



The Chattanooga Chat

Ray Zimmerman, Editor: znaturalist@gmail.com

(423) 718-9393

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

Meeting

There will not be a CTOS meeting in July. Chris Sloan from Nashville will present our August program. His programs are always well received.

Thanks

Thanks to David Spicer for presenting our June program.

Field Trips

McCoy Farm, June 30th

Kevin Calhoon will lead a walk at the McCoy Farm & Gardens, 1604 Taft Highway, Signal Mountain, Tennessee, at 8:00 A.M on Saturday, June 30th. Come visit this historic, 38-acre park, check out the bird population as we walk the grounds, and learn the history of the family that gave the property to the community. Come up Signal Mountain on Hwy 127, go through town and pass Miles Road. The gravel parking lot is on the right.

McLemore Cove, July 14th

A joint field trip with the South Chickamauga Creek Greenway Alliance will visit McLemore Cove on Saturday, July 14th, at 10:00 A.M. to find the source of the Chickamauga Creek and bird along the creek. Further details to be announced.



Osprey and chick, Camp Jordan.
Photo by Gary Lanham

Chapter Officers

For the year beginning this month, the chapter officers are as follows:

President: Dr. David Aborn
VP-Programs: David Stone
VP- Field Trips: Pixie Lanham
Treasurer: Gary Lanham
Secretary: Vicky Leather
Statistician: Kevin Calhoon

Thanks to Jennifer Rydell who is leaving the board after seven years of service. We are leaving the office of Historian vacant for now, while we assess our preservation options.

Congratulations to Danny Gaddy who has been selected as Statewide President, effective 2019.



Yellow Billed Cuckoo, Hixson Cemetery, Bledsoe County.
Photo by Gary Lanham

Editors Corner

Under the Sea Wind
Rachel Carson (1941)
Reviewed by Ray Zimmerman

Twenty years before publication of her groundbreaking book *Silent Spring*, Rachel Carson released this delightful narrative about migratory creatures whose lives followed the rhythm of the seasons. The primary characters are a pair of Sanderlings, a mackerel and an eel.

The animals are depicted on their own terms and not personified in the anthropomorphic style to which some authors gave way. The information is sound but related in the manner of a storyteller.

Under the Sea Wind did not gain popularity until the publication of her subsequent books, *The Sea Around Us*, and *The Edge of the Sea*.

The book is classic nature writing, endearing to a generation who grew up watching Mutual of Omaha's *Wild Kingdom* and the Disney nature specials.

What Have You Seen



June 7

I observed a young Roseate Spoonbill about 2:15 PM at a stock pond in a pasture bordering Grasshopper Road just east of Highway 58 in northern Hamilton County. It was seen again about 8 PM in the same location. It was NOT found in that pond during a few attempts between those times.

Grasshopper Road in that area is barely two car-widths wide, and traffic is heavy on that road at times. There is a spot where a few cars could park about 40-50 yards off Highway 58. Please respect the private property where the bird was found. Two Cattle Egrets were also at the same pond at 8 PM.
Charles Murray

June 8

I was unable today to re-locate the Roseate Spoonbill seen yesterday.
Charles Murray

In late May I watched a female Wild Turkey taking a dust bath over an active fire ant mound. She was eating some to the ants but did not seem frantic as I would have expected her to be if they were attacking her.
David Stone

Early on the morning of June 21, the editor received an announcement that the two Osprey chicks at the Blythe Ferry nest were found dead. One was in the nest and the other laying near the nest.

Migration Count
Eighteen observers found 138 species on the Hamilton County Migration Count held on May 5. Some of the highlights included:
A perfect alternate plumaged White-faced Ibis at Brainerd Levee, not seen again until May 7
30 species of warbler including Wilsons, Black-throated Blue and 2 Swainson's
1 Sora at Brainerd Levee
1 Marsh Wren at Standifer Gap Marsh
I thank everyone who helped with this count!
Kevin Calhoon



June 19
These 4 spoonbills were located on the French Broad River about 1 mile south of Seven Islands State Birding

Park outside Knoxville on Sunday about 7:00 pm.
Karen Wilkinson



Scissor-tailed Flycatchers by Dawn and Jim Greenway, Sequatchie County, June 20

We saw three Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and got two together in the photo I attached. We found them at 243 Swafford Chapel Road, Pikeville, at the end of the road in the trees surrounding Swafford chapel.

The first one we saw was in the top of the tree behind the chapel to the left of the cemetery. Then we saw two more together in the top of the tree to the right of the chapel. Not designated as a rare bird, but cool nonetheless and in a beautiful location. We heard Dickcissels but did not see them and did not see or hear Blue Grosbeaks, Shrikes or Grasshopper Sparrows.

Dawn and Jim Greenway



June 7

I saw a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on a power line on Ninemile Crossroad in upper Sequatchie Valley, Bledsoe County today.

David Vogt

June 11

I was surprised to see a 2nd year Ring-billed Gull at Lenoir City Park on Fort Loudon lake today. It was hanging out with the domesticated mallards and Canada Geese on the lawn.

David Vogt, Knoxville.

June 6

This morning at 10:25 an immature Brown Pelican was observed above Chickamauga Dam perching on a red channel marker.

The last sighting of a Brown Pelican from Chickamauga Dam was on May 17th, 2016.

Bruce Dralle

June 4

This afternoon there was an immature Laughing Gull and a Forster's Tern seen above Chickamauga Dam.

Both birds were seen in flight and

resting on the channel buoys. The Laughing Gull could have been brought in with Tropical Storm Alberto last week.

Last year on June 22nd there were three Laughing Gulls seen at Chickamauga Dam. These three were probably brought in with Tropical Storm Cindy.

Bruce Dralle

May 24

At 10:20 this morning I found a soaring Anhinga with Black Vultures above Moccasin Bend along the Tennessee River. The Anhinga drifted to the North with the Black Vultures. Kevin Calhoon says this is the second Hamilton County record. The first Hamilton County record was October 11, 1987 from Amnicola Marsh.

Bruce Dralle

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.