



The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

Meeting

Ascension Lutheran Church
720 S Germantown Rd
Thursday, November 9

5:30 p.m. Executive Board
7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting

Program: The November program will be a great chance to improve your bird photography. Tom & Pat Cory of Signal Mt. are wonderful bird photographers. They will show pictures you will love but also go through lots of tips to help you become a better photographer. We had a low turnout last month. Those who were there will say you missed a great program. Let's have a good turnout for the November 9 meeting.

Thanks

Thanks to Eliot Berz who presented our October program.



Philadelphia Vireo by Gary Lanham
Honors Golf Course

Field Trips

Saturday the 11th of November let's meet at the Chickamauga dam to look for migrating waterfowl. From there we will carpool/caravan to other locations along the river. Bring a scope and dress for the weather. For more info contact planham@epbfi.com.

New Members have joined TOS and the Chattanooga Chapter:
Bob Maruna
Barbara and Phillip Gordon

Boy Scouts Learn Birding Skills

CTOS members Pixie and Gary Lanham were instructors for the Bird Study course at the Audubon Acres Boy Scout University on October 7th. Six scouts, ages 14 to 17, took part and met the BSA requirements for their merit badges. Although birding was slow, two separate bird walks netted 21 birds, including Brown-headed Nuthatch, Ovenbird, White-eyed Vireo, and Red-headed Woodpecker. That was one more than the required 20. Other aspects of bird study were covered in an additional three hours of classroom work, including how birding relates to environmental monitoring. Pixie and Gary said that if those scouts are typical of American youth today,

there is good reason to be optimistic about the country's future.

David Stone gave a program on Chattanooga Area Birds & How to Attract Them to the Collegedale Garden Club on September 25 and to the Valleybrook Community Club on October 7.

Wings of Winter Kentucky & Barkley Lake Birding Festival
January 19-21, 2018 at Paris Landing State Park. Featured speakers include Julie Zickefoose & Brian Fox Ellis as John James Audubon
<http://paristnchamber.com/wingsofwinter/>

Fall Meeting

The TOS Fall Meeting, hosted by the Fred J. Alsop III chapter of Kingsport, was a rousing success. Over 60 participants enjoyed great food, field trips, camaraderie, programs and yes, even birding!! Also, the Meadowview Inn, quite possibly the nicest venue that I recall hosting a TOS meeting, was a stellar venue to anchor our weekend's activities. University of Tennessee undergrad Evans Buck's paper session regarding the American Woodcock and Dr. Alsop's Saturday evening program explaining the effort and process behind the ETSU Eagle Cams highlighted a most enjoyable weekend.

On behalf of TOS, a heartfelt thank you to the entire Kingsport chapter for their dedication and combined efforts in planning this very enjoyable weekend.

If I don't see you sooner, I hope to see everyone at the Wings of Winter Birding Festival January 19-21 at Paris Landing and for our Annual Spring Meeting April 20-22 in Chattanooga.

Good Birding!!,
Steve Routledge

Editors Corner

Upstream by Mary Oliver
Reviewed by Ray Zimmerman

Although primarily known as an author of lovely poetry with a hefty emphasis on nature, Mary Oliver is also an eloquent essayist. In this latest collection, she reveals how nature and literature motivated her from an early age. She states that she could not have become a poet without the natural world, and provides descriptions of many charming encounters with nature in the Cape Cod environs. She tells of an injured gull who spent its remaining days living at her house, owls she encountered on the dunes, fishing beyond the breakwater, and snapping turtles nesting among the dunes. She reports on the ponds of the cape and the ducks observed there.

She also presents essays on four of her favorite poets, Emerson, Poe, Wordsworth and Whitman. She includes two essays on Whitman, and this is fitting given his role in establishing a uniquely American voice in poetry. For all who hear the voice of nature, this short volume will be a delight.

**Hurricane Damage
Posted by David Chaffin on tn-bird
mailing list.**

On the Florida side, all 44 Snail kite nests sites were destroyed and there was salt water intrusion into fresh water. <http://www.audubon.org/news/hurricane-irma-destroyed-all-everglade-snail-kite-nests-lake-okeechobee>

Jerry Wayne Davis
Hot Springs, AR



Black Throated Green Warbler at
Honors Golf Course – Gary Lanham

What Have You Seen

From September 25 through October 13 David Stone hosted 5 birding field trips to The Honors Course in Ooltewah. Bird sightings ranged from a low of 35 on September 28 to a high of 50 on October 9. Highlights included 12 warbler species, White-eyed Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireos and Red-eyed Vireos. A total of 67 species were seen when all trips were included.

October 17

Early this morning, I located a Golden-crowned Kinglet and a few Ruby-crowned Kinglets at home in Birchwood. Both were first-of-season species for me.

Later in the morning, a first-of-year Gray-cheeked Thrush was observed at the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge. I also saw a Golden-crowned Kinglet at HWR
Charles Murray

October 16

Increasingly windy conditions kept banding numbers down yesterday:

Northern Cardinal = 1

Wood Thrush = 1

Swainson's Thrush = 1

Hermit Thrush = 1

The Hermit Thrush was a first of the season for me, and I also heard my first Ruby-crowned Kinglet of the fall. There were also lots of Palm Warblers around. The season is changing!

David Aborn

October 16

After the passing of last night's strong cold front, I observed two First-of-Season migrant warblers in Birchwood. At my home in Birchwood (Hamilton County), I noted at least 3 Yellow-rumped Warblers. Later in the morning, a Palm Warbler was observed at the viewing area of the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge in Meigs County.

The most colorful Magnolia Warbler I've seen all season was at my home, and a Gray Catbird was still present at home.
Charles Murray

October 9

Fall migration continues to trickle through:

Magnolia Warbler = 3

Gray Catbird = 2

White-eyed Vireo = 1

Hooded Warbler = 1

Tufted Titmouse = 1

Eastern Towhee = 1

The vireo and the Hooded Warbler were extremely fat; without fat, they should each be about 10 grams, but the warbler was 15 grams, and the vireo was nearly 18 grams!

Thanks to Laura Marsh for her help this morning.

David Aborn

October 9

Red Phalarope at Nickajack Dam as of an hour and a half ago. Dan Jacobson

October 6
Brainerd Levee
Seen late this afternoon a Long-billed
Dowitcher feeding with Killdeers,
Pectoral and Least Sandpipers.
Bruce Dralle

Greenway Banding
I have been neglectful in reporting my
banding numbers for the past week. I
was optimistic that the front that came
through last week would push a lot of
migrants this way, and it did, but not as
many as I had thought. There were
LOTS of catbirds and thrashers around,
especially on Oct. 1 and 2, even though I
did not band that many.

Sept. 27:
Gray Catbird = 3
White-eyed Vireo = 1
Carolina Wren = 1

Oct. 1:
Gray Catbird = 3
Ovenbird = 2
Brown Thrasher = 2
Magnolia Warbler = 1
Hooded Warbler = 1
House Wren = 1

Oct. 2:
Gray Catbird = 3
Brown Thrasher = 2
Hooded Warbler = 1
Northern Cardinal = 1

Oct. 4:
Gray Catbird = 2
Winter Wren = 1
Hooded Warbler = 1
Northern Cardinal = 1
Brown Thrasher = 1
David Aborn

October 1
We had a great morning in Polk County.
Jen and I added two new county birds at
the Gliderport (restricted access). On
the drive in we saw two juvenile
American Golden plovers feeding with
20-30 Killdeer. Great looks with bad

photos. Just over the hill a Peregrine
Falcon was sitting in the middle of the
field. We got great looks with better
photos.

Rick Houlk

September 30
I found a Clay-colored Sparrow feeding
and traveling with a flock of Field
Sparrows this afternoon from Hickory
Valley Road, just past the railroad tracks
and the metal guard rail on the right, or
South side of Discovery Drive. You will
have to be patient and locate the Field
Sparrow flock. There are a couple of
Field Sparrow flocks working both sides
of Discovery Drive.

No playback is necessary or was used.
Bruce Dralle

September 30
First fall arrival of two Yellow-bellied
Sapsuckers in our yard this afternoon,
one with juvenile plumage. This may be
the earliest ever for our yard. Another
migrant of note this past week was a
Warbling Vireo, first time ever in our
yard.

Pixie and 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.