



The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

September Meeting

Ascension Lutheran Church
720 S Germantown Rd
Thursday, September 10, 2015
5:30 p.m. Executive Board
7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting

Program: On short notice David Vogt has agreed to be our speaker for the September 10 meeting to fill in for Charlie Muse who had to cancel. David is an experienced birder and bird bander and will have an interesting program.

Thanks to Ken Dubke for presenting our August program. Ken provided numerous historic documents and lead a lively discussion of our TOS past efforts. Thanks also to Barbara and Mike McMahon for providing refreshments.



Ken Dubke at the August meeting

September FIELD TRIPS

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPT. 19-20 & 26-27 – HAWK WATCHES ON SODDY MTN. – CYNTHIA & JIMMY WILKERSON & HAROLD BIRCH. Take Hwy. 27 North to Hwy. 111 in Soddy. Take 111 North and exit at Jones Gap Rd. Turn left on Jones Gap Rd., cross the bridge, and continue approximately 2.2 miles.

When the road makes a sharp right, continue to the left to the end, climb the bank, and you are there. Hawks don't usually start flying until 9:00-9:30. Bring a folding chair, sunscreen, water, snacks, binoculars, scope, if you have one, and stay as long as you can. If you cannot go those days, call Jimmy (423-305-2766). They hope to be there a few other days between Sept. 15 and the end of the month.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 22; WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 30; THURSDAY, OCT. 1; AND TUESDAY, OCT. 6 – HONORS COURSE BIRDING – David Stone has arranged birding opportunities from 5:15- 7:30 PM on those days. He will accept 10 people each day. Please E-mail David at rockyturf@epbfi.com with the date you want to attend, and he will let you know if you make the cut. Meet at the Club House. Call 423-238-4234 if you do not have access to E-mail.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 – JOHN DIENER & LIZZIE GOODRICK – BIRD BANDING AT THE OLD CASH HOUSE ON RIVER CANYON ROAD AND ON OCTOBER 3 AT THE

BANDING LAB – For both trips, meet at the new old Food Lion next to the new LaQuinta Inn, 311 Browns Ferry Road, Chattanooga, TN. Bring plenty of water, food, rain gear, sturdy walking shoes. Long pants are suggested due to the possibility of poison ivy and ticks.

My VW helped save a baby bird last night.

A baby bird had fallen out of its nest (@40 feet up) in a tree during yesterday's storms. The neighbor boy spotted the baby bird when it was calling for its mother. It called and called for momma for a few hours. I told my neighbor via text, it was likely a new bird learning to fly, and Momma would be around to feed it and teach it to find its own food. I assumed that this late in the year, it was a fully "fledged" bird – some birds actually drop to the ground and learn to fly from there, so this is not uncommon.

Then more rain, and lightning came, and my neighbor was more urgently texting me to come save this baby, as momma had not come. So I got on my raincoat and walked on over, never thinking this was a bird emergency!

Was I surprised! It was a nestling, and its little eyes were not yet open, and its feathers were still in their protective sheaths. A baby woodpecker! Very late in the season for such a tiny baby! Soaked to the bone and cold, it was still and quiet, until I approached and then it called up a panicked storm for momma. But momma was probably with her other babies, and there is no way for her to get that one back up to the nest. And with it being too high for our tallest ladder – baby had to be rescued.

I got a soft cloth and bundled him up, placing him on a nice heating pad in the house, then called a rescuer (Sherry Teas) for next steps. She told me that his

situation was critical, and she needed him to get to her tonight! So I said, no problem, I'll bring him to you. She said the most important thing is to keep him in the cloth and warm – did I have anything to warm him during the 40 minute drive to her house?

Panic set in – I don't have a way to turn the heating pad on in my car, and I didn't have one of those fancy microwave heat pads! Then it dawned on me! My VW has heated seats! So I asked her, "Will a heated seat work?" and she said, "I think so." So off we went, me and the baby bird, happily peeping and warm, headed to the safety of a licensed rehabber. And here's the funny part! When I stopped at Sherry's house, baby woodpecker woke up from his warm slumber and put up a fit because his seat was turned off!

So – my VW helped save a baby bird last night! J

News Items

Fall Meeting

Have you made plans to attend the TOS FALL MEETING in Nashville on October 2nd-4th??

Information and a registration form can be found at the following link:

<http://www.tnbirds.org/Events/Fallmtg15.html>

Cyndi Routledge

Notes from the Field



Great Horned Owl rehabilitated and released by Alix Parks.

July 22

I have continued to see immature Little Blue Herons from my office window for more than 2 weeks now. The birds are feeding in the pond/swamp between Greenway View Drive (the road to the Brainerd Walmart) and the Brainerd Levee in Chattanooga.

The most I have seen at one time is four, sometimes just one or two. The past couple days there have been 3. A couple times a Great Egret has also been there, so don't assume that anything white is a Little Blue.

Tim Jeffers

July 23

Two of the smaller white birds are much closer today (in the ditch on the other side of Greenway View Drive) and I can see clearly that they are immature SNOWY EGRETS rather than Little Blue Herons.

These 2 in the ditch have blackish bills and black on their legs and yellow feet. The Little Blues bills were gray with dark tip and legs were green. So we likely have had a combination of Little

Blues and Snowy Egrets over the past week or two.

There is also a Yellow-crowned Night Heron in the little ditch right now (a more common visitor here).

Tim Jeffers

July 23 – Greenway View Drive

As we first arrived, 3 possible Great Egrets flew toward, then over the Walmart. They crossed I-75, flying over Brown Acres Golf Course and appeared to fly on toward Camp Jordan in East Ridge. I then became somewhat skeptical to walk out onto the continuation of the Brainerd Levee, aka Upper Levee, to check the ponds from that side of Green Way Drive since we has seen the 3 white birds fly away. Once we got out on the (upper) levee path we saw several Wood Ducks, a Green Heron and Red-headed Woodpeckers but no Snowy Egrets were present. We only saw the Snowy Egrets as we were about to leave. It was just a stroke of luck that they flew in as I was about to drive away. I had already made up my mind to go visit Camp Jordan to look for white birds.

Thanks to Tim Jeffers for posting his sightings!

Jimmy & Cynthia Wilkerson

July 24

David Chaffin found an Olive-sided Flycatcher this morning at the second pond at the "Walmart" Levee on Greenway View Drive. He said the bird was perched on a snag in the wooded area between the two ponds on trees closest to the levee.

I went there around 12:30 pm, and did not relocate the bird, but did find two Snowy Egrets, and two immature Little Blue Herons. I stayed over an hour. There are a lot of other nice birds at this location...Green Heron, Eastern Kingbirds, Red-headed Woodpeckers,

Northern Flicker, and Wood Ducks just to name a few.
Libby Wolf

July 29

Dollyann and I drove down to Chattanooga (Hamilton County) to the South Chickamauga Creek Greenway ponds early this morning to try to see the Snowy Egrets that have been seen there the past few days. It was a whopping success. We got out on the Greenway at 7:10 and left at 7:40. In that 1/2 hour we had:

Great Blue Heron – 3

Snowy Egret – 3

Little Blue Heron – 2

Green Heron – 5

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – 1

Wood Duck – 25

About 20 other species too

Gorgeous birding spot! Located at the corner of Lee Highway and Greenway View Drive

Great Birding,

Ron Hoff & Dollyann Myers

August 5

I made the long drive to Dyer County and Great River Road on Saturday August 2 to see the shorebirds Mark Greene reported. The habitat was still great and there were several hundred shorebirds spread across the fields and the edge of a couple of ponds. I did not see the Black-bellied Plover, but after an hour searching I found the Piping Plover, Wilsons Phalarope and Sanderlings that Mark had reported the day before plus two BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS. There may have been other species besides the 13 that I observed but many were very far out and the heat convection was rough.

On August 3 I found at least 6 Black Terns above Nickajack Dam in Marion

County. They were perched on a couple of piles of rocks helping mark the channel.

Kevin Calhoun

August 7

I found a molting female Wilsons Phalarope in a wet construction site (on the right as you enter the Camp Jordan area across from gray work trailer) yesterday afternoon around 5:00 PM. It stayed in same place feeding with Killdeer until we left around 7:30. This is never a common species SE Tennessee and even more rare in summer.

Kevin Calhoun

August 8

Tommie Rogers just called me and said a couple of birders from Mississippi just found a RUFF at the pits in Shelby County. Tommie just found it again and they photographed it. Apparently it is in the “left hand” back pond up against the forest.

Kevin Calhoun

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:

Starr Klein, CTOS

217 Arrow Dr.

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