



# The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter  
Tennessee Ornithological Society

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## March Meeting

**Ascension Lutheran Church**  
**720 S Germantown Rd**  
**Thursday, March 8, 2018**  
**5:30 p.m. Executive Board**

### **7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting Program:**

For the March 8 meeting we have Steve and Cyndi Routledge from Clarksville. Their program will be "Arizona- From Sky Islands to the Saguaro". It is about their trip to Tucson and surrounding area. That is a great birding area so I know the program will be good.

**Editor's Note:** The bird life and other aspects of the natural history of Arizona receive extensive treatment in chapters six through eight of Edwin Way Teal's book *Wandering through Winter*, the fourth and final volume of his Pulitzer Prize winning series *The American Seasons*.

## Thanks

Thanks to John and Lizzie Denier for presenting the February program. They most recently conducted bird research in South Africa and Jamaica.

**Happiest Wildlife Rehabilitation & Rescue** requests help with reneating young birds that have come into their care. If you are able to help them in this venture, please call (423) 847-5757.

## Field Trips

**Brainerd Levee,**  
**Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 08:30**

Meet our leader, Tommie Rogers, at the Shallowford Rd. entrance. Bring scopes and binoculars to scan for spring migrating birds. If it rains we will try to reschedule.

**Chester Frost Park,**  
**Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 08:30**

Meet Harold Birch (423-903-1665) at the boat launch area. Look for late winter birds, early migrants, Red Headed Woodpeckers, and Brown Headed Nuthatches.

**Chickamauga Battlefield,**  
**Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 07:30**

Retrace the steps and sightings of ornithologist Bradford Torrey on his visit to the park in early May, 1895. Along with Civil War veterans, he was one of the earliest visitors to the park. Ranger Chris Young will give us the history of the site and Danny Gaddy will help find the birds. Meet at the Visitors Center at 7:30 AM and we will carpool to the horse unloading area, where we will begin a 2-mile hike. If you have extra binoculars you can share, please bring them along.

**Note:** Bradford Torey's book, *Spring Notes from Tennessee* is available as an eBook, free from the Project Gutenberg or ninety-nine cents on Kindle.

More info: Pixie Lanham, Field Trips  
[planham@epbfi.com](mailto:planham@epbfi.com); 423-886-4321

**BIRDS of Chattanooga  
A Weekend Adventure  
(State Meeting - Tennessee  
Ornithological Society)**



**BIRDS of Chattanooga**  
presented by  
The Tennessee Ornithological  
Society  
Hosted by the Chattanooga Chapter  
April 20-22, 2018

- Discover local hotspots
- Connect with local experts
- Learn identification and feeding tips
- Share your questions and findings
- Compare checklists
- Contribute to citizen science
- Have a voice in environmental issues
- Hike Chattanooga's mountains and waterways maybe even...
- Spot a rare bird!

\$15 weekend registration (\$10 student), banquet \$15  
Guest speaker Chris Haney PhD  
on ecosystem management and seabird conservation

The State Meeting will be based at  
The Crash Pad boutique hostel on  
the Southside  
more info and registration:  
[www.tnbirds.org](http://www.tnbirds.org) email:  
[gaddy@catt.com](mailto:gaddy@catt.com)

**Keynote Speaker**

Dr. Haney's expertise straddles the fields of marine science, climate change, wildlife biology, ecosystem management, and conservation policy. His projects and scholarly work have taken him to Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Cuba, the Bahamas, Lesser Antilles, several countries of southern Africa, and the former Soviet Union. He has authored over 80 peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and technical notes, over 150 reports, abstracts, testimony, blog communications, and other public documents, and delivered more than 150 invited seminar, conference, and workshop presentations. His work has been featured in such outlets as *BioScience*, *Conservation Biology*, *Natural History*, *Ecological Economics*, *Limnology and Oceanography*, *Conservation-in-Practice*, *Forest Ecology and Management*, *Marine Biology*, *Auk*, *Condor*, *Wilson Bulletin*, *Marine Policy*, *Marine Ecology-Progress Series*, *Natural Areas Journal*, *Archives of Environmental Toxicology and Contamination*, and *Regional Environmental Change*.

<https://www.terramarappliedscience.com/about-j-christopher-haney>

**Editors Corner**

The Ecology of a Cracker Childhood  
Janisse Ray  
Reviewed by Ray Zimmerman

Janisse Ray's delightful book first seemed a mosaic of stories, or perhaps a tapestry into which she

wove stories of personal history and family history with the natural history of the Longleaf Pine and the creatures which inhabit its forest. The list of creatures is substantial, including Gopher Tortoise, Indigo Snake, Bachman's Sparrow, Flatwoods Salamander, and the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Several of these are endangered. She makes a case for the preservation of these creatures, and for the dignity of the Crackers, whose very name is often used as a derisive term.

Somewhere near the end of the narrative, I viewed it as a book with the pulsing rhythm of a braided story, much like that described by Brenda Miller in her craft essay, "The Braided Heart: Shaping the Lyric Essay."

Janisse Ray describes the Gopher Tortoise as a keystone for the other animals of the Longleaf Pine forest, and most ecologists would call the tortoise as a keystone species. Though Ms. Ray describes many threats to these creatures and the forest itself, she ends with a note of hope. In an era when the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Endangered Species Act face threats of their own, it is a note of hope that revives my enthusiasm.

### **What Have You Seen**

February 12

There are 13 Mute Swans and a first year Tundra Swan in Rhea county. When I initially saw them two hours ago they were on the other side of the inlet in Roane County but they were too far out to identify.

They can currently be seen on Dabbs Drive which is just past Lakeside Resort in Roane County. Check my eBird marker. You have to look between the houses to find them. Alternatively you can go on the other side of the inlet to Eagle Furnace Church (Roane County) and see them from the water's edge.

Morton Massey  
Knoxville, TN

February 11

The Surf Scoter was still present on Parksville lake in Polk County. Seen at 8:55 at Lake Ocoee Inn and Marina.

Rick Houlk

February 9

Thanks to David Chaffin I added Surf Scoter to my Polk County list. The scoter was with 5 Red-breasted mergansers close to road when David found it. I had to work much harder. I finally located the scoter on the far side of Parksville lake. Seen at 11:30 from the pull off just past Mac Point. The mergansers have moved down the lake below Mac Point.

Rick Houlk



Barred Owl Preening – Hugh Barger,  
Radnor Lake

February 5

Birding was good at my home today in Birchwood (Hamilton County) and at three areas of Birchwood in Meigs County. Fifty-two species in all were logged today beginning with a calling Barred Owl before daybreak at home. Twenty-five species, mostly feeder birds, were noted at home, including four species of woodpeckers: Red-bellied, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy, and Northern Flicker. I added a Pileated Woodpecker at Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge. The overall number of ducks seen at HWR was down somewhat, but there were still hundreds of ducks of nine species. Mallards were the most numerous ducks, but American Wigeon, Am. Black Duck, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, many Canvasback and Redhead, and a few Bufflehead (viewed from the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park) were also noted. The highest number of Sandhill Cranes I observed all season was seen from the CRMP late on January 20, but there are still good numbers of Sandhill Cranes present on the HWR. One Whooping Crane was also located on the refuge today. Late in the day two First-of-Year Wilson's Snipes were found near the bridge over Dry Branch on Shahan Road, which begins as Burdette Road off Highway 60 in Meigs County.  
Charles Murray

February 5

Nickajack Lake

Both the Pacific Loon and White-winged Scoters were seen this

morning close to the shore along Hogjaw Road.

The Pacific Loon is hanging loosely with three Common Loons.

The five White-winged Scoters can be seen with the large raft of waterfowl.

Bruce Dralle



Barn Swallows, 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](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.