



The Chattanooga Chat

Ray Zimmerman, Editor: znaturalist@gmail.com
(423) 718-9393

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

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

Program: For the January 9th meeting, Bob Shafto will give a presentation on birds of Maine, focusing primarily on those species unlikely to be seen in Tennessee.

Thanks

Thank you to Chris Sloan for sharing his beautiful photographs of the birds of Australia and to those who brought refreshments at our December meeting.



Field Trips

Volunteer opportunity for CTOS members with scopes: Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center (RRANC)

will conduct a member field trip to Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge (HWR) on Saturday, January 11th from 1:00 to 6:00 PM. The trip will begin at RRANC with Dr. David Aborn giving a talk about sandhill cranes then participants will travel to HWR. If you are willing to support this event by bringing your scope to HWR, please contact david-aborn@utc.edu.

Volunteer opportunity for CTOS members with scopes at the Sandhill Crane Festival 1/17 - 1/19

Friday 1/17 (children's day) - Need 2-3 people with scopes to help schoolchildren see the cranes.

Saturday 1/18 and Sunday 1/19- Need 2 people AM (8:00 – 12:00) and PM (12:00 – 4:00) both days with scopes.

If you are willing to support this event by bringing your scope, please contact david-aborn@utc.edu by January 10th so he can get your name on the list to receive a parking pass.

Jim & Dawn Greenway will lead a beginner's walk at the VW Wetlands on Sunday, February 2nd from 9:00 - 11:00. We will be birding from the side of a lightly traveled, paved road that overlooks wetland, forest and field areas.

Directions: to VW Wetland *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.

Volunteer opportunity: McCallie School is looking for volunteer(s) to lead a morning bird walk for approximately 20 students. Tentative dates are 2/6, 2/11 or 2/12. Please contact Dawn Greenway at dawn@mountainpathfinder.com by 1/31 if you are interested.



Greater White-fronted Geese,
photographed by Jim Greenway

Christmas Bird Counts

Today while working the Nickajack CBC I found three Mergansers at Marion County Park. After downloading and studying the pictures, there was one female Common Merganser, and two

female Red breasted Mergansers hanging out together.

Libby Wolfe
Ooltewah, TN

Twenty-seven observers found 97 species on the Chattanooga CBC on Saturday December 14, 2019. That is a little above average specie count with a lot of interesting species.

Highlights include:

Northern rough-winged Swallow –
Amnicola lake –Bruce Dralle first found a couple of weeks ago. I believe a first for this count
Pacific Loon – Chester Frost Park – Dan Jacobson
Sora –Standifer Gap Marsh
Lincoln's Sparrow – Baylor School
Marsh Wren – Baylor School
Peregrine Falcon
White-crowned Sparrow – VW
Osprey –Very rare on count
Northern Harrier
NO Brown Creeper or Barred Owl

I want to thank everyone who made this a very successful count!

Kevin Calhoon
Count Compiler

Look for more information on Christmas bird counts in the February issue.



Greater White-fronted Goose,
photographed by Jim Greenway

Help Wanted

We need club members to help organize/lead bird walks. Please consider sharing the joy of birding. Contact Jim if you are willing to help. jim@mountainpathfinder.com.

Researchers seek Bird Sightings

Are you adept at identifying the Eastern Bluebird and White-breasted Nuthatch by sight and sound? Put your skills to good use with Climate Watch, National Audubon's community science program that's exploring how birds are responding to climate change.

Join today:

<http://audubon.org/climatewatch> Email: johndiener@yahoo.com for more details. Winter surveys Jan 15th - Feb 15th.

Editor's Corner

The Great Naturalists
Edited by Robert Huxley
Reviewed by Ray Zimmerman

Robert Huxley took on a monumental task when he agreed to edit this volume, which is as much a history of science as natural history. The collection of essays includes an impressive list of authors, professors of history and science, curators and other notables. Each contributor devoted three to seven pages to one naturalist.

The Age of enlightenment section gave many familiar names, such as Catesby, Bartram, Linnaeus, and Lamarck. Georg Steller, who sailed east from Kamchatka and described the Steller's Jay, confirming Russia's claim to Alaska, is among those described. Alexander von Humboldt, John James Audubon, Alfred Russell Wallace, Charles Darwin, and Asa Gray are

among those featured in the 19th century portion.

The section titled, "The Ancients," included Aristotle, who described the feeding mechanism of the sea urchin, a structure known today as "Aristotle's Lantern." Theophrastus, known as the founder of botany, and Pliny the Elder, whose *Historia Naturalis* ran to 160 volumes are also included.

Robert Huxley, editor, served as Head of Collections in the Botany Department of the Museum of Natural History at London. He is retired from that post but continues as a consultant and writer.

What Have You Seen?

December 10

From the Cherokee Removal Memorial this morning, I noted a few Wilson's Snipe feeding on the sandbar nearest the CRMP. This was a first of the year species for me. Later at the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge viewing area, I observed one Snow Goose and numerous Sandhill Cranes.
Charles Murray

December 5

This afternoon I had eight American White Pelicans flying over Amnicola Marsh. They were drifting slowly to the Northeast. It's my first December sighting for Hamilton County.
Bruce Dralle

November 26

We got a very pleasant surprise seeing a White Pelican at the small pond at the corner of Vandever and Leffle Webb

Rds. in southern Cumberland County.
<https://ebird.org/checklist/S61760882>
In late fall the pond typically has a few snipe in the marshy area in front, but I couldn't see any today.
Ed LeGrand

November 25

I noted fifty-one species of birds in the Birchwood area on Monday, November 25. Some were observed on my property in Hamilton County. I noted others at Blythe's Ferry, the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park, or the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge viewing area, all in Meigs County. Highlights for the day included:

Several duck species at the CRMP – Gadwall, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Bufflehead, and Hooded Merganser
different duck species at HWR – Northern Pintail, Canvasback, Redhead, and Ring-necked

American White Pelican - CRMP

Wild Turkey – my property

Sharp-shinned Hawk and Red-shouldered Hawk – HWR;

Bald Eagle – CRMP

American Coot – large numbers at Blythe Ferry and at CRMP

Sandhill Crane – numerous at CRMP and HWR.

Several people saw a Whooping Crane at HWR, but I didn't see it. I saw five of the seven woodpecker species on the TWRA/TOS checklist. I DID NOT see Red-headed nor Hairy woodpeckers. All the ones seen were at my property.

Brown Creeper – my property

Palm Warbler – HWR

Swamp Sparrow – eating suet on my property

Charles Murray

Birchwood, TN

November 26

Last year I reported a dead Hooded Warbler on the UTC campus that was banded. This morning, I took some specimens out of the freezer in my lab for my Ornithology students to prepare for the museum, one of which was a catbird I found on campus on September 27, 2016. I didn't notice it when I originally collected it, but the bird had a band on it! I just reported the band to the Bird Banding Laboratory, and it was originally banded on August 14, 2016 in Portage, Michigan. The bird was banded as a hatch-year individual, so it was killed on its first fall migration. Finding any banded bird is an uncommon occurrence, but to have 2 found as window casualties at the same location is extraordinary.

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

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