



# The Chattanooga Chat

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Tennessee Ornithological Society

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## August Meeting

**Ascension Lutheran Church**  
**720 S Germantown Rd**  
**Thursday, August 9**  
**5:30 p.m. Executive Board**  
**7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting**

**Program:** For the August 9 meeting we have Chris Sloan back. His program will be Uganda: Birds and Great Apes. Chris will share photos and stories from a recent tour of Uganda, including a variety of spectacular endemic birds, "big five" mammals, Mountain Gorillas, Chimpanzees, and scenery. Chris always has a great program and you will not want to miss this one.



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher  
Nine Mile Crossroads, Bledsoe County  
Photo by Gary Lanham

## Field Trips

August Field Trips to be announced. As the fall migrating birds begin to arrive in the area we will go out to get a look.

Let me know if you see something. Pixie  
[planham@epbfi.com](mailto:planham@epbfi.com)

## News Items

New Trail at Enterprise South

Hamilton County Birders - 10 miles of new trail have opened to the north of the VW wetland, west of Enterprise South Nature Park. Nice wide shady trails. The Summit Knob Equestrian Trail is open to pedestrians without dogs (due to it being a horse trail). Horses have right of way, but the trails are nicely made, wide and easy to walk (some hilly, but mostly switchback). I birded there this evening and got a number (36) of common birds. Raptors and woodpeckers are present.

This area is where we see a lot of warblers in spring, and it will be good to see what we can get this year on trails! I did create a hotspot called Summit Knob Equestrian Trails - the parking lot is around these coordinates - 35°06'14.2"N 85°08'17.7"W

The entrance is located off Ferdinand Piëch Way, which is off Highway 58 at Clark road intersection.

Happy Birding!  
Kaye Fiorello

## Excerpts from the *Tennessee Warbler*, August 2018:

Refer to this link for additional information-  
<http://www.tnbirds.org/downloads/warbleraug18.pdf>

**2018 TOS FALL MEETING & SYMPOSIUM, MANCHESTER, TENNESSEE, October 5-7, 2018**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wings of Winter Birding Festival (WOW)** will take place on January 18-20, 2019. Hosted and sponsored by The Friends of TN National Wildlife Refuge, with over a dozen additional sponsoring organizations, including TOS, this wintertime festival continues to grow in size and popularity.

**Black-capped Vireo Delisted: Thanks to the Endangered Species Act**

Thanks to robust conservation efforts, the Black-capped Vireo is being removed from the list of endangered and threatened species. From a low of only 350 birds in the late 1980's the population has recovered to an estimated 14,000 birds across the breeding range of Oklahoma, Texas and Mexico.

**Kirtland's Warbler Fully Recovered: Thanks to the Endangered Species Act**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will propose delisting the endangered Kirtland's Warbler, a gray and yellow songbird that ranges from the Great Lakes to the Bahamas. The bird was one of the original species listed under the Endangered Species Act and over the last 50 years has improved from about 200 breeding males to nearly 2,400 today.

More Bird conservation stories appear in *The Warbler*.

**Sandhill Crane Hunting Season**

David Aborn brought this item to our attention from WTVC News:

“The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has finalized the details for the 2018 sandhill crane hunting season

permit allotment. They are increasing the number of sandhill crane harvest tags to a total of 2,711, up from 2,300 tags allotted last hunting season.

This year TWRA will issue 479 permits (each permit allowing three cranes per hunter per season) for the Southeast Tennessee hunting zone. There will be a handheld drawing for the permits on Saturday, August 11, 2018. However, after an overflow crowd poured into the Birchwood Community Center last year, the Agency is moving the handheld drawing.

The full story appears here: <https://newschannel9.com/sports/outdoors/twra-increases-number-of-sandhill-crane-hunting-permits>



Chipping Sparrow bringing food to nest  
Granny Ruth's Garden, Bledsoe County  
Photo by Gary Lanham

**Editors Corner**

Naturalist (The Autobiography of Edward O. Wilson)  
1994, Island Press/ Shearwater Books  
Reviewed by Ray Zimmerman

Wilson is eloquent and readable. He begins his description with early childhood days exploring the beaches and backwaters of the Gulf Coast of Alabama and north Florida. His time in a military school, his baptism in a Southern Baptist church, and days as a Boy Scout are among his early influences described in the book. From

there Wilson continues the story with an attempt to enlist in the Army, rejected due to near blindness in one eye, and his training as a Biologist at the University of Alabama.

After completing his Bachelors and Masters degrees at Alabama, he began doctoral studies at the University of Tennessee, but soon transferred to Harvard. At Harvard he received the Ph.D. degree at age twenty-five and joined the faculty as an associate professor at age 26. He has remained at Harvard as a student, professor, and professor emeritus for over fifty years.

Although I found the story of his early influences interesting, the real depth of the book, **Naturalist**, is in his descriptions of days at Harvard, where he knew some of the world's great biologists as colleagues. He is equally candid in describing both collaborators and competitors. Among the collaborators was Robert MacArthur, the brilliant mathematical ecologist who collaborated with him on **The Theory of Island Biogeography**.

*Excerpted from a longer article which originally appeared in **The Hellbender Press**, Knoxville, Tennessee*

### **What Have You Seen**

Excerpts from tn-bird mailing list.

June 19

A Dickcissel was heard, seen, and photographed in Rhea County not far from Double-S Road and the Dayton airport this morning. I also heard a singing Northern Bobwhite in the same area. Some other highlights of the morning were:

Wild Turkey - Cottonport Road, Rhea Co.

Great Egret – Grasshopper Road, Hamilton Co.

Green Heron – Cottonport Wildlife Management Area, Rhea Co.

Belted Kingfisher - Grasshopper Road, Hamilton Co.

American Kestrel - Meadowview Road, Hamilton Co.

Northern Parula – (heard) - Cottonport Wildlife Management Area, Rhea

Charles Murray



Chipping Sparrow on nest awaiting food  
Granny Ruth's Garden, Bledsoe County  
Photo by Gary Lanham

June 28

I saw a Little Blue Heron perching in a dead tree at the back corner of Amnicola Marsh.

Bruce Dralle

June 26

I was surprised to find an adult Greater Yellowlegs this morning at the Brainerd Levee. I would probably list it as an early Fall migrant.

Bruce Dralle

July 14

This afternoon my wife and I were on a Duck Boat Tour on the Tennessee River. As soon as our boat was in the river my wife spotted a Willet flying along Riverfront Parkway. I was able to get binoculars on the Willet and watch it fly downriver.

*The Birds of Tennessee: A New Annotated Checklist*, by Somershoe and Sloan, lists one early Fall date for WILL in Chattanooga on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1965, from Amnicola Marsh.

Migration is on!

Bruce Dralle

July 14

This morning (July 14) I found a female Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on a wire along Dunbar Rd. at the intersection of Ted Davis Rd. (about 2 miles south of Lake Tansi and on the edge of the UT Grasslands Unit). This was only the second time I've seen one in the county, despite its proximity to the ones in the Sequatchie Valley north of Pikeville in Bledsoe County. I contacted Pam Barrett who immediately came out and found it and noted that it was at a nest on a transformer three tall poles south of that intersection. As I came back I saw it on a wire near there and then saw it fly to the nest. The attached eBird list of the area of Dunbar, Winningham, and Hillendale Roads includes several photographs.

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S47183954>

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher isn't listed as an eBird rarity, though it certainly is one. I'm assuming that the filter for Cumberland County is combined with Bledsoe County, where they are regular in specific locations. Yesterday morning, I birded in the Sequatchie Valley north of Pikeville. The only Scissor-tailed Flycatchers I found were five birds (two adults and three immatures) along Ninemile Road, despite checking most of the other known locations for them. Brushy Cemetery, along Old Hwy 28 north of Ninemile, had four Loggerhead Shrikes (apparently two adults and two immatures) along a distant fencerow (scope needed), and I briefly saw another shrike near the small pond along Ninemile Road southeast of the intersection with Old Hwy 28.

I heard one Dickcissel along upper East Valley Road south of Lowes Gap Rd. I couldn't find any Eurasian Collared Doves, the other Sequatchie Valley specialty (though it's almost time to start checking for the nearly annual flock of Swallow-tailed Kites there).  
Ed LeGrand

July 21

As I neared the intersection of Shadden Road with Blythe Ferry Lane in Birchwood (Meigs County) about 9:30 AM this morning, I glimpsed three (?) rather large birds near a farm building. I was able to get a photo of one of them perched near the crossarm of a utility pole. From the photo I was able to identify that bird as a young White Ibis.

The group flew away, and I was not able to relocate any of them elsewhere in the area. After last night's heavy rains, there was a flooded area near the building which might have attracted the birds.

Charles Murray

### **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](mailto: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.