



The Chattanooga Chat

Ray Zimmerman, Editor: znaturalist@gmail.com

(423) 718-9393

January 2019: Vol. 43, No 3

A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

Meeting

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

Program: Owl Power

The January 10 meeting will be about owls. We will be showing the DVD from the PBS Nature show from a couple of years ago. There are some really interesting experiments testing what Owls can do. I think most will discover something about owls you did not know.

Thanks

Thanks to Caryn Ross who presented our December program, "Changes in Winter Bird Populations in Tennessee Using Christmas Bird Count Data". Caryn is a graduate student with Dr. David Aborn at UTC. She presented some interesting data on what we have less of and what we have more of compared to years ago. She used several decades of data from the Chattanooga Christmas Bird Count, which has a 100-year history.

Field Trips

Hiwassee Christmas Bird Count,
January 1st

Contact Kevin Calhoun to help:
kac@tnaqua.org

Sandhill Crane Festival, Saturday,
January 19th, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Come to view the cranes and, if you have one, bring your scope. We plan to setup near the Hiwassee Refuge gazebo and the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park river overlook, to allow visitors close-up viewing of the cranes and other waterfowl. For general info:

Wings of Winter Festival

<http://www.friendstnwr.org/wings-of-winter.html>

Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge, with
Reflection Riding Arboretum and
Nature Center,
Sunday, February 3rd, 2:00 – 4:30 PM

Bring your scopes to assist RRANC visitors in viewing the cranes and waterfowl. Please let me know if you can be there. If not, may I borrow your scope?

Thanks, Pixie Lanham
planham@epbfi.com

News Item

Are you adept at identifying bluebirds and nuthatches by sight and sound? Put your skills to good use with Climate Watch, Audubon's community science program that's exploring how birds are

responding to climate change. Join today! For details:

<http://audubon.org/climatewatch>
johndiener@yahoo.com



Coopers Hawk looking at our feeder on Signal Mountain. Photo: Gary Lanham

Editor's Corner

With John's request for assistance on research on birds possibly impacted by climate change, I decided to include this piece written for an online course I am taking through the University of Iowa, International Writing Program. The piece is a synopsis and response to an article titled "Unfriendly Climate, which appeared in Texas Monthly" An online version appears here:

<https://www.texasmonthly.com/articles/katharine-hayhoe-lubbock-climate-change-evangelist/>

This piece is the story of a Texas Tech professor who researches climatology and is also an evangelical Christian. My review reflects my opinion, and readers are, of course, welcome to disagree.

The tension begins with the title. I read it and anticipate conflict, which Sonia Smith reveals as Kathryn Hahoe, the

protagonist of her literary journalism article, speaks her truth to the world. Like others who have spoken truth to power, M. L. King, Rosa Parks, Rachael Carson, etc., she faces an unfriendly response.

As a literary technique, Smith uses a device as ancient as Old Testament prophecy. Just as John the Baptist, following the model of Ezekiel, spent time in the wilderness before bringing his message to Jerusalem, Kathryn Hahoe spent time in a maze of academic research, reflecting on career choice, and decided to address climatology, an area with policy relevance, and abandon astrophysics, a discipline of mathematical abstract beauty. Smith creates tension by presenting her as a prophetic voice confronting the powers that be.

Smith begins by showing us Hahoe at a city council meeting, affable and disarming as she presents her data. A councilman, motivated by anti-tax populism, confronts her. She defuses the situation with a joke before refuting his arguments. He remains unconvinced, but she finishes her presentation.

In section two, the motivation of Hahoe's accusers is revealed by a quotation from Senator Inhofe, "I thought it must be true until I found out how much it would cost."

There is no power like money power for a prophet to take on, and money has been the root of most climate change denial. I once read an article in *Scientific American*, titled "Who Funds Contrariness on Climate Change." It listed several major players of business and industry with details on the rhetorical campaigns they had funded.

Smith maintains the tension of section three by introducing more quotations from hostile sources. The most impact comes from one stating that her chapter would be withdrawn from an upcoming book of which Newt Gingrich was the primary author. The decision was revealed to her for the first time publicly rather than privately.

In section four, Smith pulls back from this public confrontation to give us Hahoe's internal conflict. Astrophysics or Climatology, which should she choose? The resolution becomes simple for her, policy relevance gives her a mission, a mission which puts her in conflict with her preacher husband. They resolve this conflict, yet remain committed to the evangelical faith, making this section a gentle contrast to section two. In the remainder of the article we see Hahoe's gentle spirit overcoming adversity. It is a heroic tale.



Merlin, Rutherford County,
photo by Hugh Barger

What Have You Seen?

December 18

I spotted numerous White Pelicans and Sandhill Cranes at the Cherokee Removal Park and Hiwassee Refuge. Other observers reported seeing two Whooping Cranes earlier that day. I also

spotted two Harriers at the Cherokee Removal Memorial a week ago on December 11.

Ray Zimmerman

December 11

I saw numerous waterfowl from the viewing area at the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge in Meigs County at Birchwood before 9 AM today. There were hundreds of ducks of at least 8 species, many hundreds of Sandhill Cranes, a few American Coots and one swan, likely Tundra. The swan appeared to be a juvenile.

Charles Murray

December 6

A first-of-the-season Brown-headed Nuthatch was seen on Armstrong Ferry Road in Meigs County this morning. White-breasted Nuthatches, Red-breasted Nuthatches and the second Brown Creeper of the season were located on my property in Birchwood (Hamilton County). This is the first time I have ever seen all four of these species in a single day.

Charles Murray

Birchwood, TN

November 19

Mathan Beechy located 27 Black Scoters on Parksville lake this morning, 19 November. I located the Scoters in the same area this afternoon about 4:30. A new county species. The location in ebird is where the Scoters were seen.

Rick Houlk

Today, November 27th, John Diener had a very late Philadelphia Vireo and Yellow Warbler foraging in a mixed flock at Amnicola Marsh, Hamilton Co. Here is a link to the ebird list which includes photos:

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S50254050> The Dieners

November 2

This afternoon at The Honors golf course in Ooltewah I saw several warblers, in spite of the temperature being 47 degrees. I saw a few Pine Warblers (nothing unusual about that). I also saw a Cape May Warbler (way past when I expected to see one) and a few Yellow-rumped Warblers (but few compared to last week). In over 30 years I have never seen Blackpoll Warblers on this property until this week (I saw some Oct. 31 also). Some could have been Bay-breasted as I have seen several this fall even as late as last week but I am pretty sure what I saw today were all Blackpolls. They are hard to tell apart and I am not good enough to say for sure.

David Stone

October 19

A FOY Red-Breasted Nuthatch appeared and made many trips to an open platform feeder containing sunflower seeds. Unfortunately, it never stayed more than 3-4 seconds per visit, and I couldn't get any good photos. Today was the second day without a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and I only saw one Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Charles Murray

October 22

About 12:45 this afternoon, 5 Sandhill Cranes flew over the Gunstocker Creek area of Meigs County. Earlier in the morning, I saw FOS American Coots from the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park (Meigs Co.). Other FOS species from my Birchwood property (Hamilton

Co.) this morning were 2 White-throated Sparrows and 2 Purple Finches.
Charles Murray

October 28

I've seen reports on TN-bird of red-breasted nuthatches lately, so I wanted to let you know that I saw the first one at my house feeders yesterday. I live off Highway 58 between the Chattanooga city limits and Harrison, near Booker T. Washington State Park.
Maria Derrick

29 October 2018

Banding at Greenway Farm this morning yielded 3 Hermit Thrushes, 2 White-throated Sparrows, a cardinal, a thrasher, a Blue Jay, and a late Indigo Bunting. Last week, I heard my first Red-breasted Nuthatch out there, but did not hear or see one today.
David Aborn

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

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.