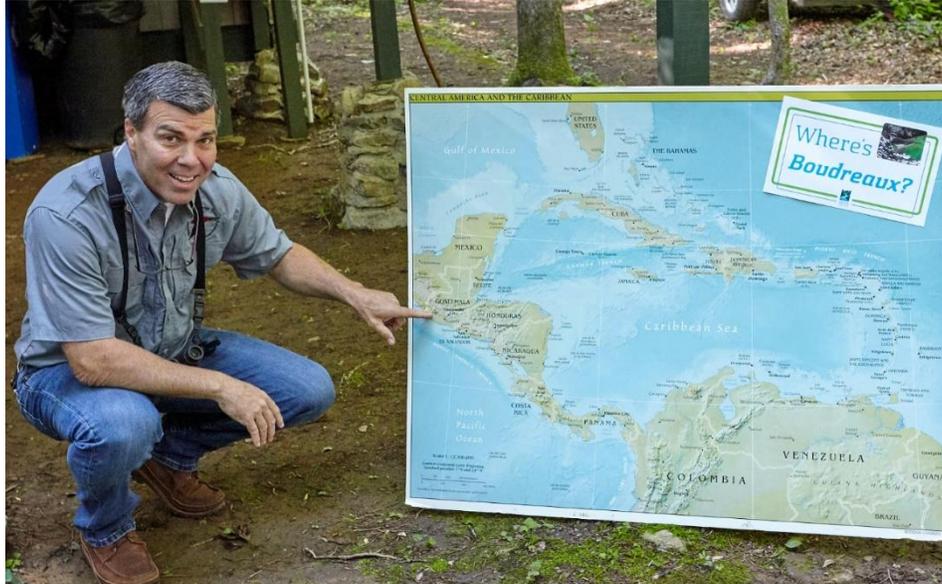
The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society



Rick Huffines showing wintering area of Louisiana Waterthrush— Story on Page 2; photo by Gary Lanham

No July meeting.

Our speaker for August will be Chris Sloane. In September Kaye Fiorello will give us an update on changes at the VW site.

Thanks

Thanks to Jeff Schaarschmidt for presenting a program on digital aids to birding at our June meeting.

News Items

The slate of officers for the next year will be: President: Danny Gaddy
VP- Programs: David Stone
VP- Field trips: Pixie Lanham
Treasurer: Gary Lanham
Secretary: Vicky Leather
Historian: Jennifer Rydell
Statistician: Kevin Calhoon

Thanks to Clyde Blum and Starr Klein for their many years of service on our behalf.

Spring Meeting

Our club will host the statewide Spring Meeting for 2018. Anita Gaddy has agreed to help with the arrangements. We will be working on plans over the coming months.

Field trips

Friday, July 21 – Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness—
Leaders: Pixie and Gary Lanham – On Friday, July 21st, we will head out to Bridgestone-Firestone Centennial Wilderness, just east of Sparta, TN. Target birds include Henslow's

Sparrows, Northern Bobwhite, Blue Grosbeaks, Dickcissels and Common Yellow-throats. If Kites have been spotted in Sequatchie Valley, we may look for those in transit. Meet at 7:30 AM in the parking lot of the Tractor Supply at the Sequoyah Road exit off Highway 27 in Soddy Daisy. Dress for the weather, bring bug and tick repellent, water, and snacks. We will be scouting the area soon and will send additional information in an email. If you plan to come, or for more information, please call Pixie Lanham at 886-4321 (leave a message if no answer) or email planham@epbfi.com.

Louisiana Waterthrush Study

Rick Huffines (pictured on page One), Executive Director with the Tennessee River Gorge Trust, points to Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, the wintering site for three of the Louisiana Waterthrushes which had geolocators attached here in Spring 2016, based on preliminary evaluation of recovered data. Results have been good, with 5 of the 16 geocator birds recovered so far, along with 5 control birds. One geo bird wintered at least part of the time in Costa Rica based on the preliminary data, and the fifth recovered bird's geocator has been sent for specialized extraction of data. Recapture efforts are ongoing, and Rick will provide more data as it becomes available. He plans to speak to CTOS about the results when they are more complete.

The study is a team-based, two-year pilot project being conducted by the Tennessee River Gorge Trust through a generous grant from the Benwood Foundation and with support from other donors, including CTOS. Rick and CTOS members John and Lizzie Diener discussed the details of the study with us last year. John and Lizzie then spearheaded the effort to capture, band, and attach geolocators to Louisiana Waterthrushes nesting in the Gorge area

in Spring 2016. They have since participated in other projects in Central America, the Caribbean, and the Smoky Mountains. The current Team in the Gorge consists of Eliot Berz and Holland Youngman. They are in the process of leading the bird recapture, the data analysis, and writing the summary paper on the harness techniques used in the project, as well as the final analysis of the full life cycle information gleaned from the geolocators. The Team is under Rick Huffines' supervision and Master Banding Permit, and they deserve our recognition of the enormous effort which is going into this endeavor. Rick Huffines and Gary Lanham

Editors Corner

I wrote this story while employed at the Woodlands Nature Center of Land Between the Lakes near Clarksville, Tennessee. It appeared in the newsletter *Franklinia* in 1989.

Owl Aboard

When the little owl arrived at Woodlands Nature Center, it seemed alert enough, but it couldn't fly or even open its left wing. There was a red raw spot on the wing and another on its breast where it had flown into a barb wire fence. The bird clacked its beak in warning as we examined and disinfected its wounds.

The owl couldn't have weighed more than three ounces and stood about four inches tall, but it was no baby; it was a Northern Saw-whet Owl, one of North America's smallest. Although common in some areas, the saw whet is rare in southern states, and this was only the second recorded for our area.

Our nature center is not in the business of wildlife rehabilitation, but a few animals are permanently placed here as educational exhibits (most of them given to us by rehabilitators after determining that they are non-releasable). People

know us as “that animal place”, and often bring us injured animals hoping that we can “fix them up” as did the farmer who brought us the owl.

We generally provide only immediate care (first aid and rehydration) and then transport the animal to a rehabilitator in the area. We suggest that anyone calling about an animal take the animal in question directly to a rehabilitator. On this April Day though, everyone seemed to have their hands full, even the raptor clinic at the local university. Their director examined the bird for serious injuries and suggested a regimen of food and exercise.

A week after its arrival, the saw whet owl was flying around the auditorium between programs, and ten days after arrival it was ready for release. We drove to a pine woods well away from busy traffic and removed it from the carrier. At first it sat on my gloved hand and peered at the surroundings but would not fly. Then it stretched its wings and a sudden burst of energy took it to a nearby branch.

What Have You Seen

I just finished putting up pictures from our short trip to the Magee Marsh area in Ohio. If you notice anything identified incorrectly or can help identifying any of my unknowns let me know. Enjoy.
<http://www.pbase.com/dspicer/ohio2017>
Dave Spicer

May 15

I awoke this morning to a Chuck-wills-widow calling, which was not only the first I have heard this spring, it was also a new yard bird. I only caught 1 bird while banding at Greenway Farm, but it was another FOS; Gray-cheeked Thrush. Finally, through the whine of all the mosquitoes, I heard my first Yellow-billed Cuckoo of the spring out there.
David Aborn

May 25

Victor and I just got off the river after searching for the Marion County Limpkin. We spent from 2:30-5:45 scanning the

shoreline along that section of river from kayaks without success, but we probably didn't stay late enough.

We talked to one of the girls who is currently helping with the banding, she confirmed the location for us. She also told us Rick has a good photo on his phone from the original encounter. The bird was seen from the boat, as they were coming in for a landing. It then retreated up the bank and into cover.

If the bird is still present, it will probably feed along the water's edge somewhere in that area, and the only reasonable chance to find it, I would think, would be either to hear it calling at dawn or dusk, or by searching the shoreline from a boat or kayak. The area into which the bird retreats is very dense timber, and even if you could get permission to go there, I doubt it would be productive. Good luck to those who continue the search!
Ruben Stoll, Centerville TN

May 3

Dade County, GA

A good friend of mine teaches at Hiram College in OH, and every few years she takes a group of students on a 3-week “migration tour”. They go to various places in TX, LA, MS, AL, GA, and WV. In Georgia, they spend a couple of days at Cloudland Canyon State Park, and she asked me to join them today. It was a great group of students and we saw quite the assortment of species, including a few First of Season (FOS) for me. Here is the list:

Broad-winged Hawk (FOS)
Turkey Vulture
Killdeer
Mourning Dove
Chimney Swift
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Great-crested Flycatcher
Tree Swallow
Purple Martin
Blue Jay
American Crow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
 Eastern Bluebird
 American Robin
 Swainson's Thrush (FOS)
 Cedar Waxwing
 Red-eyed Vireo
 Yellow-throated Vireo
 Black-throated-green Warbler
 Black-and-white Warbler
 Pine Warbler
 Blackpoll Warbler
 Palm Warbler
 Cape May Warbler (FOS)
 Bay-breasted Warbler (FOS)
 Hooded Warbler
 Ovenbird
 Worm-eating Warbler (FOS)
 Louisiana Waterthrush
 Tennessee Warbler
 Summer Tanager
 Scarlet Tanager
 Northern Cardinal
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
 Blue Grosbeak (FOS)
 Indigo Bunting
 Eastern Towhee
 Chipping Sparrow
 Field Sparrow
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 American Goldfinch
 David Aborn

May 2

I had my first Blackpoll Warbler of the season in my yard this morning. I also saw my first chat of the spring at the Chickamauga Dam on Saturday (April 29). I still have not seen or heard my first Hooded Warbler or Ovenbird.
 David Aborn

April 26

There were lots of Northern Waterthrushes and Gray Catbirds around at Greenway Farm. I also saw my first Indigo Bunting of the spring. Other migrants seen were Great-crested Flycatchers, Eastern Kingbird, Red-eyed Vireos, and White-eyed Vireos.
 Banding totals were:
 Northern Waterthrush = 4
 Gray Catbird = 2
 Carolina Wren = 1
 Eastern Towhee = 1
 Brown-headed Cowbird = 1
 David Aborn

We too have Brown-headed Nuthatches as yard birds here in Hixson, Hamilton County, Tennessee. Two years ago we lost our pine tree due to power board tree trimmers. This year, our neighbor immediately across the street, had his three pines removed. Limbs from one particular tree were as big as some trees. I was sure we would lose our two Brown-headed Nuthatch feeder birds.

About two weeks ago we were astonished to see the couple bring four offspring to the black oil sunflower feeder. Three of those birds have found the peanut feeder and spend much of their time going round and round the feeder. It's quite a sight to watch from our deck. Now with no pines in sight, I keep our feeders full and am anxious about the future of our nuthatches.

While I'm at it, we also had two newly fledged Carolina Chickadees, which came to our home-made ant guard above the hummer feeder. The ant guard used to be a spray paint lid. What a sight, two tiny chickadees bathing inside the tiny lid!

It's been a good season, with a plethora of other newly hatched birds, the most I remember in the past 23 years. I am wondering if others have also had an influx of hatchlings at their feeders this year.

Jimmy and Cynthia 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.