



The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

November Meeting
Ascension Lutheran Church
720 S Germantown Rd
Thursday, November 14
5:30 p.m. Executive Board
7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting

Program:

Chuck James will give a program on the history of the Eastern Bluebird and its struggles and successes due to the conservation movement since the 1970's. We will also watch rare footage of a nest box while the babies grow. Chuck is the co-founder and past President of the non-profit TN Bluebird Society. He also served 3 years on the North American Bluebird Society Board and is currently President of the Valley Chapter of the TN Bluebird Society.

Field Trips

Thanks to Gary Brunvoll, Luke Thompson, Jim and Dawn Greenway, and Pixie & Gary Lanham for volunteering to lead October field trips at Reflection Riding!

Jim & Dawn Greenway will lead a walk at the VW Wetlands on Sunday, November 17 at 9:00 – 11:00. We will be birding from the side of a lightly traveled, paved road that overlooks

wetland, forest and field areas. We are catering to beginners, but birders of all skill levels are welcome.

Directions: FROM THE I-75/HIGHWAY 153 INTERCHANGE:

Go 4.3 miles north on 153 to the ramp for Highway 58 North/Decatur. Go around 3.9 miles north on 58 to the intersection with Ferdinand Piech Way. Turn right on Ferdinand Piech Way and drive around 1.2 miles east to the wetlands area. It is not marked but will be the only concrete bridge structure. Public restrooms are available within a 1-mile drive at the Equestrian Trail on Ferdinand Piech Way. Jim's cell is 770-630-3854.



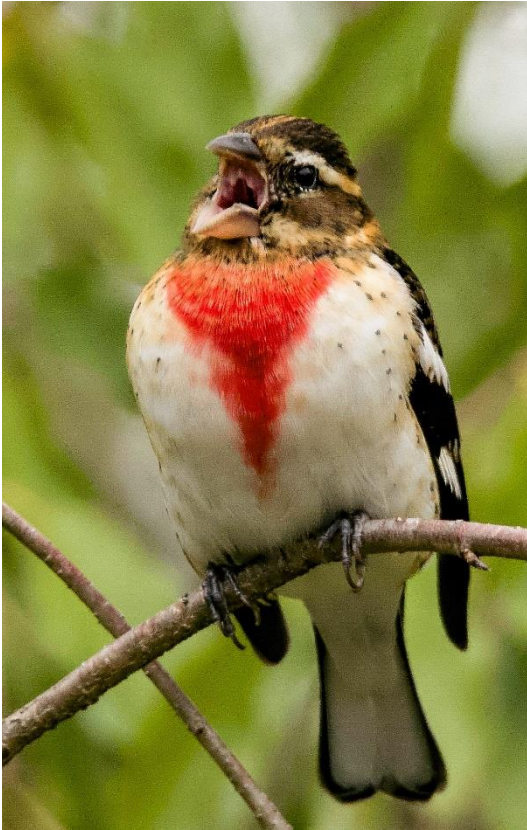
Tennessee Warbler, Signal Mountain

Photo by Gary Lanham

Help Wanted!

Many thanks to Danny & Anita Gaddy for providing the delicious snacks at the October meeting! If anyone is interested

in overseeing a sign-up sheet for refreshments at future meetings, please reach out to Dawn@mountainpathfinder.com. We need club members to help organize/lead field trips. If you are interested, please reach out to Jim@mountainpathfinder.com.



Rose Breasted Grosbeak
Photo by Jim Greenway

Young Birders Club:

The kick-off meeting for the CTOS Young Birders Club (YBC) will be held on November 21, 2019 from 7:00 – 8:30

Location: Meeting room at REI outdoor store, 2507 Lifestyle Way, Chattanooga, TN.

This meeting is open to young birders aged 13-18, their parents/guardians and

educators working with young people who may be interested in participating. There is no fee to attend and CTOS membership is not required. We'll discuss how YBCs in other states are organized and we'll solicit feedback from our young birders about their group interests.

All the club's events can be found on the Chattanooga TOS Facebook page.

Whigg Meadow Bird Banding

David Vogt distributed, via the TN-bird mailing list, a spreadsheet with data for birds banded at Whigg Meadow this year. The spreadsheet could not be formatted for inclusion in *The Chat*, but highlights of the chart include 712 Tennessee Warblers, 284 Magnolia Warblers, and 234 Swainsons Thrush. The Whigg Meadow bird banding project is a long-term research project which has generated data that will prove valuable in assessment of migration and population trends.

Research Update



Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Photo from Mark McKnight

On October 15, speaking at Reflection Riding, Laura Marsh presented an update on Yellow-billed Cuckoo research.

Editors Corner

The Naturalist

Darrin Lunde

Review by Ray Zimmerman

This biography is subtitled *Theodore Roosevelt, a Lifetime of Exploration and the Triumph of American Natural History*. Author Darrin Lunde is himself a distinguished museum naturalist, working at the American Museum of Natural History, one of our nation's premiere museums. He presents not the Roosevelt of policy and politics, or even San Juan Hill, but Roosevelt the naturalist.

Within the pages of *The Naturalist*, Lunde informs the reader of how eight-year-old Teddy obtained the head of a seal, discarded by a shopkeeper, in order to prepare the skull for display. By age twelve he was already preparing study skins for a small museum in a spare room in his parents' home. He viewed the family vacation in the Adirondacks and later travels in Egypt as "collecting trips" where he spent his mornings obtaining and preparing specimens. He later chose Harvard University, primarily because it included a museum founded by Jean Agassiz.

Lunde devotes one chapter to a vignette on the development of natural history museums. He names curators and naturalists who became Roosevelt's role models. These included an uncle, Robert Barnwell Roosevelt, who wrote a book on upland game birds, and John Bell who assisted John James Audubon on his western expeditions. Bell prepared specimens for Audubon to draw for his final book, *The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America*. He also taught young

Teddy the art of taxidermy at his shop in New York.

Young Roosevelt was also present at the founding meeting of the American Museum of Natural History, organized by his father, Theodore Roosevelt, Senior. The meeting took place in the family living room. Aside from the funders, those in attendance included the first curator and director of that museum, Albert S. Bickmore. Roosevelt was also aware of the work of Spencer Fullerton Baird, the founding curator of the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History.

From this beginning, Lunde takes the reader through Roosevelt's years as a conservationist-hunter and ends with the big game safari in Africa, organized primarily to provide specimens for the Smithsonian. Aside from providing a unique view of an American President, Lunde captures the spirit of the early days of museum work. These days are not entirely gone. Though museum naturalists now pay greater attention to the impact of their work, preserved specimens are still important to scientific research today.



Black and White Warbler, Signal Mountain
Photo by Gary Lanham

From an intermittent shower set up in his yard for migrating birds during the recent drought

What Have You Seen?

September 22

This morning I was surprised and excited to find a male Lawrence's Warbler feeding in a small Sassafras tree. It was my first Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warbler hybrid in Tennessee. I also had an early Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

Bruce Dralle

September 24

The cold front that came through the area yesterday was not strong, but it was enough to bring in a good pulse of migrants, and I had my busiest day banding at Greenway Farms in a while.

Gray Catbird 6

Brown Thrasher 5

Magnolia Warbler 4

Wood Thrush 3

Ovenbird 2

Carolina Wren 2

Canada Warbler 1

Common Yellowthroat 1

Swainson's Thrush 1

Gray-cheeked Thrush 1

Tufted Titmouse 1

I also heard my first Rose-breasted Grosbeaks of the fall.

David Aborn

October 8

The first decent cold front of the fall came through yesterday, and made for good banding this morning, although not as busy as I was expecting. My totals were:

Gray Catbird 5

Brown Thrasher 4

Hooded Warbler = 2

Magnolia Warbler 1

Ovenbird 1

Northern Cardinal 1

Yellow-shafted Flicker 1

I was joined by Dr. David DesRochers from Dalton State University, and I am glad he picked a good day to come out!
David Aborn

October 6 & 8

I observed a Nashville Warbler on my property in Birchwood. I also saw 2 Blackburnian Warblers along with at least 4 Tennessee Warblers and at least 4 Magnolia Warblers.

Today, October 8, 2019, I was able to observe a total of 6 warbler species, all on my property. The six were: Black-&-white – 1; Tennessee – 4; Magnolia – 3; Bay-breasted – 1; Blackburnian – 1; and Chestnut-sided -1.

Charles Murray

October 12

There was a Lincoln Sparrow seen in the open area at the corner of Broad Street and St. Elmo this afternoon.

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