



The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

May Meeting

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

Program:

For the May 9 meeting, TWRA Bird Conservation Coordinator David Hanni will be our speaker. David will up-date us on his work with non-game birds in Tennessee. David's position is partially funded by some of the dues we pay to the state so come see what he has going on.

Thanks

Thanks to Ron who presented a program about his & Dollyann's 2018 trip to Peru for our April meeting.

Field Trips

Dixon Cove at Sequatchie Cove Farm
Friday, May 3rd, 8 AM Central time
Clyde Blum; info in email to follow

Greenway Farms in Hixson,
Friday, May 10th, at 8:00 AM
Leader: David Aborn

Meet in the parking area near the maintenance building and cabin. We will bird along the North Chickamauga Creek. Bring insect repellent.

Smoky Mountains, Fri., May 10th-11th
Jeffrey Schaarschmidt; see info email

Hinch Mountain, Saturday, June 8th
Leaders: Harold Birch and Danny Gaddy
Save the date. More info later.

For further field trip information:
Pixie Lanham
planham@epbfi.com 423-886-4321

The Hamilton County Spring
Migration Count
Saturday, May 4th

For further information, contact Kevin Calhoon, kac@tnaqua.org

Birding at The Honors Course

David Stone will lead a couple of trips with the dates to be determined soon. David will email the membership when the dates are set.

Research Opportunity

Hello members of TOS!
We need your eyes and ears to be on the lookout for Yellow-billed Cuckoos this spring. I am working with the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and need as much data as we can get to help track YB cuckoos in the region

If you are on a bird outing from April 9-June 20, can you please document the

GPS coordinates of any YB cuckoos you see or hear? If you don't have a GPS unit, no problem! Smart phones with map applications can "drop a pin" (GPS coordinates) and you can email it to me. If you have iNaturalist, that gives coordinates for specific individuals as well. Ebird is good too, but I'm looking for the precise location of the individuals.

In addition, documenting activity on the bird(s) would be helpful: for example, vocal vs. non-vocal? How many (solo or couple)? Any breeding activity? Any food acquisition or food sharing (a sign of breeding)? What about twig gathering or copulation?

Laura Marsh

laurakmarsh@gmail.com



Brown Pelican, Everglades, 1992 by Ray Zimmerman, digitized from 35 mm color slide by NorthLight Imaging

Editor's Corner

In 2018, I self-published *Healing and Conflict*, a collection of poems, most of

them previously published in regional poetry journals.

I recently read the poem "Vanishing Migrant" to an audience and asked how many had previously heard of a Cerulean Warbler. No hands were raised. The poem is in a form known as Pantoum, with intentional repetition.

Vanishing Migrant

Named for its color the Cerulean Warbler
breeds and nests in Tennessee and northward
Migrates past Mexican pyramids and Mariachi trumpets,
escapes to spend the winter in Colombia

It breeds and nests in Tennessee and northward

Small but exuberant, it sings from the canopy.

escapes to spend the winter in Colombia
With vanishing habitat, fewer fly each year

Small but exuberant, it sings from the canopy.

migrates past Mexican pyramids and Mariachi trumpets.

With vanishing habitat, fewer fly each year.

Named for its color the vanishing cerulean warbler.

The next is a free verse poem with references to various mythologies. I wrote it after the crane festival one year. I encourage non birders to come to that festival.

Spirit Bird

Every time I see cranes
a door opens into the spirit world.
They arrive to bring news of winter,
depart with promise of spring.

They carry messages between worlds.
Their arrival is always anticipated.
Never expected they arrive and call.
Said to mate for life, they dance
when reunited after long separation.
Their longing calls fill my heart.

Departing this world,
I will know I am bound
for blessed realms
if cranes accompany me.



Swallow-tailed Kite, Everglades, 1992,
by Ray Zimmerman 35 mm color slide
film, digitized by NorthLight Imaging

What Have You Seen?

18 April 2019

Banding at Greenway Farm this morning
was productive. There are LOTS of White-
throated Sparrows moving around, and I had
a few FOS migrants.

Banded:

White-throated Sparrow = 7
Gray Catbird (FOS) = 2
Northern Cardinal = 1

Migrants Seen/Heard:

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher = 5
Tree Swallow = 4
Barn Swallow = 4
White-eyed Vireo = 3
Chimney Swift = 3
House Wren = 1
Eastern Wood-Pewee (FOS) = 1

Great Crested Flycatcher (FOS) = 1
Red-eyed Vireo = 1
Blue-winged Warbler (FOS) = 1
David Aborn

April 17

I noticed some blue-gray gnatcatchers
flitting around a tree on the Tennessee
Riverpark yesterday, and saw they were
coming and going around a nest. Got a
pretty good photo.
Maria Derrick

April 15

I noted eight first-of-the-year (FOY) species
today on my property in Birchwood
(Hamilton County) or in nearby Meigs
County. All the FOY species are migrants,
although Pine Siskins are winter residents
here and should soon be migrating north. A
total of 40 species were identified. The eight
FOY species were:

Eastern Whip-poor-will – home
Great Crested Flycatcher – home
Eastern Kingbird – Shadden Road in Meigs
County
White-eyed Vireo – home
Barn Swallow – Shadden Road in Meigs
County
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – home
Blue Grosbeak – home
Pine Siskin – home, at least 6 birds
Charles Murray

April 14

Had a male Blue Grosbeak at my millet
feeder yesterday. FOY for me and first ever
in the yard
Harold Birch

April 13

There was a Golden-winged Warbler in a
tree by the dog park at Greenway Farm this
morning.
David Aborn

April 9

I found a dead Worm-eating Warbler on the
UTC campus yesterday (4/8) morning. In

the afternoon, I heard a White-eyed Vireo singing at Greenway Farm.

David Aborn

April 9

I found a perching Snowy Egret this evening at Amnicola Marsh. The Snowy Egret was seen from the Northside Observation Area at gray lamp post number 143.

Bruce Dralle

April 9

We had our first Ruby throated hummingbird this morning around 7:15 at our feeder in Southwest Bradley County. Marty Paige, Bradley County, TN

April 5

This morning I found an early Worm-eating Warbler feeding below the Point.

The previous early Spring date for Point Park was April 9, 2015.

This afternoon I found a Solitary Sandpiper at the Brainerd Levee. The Solitary Sandpiper was moving around from behind the school to the Northside of the Levee.

Bruce Dralle

April 4

The Cattle Egret is still at Camp Jordan pond, East Ridge, 0745 on 4 April.

Pixie and Gary Lanham



A Northern Rough-winged Swallow puts a 12-pounder Napoleon to use as a nesting site. Snodgrass Field, Chickamauga NMP
Photo by Shonagh Adelman

March 29

This evening we saw a Blue headed vireo in the yard which was very nice. We then saw a Yellow throated warbler at the feeder.

Both were FOS for our yard.

Pixie & Gary Lanham

March 28

A male Black-throated Green Warbler was seen just below the Point this morning.

Black-and-white Warblers and Blue-headed Vireos have also been seen and heard singing this week.

Bruce Dralle



Canada Goose on Nest, Photographed at Reflection Riding mid 1990's. Color Slide digitized by NorthLight Imaging.

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 Co