



The Chattanooga Chat

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August 2016, 2016: Vol. 40, No 10

A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

August Meeting

Ascension Lutheran Church
720 S Germantown Rd
Thursday, August 10
5:30 p.m. Executive Board
7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting
Program:

For the August 10 meeting Chris Sloan from Nashville will present a program about his 2016 birding trip to Borneo. Chris has done a program for us once a year for several years and they are always great. He said this one is especially good.

In September Kaye Fiorello will give us an update on changes at the VW site.



Barred Owl Preening - Hugh Barger

Field Trip

We will go out to find Fall migrating birds. The date and location will depend on weather conditions over the next few weeks. We will announce details at the August meeting and by email. Let me know if you see something.
Pixie Lanham planham@epbfi.com



Yellow-breasted Chat from Bridgestone-Firestone Centennial Wilderness, – Gary Lanham

Pixie Lanham's Field Trip Report

We enjoyed the field trip on 21st July to the Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness Wildlife Management Area. We had Henslow's Sparrows and Bobwhite Quail along with numerous Indigo Buntings, Common Yellowthroat, and others. James Douglas, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, gave us a driving tour of this massive property. This area is maintained habitat for the Bobwhite Quail with large tracts of land on rotational burn cycles. There is NO hunting of quail, but there is restricted access during other hunting seasons. We will be going back again in the future. You can drive in on the property if the gate is open; one can always walk in.

2017 Fall Meeting and Symposium at Kingsport - From TOS Web Site
The Kingsport Chapter will host the 2017 fall meeting and symposium in

Kingsport. The meeting will take place Friday, October 6 through Sunday, October 8. Activities will include field trips on Saturday and Sunday mornings, and the annual symposium and fall Board of Directors meeting Saturday afternoon.

The Friday evening registration, social, and informal dinner will take place from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Shelter #9, Bays Mountain Recreation Area, 404 Bays Mountain Park Road, Kingsport.

Other meeting activities will take place at the Meadowview Marriott Conference Resort and Convention Center, 1901 Meadowview Parkway, Kingsport, TN 37760. The Meadowview Marriot is adjacent to the Cattails Golf Course, which provides good birding opportunities. It is also at the foot of Bays Mountain, the location of Bays Mountain Park, the largest city park in the state and a well-known birding site.

Field trips on Saturday and Sunday mornings are planned for Roan Mountain, the South Holston Weir Dam, and various locations around Kingsport on the Kingsport Birding Trail.



A Common Yellowthroat from Bridgestone-Firestone Centennial Wilderness -Gary Lanham
More Photos on pages 3 & 4

Lodging - Check the website <http://www.tnbirds.org/Events/Fallmtg17.html>

Saturday Banquet

The banquet speaker will be Dr. Fred J. Alsop, III, a professor in the ETSU Department of Biological Sciences. Dr. Alsop tells students who take his ornithology classes “this class will change your life,” and it does.

Contact Information

For more information contact the Kingsport chapter at birdingkingsport@gmail.com. Additional information on the meeting will be posted here as it becomes available.

Editors Corner

Winter Dance
(Previously Unpublished)

On Christmas Day of 1993 I walked the trails at Reflection Riding and witnessed the dance of mallards. I recognized this dance, having read about it in the *Stokes Guide to Bird Behavior, Volume I*.

The drakes circled the pond in breeding plumage. The green head and reddish breast made a splendid display, perfect for catching the eye of a brown female, watching from the shallows near the pond's edge.

Soon a female duck tucked her beak near a wing and swam past the circling males. True to its name, this “inciting display” provoked remarkable antics on the part of the males. They began by bobbing their heads. Each in turn dipped his beak in the water and flung water droplets into the air. Two raised their beaks skyward and shook their heads from side to side.

As the drakes continued their dance, they held heads and tails high in display of readiness for courtship to continue.

Soon a female mallard made a pass through the center of their graceful water ballet. She was “nod swimming” with neck straight out and head low to the water. She gave loud quacking calls, known as the “inciting call.”

Her maneuver provoked another round of displays. The drakes shook their heads from side to side, swam with head up and tail up, and repeatedly flung water drops over their heads. One followed the female but she quickly rebuffed him with open beak and swam off.

Later in the year the females would be on their own and laying eggs. Perhaps one of this year's young would survive to join the dance.



Osprey from Blythe Ferry, Rhea side, 24 June 2017 by Gary Lanham

What Have You Seen?

July 23

This afternoon there was a Pectoral Sandpiper feeding with Killdeers at the second pond at the W. R. Grace Company. I believe this is the first of the Fall season sighting for East Tennessee. Bruce Dralle

July 14

While birding Point Park this morning I was surprised to find a Dark-eyed Junco feeding along the path.

The Birds of Tennessee-A New Annotated Checklist includes the species as a locally common Summer resident in the Southern Blue Ridge.

Does anyone know of any Summer

sightings away from the Southern Blue Ridge?

Bruce Dralle

July 3

The Wood Stork is still present in Polk County. The bird was feeding in a small branch at the junction of Highway 68 and Cedar Springs Road. Thanks to Linda Walker for posting this sighting. This is a species I never thought I would see in Polk County.

Highway 68 is a busy road with no shoulder. Very curvy. If you pursue this bird be careful. The stork was feeding in/along a very small branch with heavy cover and hard to locate. We were lucky on our sixth pass to catch a quick look and a couple of very bad photos.

Rick Houlk

I saw the immature Wood Stork on the west side of Hwy 68 at 6.9 miles north from the Parksville Highway in Ducktown. It was slightly beyond an old barn close to the road with grape vines growing on the fence out in a grassy field. This was about noon local time.

David Chaffin

July 3rd

An immature Little Blue Heron was seen around noon today at the Brainerd Levee. The Little Blue Heron was moving down the levee from mile marker 0.8.

Bruce Dralle

June 25

Observers noted five warbler species in Rhea County today. Those species found at Yuchi Refuge, included Prothonotary, Common Yellowthroat, Prairie, and Yellow-breasted Chat. These were all seen during a walk from Gate 1 to and along the flooded areas. If you go there, you should wear boots sprayed with insect and tick repellent. Please park so that the gate isn't blocked, and don't

walk on any of the corn plants just beginning to grow!

Along Maple Springs Road at the Cottonport Wildlife Management Area, Prothonotary and Northern Parula warblers were seen and heard. The specific area was where water is on both sides of the road.

I have now failed in three attempts to locate the mergansers seen by others in recent days near the Blythe Ferry landing in Rhea County.
Charles Murray,

June 24
Red-breasted Merganser at Blythe Ferry.
Gary Lanham

June 22
Probably due to Tropical Storm Cindy. At 5:45 pm there were three Laughing Gulls resting on the water above Chickamauga Dam.
Bruce Dralle

June 23
A Willet was standing on the fishing pier at the Rhea County Blythe Ferry landing about 12:30 pm today. It allowed another photographer and I to get close enough for photos, but it disappeared about 12:45 pm after we had walked away.

I searched the Chickamauga Dam area, Booker T. Washington State Park, and a couple of sites further north on the Tennessee River looking for the Laughing Gulls reported yesterday, but I did not see them.
Charles Murray

With the time of year and the weather currently passing through, this bird should be checked carefully to see if it

might be an Eastern Willet, which would be a state record (and likely split soon).
Dean Edwards
Knoxville, TN

June 23
As of 11:30 this morning there are still two immature Laughing Gulls at Chickamauga Dam.
Bruce Dralle



Barn Swallows on my front porch –
Hugh Barger

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.