



The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

June Meeting

Ascension Lutheran Church
720 S Germantown Rd
Thursday, June 13
5:30 p.m. Executive Board
7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting

Program:

For the Thursday, June 13 meeting Luke Thompson will present our program. As far as we know Luke will be the youngest person to ever do a program for any of our club meetings. Luke is in his middle teens. Let's be sure to get some young people to attend the meeting. Luke is already a great birder and he will have an interesting program.



Rain delayed the start of banding this morning, but it was worth the wait. After only catching a cardinal and a Carolina Wren on the 1st two net checks, the third

time was a charm; a female Painted Bunting! That is a first for the 17 years I have been banding out there.

David Aborn



This is David Aborn with an old friend on Friday, 10 MAY 2019, at Greenway Farm on our CTOS field trip. David first banded this bird in 2008. That makes him at least 12 years old (that's the bird, not David), since he was already an adult bird when first banded. Photo by Bob Dornfeld

Thanks

Thanks to TWRA Bird Conservation Coordinator, David Hanni, who presented an impressive program on bird conservation and research in Tennessee at our May meeting.

Field Trips on page 2

Field Trips

Birding The Honors Course Tuesday, May 28, 8-11:30 AM and 5-8 PM

Leader David Stone will host morning and afternoon birding field trips at The Honors Course in Ooltewah. Contact David (rockyturf@epbfi.com) if interested.

Hinch Mountain Saturday, June 8th, 7:00 AM

Leaders: Harold Birch and Danny Gaddy
Meet at the Soddy Daisy Walmart (at the Harrison Lane exit from Hwy. 127 N).

We will bird some of the highest locations of the Cumberland Plateau and search for nesting birds not common at lower elevations.

Bring a lunch, water and snacks. If time and weather permit, we will return through Sequatchie Valley to see Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Grasshopper Sparrows and Dickcissels.

For any questions, contact:
Pixie Lanham
planham@epbfi.com



Male painted bunting photographed in Ooltewah by Stacy Stone in 2012

Editor's Corner

The Chattanooga Audubon Society is pleased to announce the eighth annual Little Owl Festival to be held at Audubon Acres on June 1, 2019 from 9 AM to Noon. This year we have refocused the festival with the tag line "Kids, Nature, Art." The schedule of events follows.

9 -11 Activities for kids

Meet the Box Turtle ambassador and learn about box turtles. Kids can play a game to learn about the life of a turtle. Art Mural - Help us complete a large mural to celebrate Chattanooga Audubon's 75th anniversary.

Build a bird nest – find out if you have what it takes to be a good bird parent. Old Time music by Peggy Douglas and friends. Enjoy music brought to you by the creator of four locally produced plays with music and author of her own book of poems.

Meet Animal Ambassadors from the Chattanooga Zoo.

9:00 Tour the historic log cabin.

10:00 Water quality activity by Waterways

11:00 Meet Marley the Great Horned Owl from Harrison Bay State Park.

For information call (423) 892-1799

Where are the Warblers?

For about five years I have traveled regular routes through western Warren County and eastern Coffee County. I found sites for seven Shrikes, including three pairs. I have continued to travel these routes but have not seen any Shrikes at any of these locations since September 2018. Habitat has remained the same. I find this very troubling.

On another note, Mac and I have lived in our current home for five years. It is on a

large heavily wooded lot in a heavily wooded subdivision in Warren County away from town. Our home is 100 yards from a large creek. And we have essentially no warblers! Haven't in the five years we've been here. This spring I can count on one hand the number of warblers we have seen in our neighborhood. And please note I said warblers, as in individual birds, not just species! A big contrast to when we lived in the middle of Memphis and I had a case of warbler neck for a month every spring from looking at all the warblers in our yard.

I am curious as to whether anyone else has experienced either of these situations.

Susan McWhirter
McMinnville, TN



American Avocets at the Brainerd Levee
Photo by Gary Lanham

What Have You Seen?

May 14

Three first-of-the-year / first-of-the-season species were among birding highlights May 13 at Yuchi Refuge and elsewhere in Rhea County. Adding several species seen on my property in Birchwood (Hamilton County), I noted a total of 46 species. The three FOY species, all seen at Yuchi Refuge, were Green Heron – 2; Prothonotary Warbler – at least 4; and Common Yellowthroat – at least 2. I also saw or heard at least two Prairie Warblers and five or more Yellow-breasted Chats at Yuchi.

Other highlights for the day included:

Wood Ducks – Yuchi
Wild Turkey - home
Yellow-billed Cuckoo – Yuchi and home
Red-headed Woodpecker – Yuchi
Ruby-throated Hummingbirds – Yuchi – 2
Pileated Woodpecker – Yuchi
Blue Grosbeak – Yuchi
Indigo Buntings – Yuchi - several
Charles Murray

May 12

Banding at Greenway Farm yielded my 1st Gray-cheeked Thrushes of the year. I also caught 5 cardinals, some of them being recaptured. When I looked up the original banding date for one of them, I discovered I banded it in November of 2008. Since it was an adult when I originally banded it, that makes it over 12 years old! The oldest cardinal on record is 15 years, 9 months, so while my bird is not a record, it's still an impressive recap.

David Aborn

May 9

I was mowing the lawn this morning when I found a Virginia Rail moving along our creek.

The Virginia Rail disappeared into the daylilies and couldn't be relocated.

I went back to mowing the lawn and thought "I need to relocate the Virginia Rail and get a picture."

After the grass was mowed, I went back to the daylilies and relocated the Virginia Rail along the creek. The Virginia Rail moved out of the daylilies a couple of times for a photo. After taking a couple of photos, I left the Virginia Rail in the daylilies as I didn't want to harass it too much.

Bruce Dralle

May 8

Late this evening the Harrison Bay State Park ranger Matt Vawter found a flock of nine Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks at Harrison Bay State Park.

When I arrived the Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were standing and resting near the water across from the marina.

Kevin Calhoun told me this is a long overdue first Hamilton County record. Thanks to Jordan Brison for confirming the sighting and eBirding. And thanks to S&K Jones for watching and staying with the Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks until dark.
Bruce Dralle

May 7

While doing bird surveys up on the Flipper Bend section of Mobray Mtn., I heard a Red-breasted Nuthatch! I am not sure what the late date is for them, but this could be a contender. Also, while I was banding at Greenway Farm yesterday, I caught my first Veery of the spring, and heard my first Swainson's Thrush.
David Aborn

May 3

Rain delayed the start of banding at Greenway Farm this morning, but it was worth the wait. After only catching a cardinal and a Carolina Wren on the 1st two net checks, the third time was a charm; a female Painted Bunting! That is a first for the 17 years I have been banding out there.
David Aborn

April 30

This afternoon there are fourteen American Avocets at the Brainerd Levee. The Avocets are right behind the school.
Bruce Dralle

April 29

total of 52 species were noted today on my property in Birchwood and at other locations in Meigs County. Four of the species observed were First-of-the-Year species for me. Highlights for the day included:
Yellow-billed Cuckoo – home (FOY)
Eastern Whip-poor-will – home
Great-Crested Flycatcher – home and Cherokee Removal Memorial Park
Eastern Kingbirds – Shadden Road and Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge

Wood Thrush – home
Gray Catbird – HWR (FOY)
Yellow-breasted Chat – HWR
Summer Tanager – home
Rose-breasted Grosbeak – home
Blue Grosbeak – home and HWR
Indigo Bunting – HWR (FOY)
Orchard Oriole – HWR (FOY)
Charles Murray

April 28

I heard 3 FOS migrants while walking at Greenway Farm this morning; Wood Thrush, Indigo Bunting, and Yellow-billed Cuckoo.
David Aborn

April 24

This morning around eleven I found a Common Gallinule perching in a Chestnut Oak along the Mountain Beautiful Trail. There is a white flag marking the spot. This would be about a quarter of a mile from the metal staircase at Point Park.
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
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