



The Chattanooga Chat

Ray Zimmerman, Editor: znaturalist@gmail.com

(423) 718-9393

September 2019: Vol. 43, No. 11

A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

September Meeting

Ascension Lutheran Church
720 S Germantown Rd
Thursday, September 12
5:30 p.m. Executive Board
7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting

Program:

David Aborn will present the September program. He will discuss results of the survey he sent out to evaluate the current and future state of TOS and possible changes we might make to stay relevant.

Birder J. Drew Lanham, acclaimed author, poet, and naturalist, to speak Thursday, September 5th, 5:30 to 6:30 at The University Center, UTC, 642 E. 5th Street, Chattanooga, TN, with a book signing from 5:00 to 5:30.

Dr. Lanham will speak about his latest work, *"The Home Place: Memoirs of a Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature"*. His recent work received the Reed Award, from the Southern Environmental Law Center, as well as the Southern Book Prize. It was also a finalist for the John Burroughs Medal, which recognizes excellence in natural history writing. He is an Alumni Master Teacher at Clemson University, where he earned his PhD, studied zoology and ecology, and holds an endowed chair as an Alumni Distinguished Professor of wildlife ecology.

Field Trips

McCoy Farm and Gardens, Signal Mtn
Saturday, September 28, 8 AM
Leader: Kevin Calhoon

The Honors Course

Monday, Sept. 30: 8:30 to 11:30 AM
Monday, Oct. 7: 9:00 to noon &
5:00 to 7:00 PM (pick one time)
Monday, Oct. 14: 4:30 (or whenever
you can get here) to 7:00 PM

David Stone will lead 3 birding trips at The Honors Course in Ooltewah. We hope to see migrating warblers and some other birds. If you can't make any of these dates but would like to bird with David there, let him know and he may be able to do other dates. However, the private birding cannot exceed 4 people at a time (including David). To reserve a spot, contact David by email:

rockyturf@epbf.com

Coming attractions:

Dawn & Jim Greenway are championing the establishment of a Young Birder's Club. If you're interested in getting on an email distribution list to learn more, please contact:

Dawn@mountainpathfinder.com

Anyone (not just young birders) interested in learning more can sign up for the list and doing so does not obligate you in any way.

Got an extra pair of binoculars? Or maybe a field guide? CTOS is partnering with Reflection Riding (RRANC) to assemble "field trip kits," which would include binoculars and guides to lend to participants who don't have them. The loaners would permit potential birders (and prospective CTOS members!) to lower the barriers to birding, especially for youth who can't afford bins. We would like to find decent quality 7x and 8x binoculars with objective sizes in 35-50mm. Field guides should be less than 10 years old to avoid confusion with old bird names. We'll have a donation box at the September CTOS meeting. If you have a donation, but can't make it to the meeting, please reach out to Jim or Dawn Greenway.

Do you have some insights into leading a fun bird walk? We're preparing a "Chat" article on the topic. Even obvious suggestions (ex. Know where the restrooms are!) are good. Please send them to Jim Greenway.

Ken Dubke Honored

By now, most of you know that Ken Dubke received the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's Lifetime Achievement Award, the Robert Sparks Walker Award.

Ken is noted for his bird conservation work here in Chattanooga and throughout the State of Tennessee. He contributed time and effort to restoration of cranes, eagles, and osprey. He helped to organize numerous events. Here are what a few friends had to say about Ken:

It was good to see Ken at the Little Owl Festival. He's been very involved in environmental education for a very long

time and what amazing energy! He and his wife were a force for change in the region! At the Little Owl Festival, he stood silently by at the Broad Winged Hawk release; here stood a man with broad wings of his own who made no attempt to bring attention to himself. It makes me feel great that he's received this recognition! - Joel Blevins, Board Member, Chattanooga Audubon Society.

Editor's note: A stone monument at Audubon Acres commemorates the efforts of Ken's wife Lil on behalf of that organization.

What a joy it was for Ken to receive this award! As you read through Ken's accomplishments, you will agree that this is a most appropriate award especially since naturalist and author Robert Sparks Walker was the founder of Chattanooga Audubon Society and is buried at Audubon Acres that Ken has worked to benefit.

Thanks to Kaye Fiorello who made the nomination and to Danny Gaddy who helped make arrangements for Ken and his two tables of friends, relatives and colleagues. In addition to Kaye and Danny, those at Ken's tables included Danny's wife Anita, Gary Myers, retired head of TWRA with his wife Norma, Clarence Coffey, (retired communications specialist for TWRA, friend Danny Shelton, brother David Dubke, Mary Priestly, Greg Vital, and friends Barbara Kelly (Sierra Club) and Sandy Kurtz (SCCGA).

Ken is saying at 88 years of age that this is his last hurrah! Not so fast. Ken is still working for the environment. He continues to come up to people, look them in the eyes and say "insert name,

we have a golden opportunity..." -
Sandra Kurtz, South Chickamauga
Creek Greenway Alliance

Editors Corner **Robert Sparks Walker**

I have been reviewing books published by and about Robert Sparks Walker for whom the TDEC Lifetime Achievement Award is named. He was, of course, a noted naturalist and writer as well as a founder of the Chattanooga Audubon Society, of which I serve as President. While reviewing the work, I uncovered this surprising document:

1930 Green, Wyman Reed, The Banding of Chimney Swifts in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Robert Sparks Walker is listed as an "other author."

This is a bound offprint (pages 114 to 126) of an article from a journal titled *Bird Banding*, July 1930 issue.

According to Dr. David Aborn, this journal later became the *Journal of Field Ornithology* (personal communication). It includes a photo of Walker with bird banding equipment.



Ray Zimmerman photo

What Have You Seen?

I just received a report from the Bird Banding Lab regarding an after-hatch

year female Magnolia Warbler I banded at Greenway Farms on September 7, 2009. On June 13, 2019, someone found the skeleton with the band still on it...in Winnie, TX!!!! Winnie is 40 km SW of Beaumont, and about 35 km N of Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge. Since the find was only a skeleton, there is no telling how long it has been there, or whether it met its demise during spring or fall migration, but it is one more data point for the migratory connectivity of Magnolia Warblers. This is the farthest I have ever had one of my birds found.

David Aborn



Ray Zimmerman photo

August 5

I checked several sites in Bledsoe County and Sequatchie County this morning. Two first-of-the-year species were noted. Thanks to helpful information from Roi Shannon, I observed six Swallow-tailed Kites flying low and feeding over a soybean field on Stone Cave Road near the intersection of East Valley Road in Sequatchie County about 9:35 A.M. Later in the morning, I saw another first-of-the-year species in Bledsoe County. A Eurasian Collared-Dove was perched on a utility wire on Nine Mile Crossing Road. I noted a Scissor-tailed flycatcher on that same road, as well as two Red-headed

Woodpeckers. Another Red-headed Woodpecker was noted on Melvine Road in Bledsoe County.
Charles Murray

August 8

This afternoon there were six Swallow-tailed Kites flying over the Soybean fields on Stone Cave Road in Sequatchie County.

The Swallow-tailed Kites did put on a great aerial show catching June Bugs.
Bruce Dralle



Great Blue Heron, Chickamauga Dam
Ray Zimmerman

August 9

Yes, you're right. It was wonderful yesterday to see them [Swallow-tailed Kites] doing their acrobatics and soaring about catching insects. Photo from August 8, 2019 Sequatchie County Stone Cave Road at 12:27 pm.

Carole Swann

August 14

Birchwood First-of-Year Birds

Three first-of-the-year (FOY) warbler species were noted so far this week, two on my property in Birchwood (Hamilton County) and the other one at the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park in Birchwood (Meigs County). The three FOY species were:

Hooded Warbler (a male) – home, Sunday, August 11. I saw a female Hooded Warbler at home today as well. Black-&- white Warbler – home, today,

Tennessee Warbler – CRMP, today.

I also observed a female Summer Tanager at home today, only the third of the species I've seen this year.

Charles Murray

August 15

I had several very good looks at a male Cerulean Warbler this morning on my property in Birchwood (Hamilton County). Considering its normal range and rarity, this was almost certainly a migrating bird. It was a life bird for me and no doubt the rarest bird I've seen on my property! I also observed a male Hooded Warbler at home this morning, as well as a Tennessee Warbler.

Charles Murray

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