



The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

No meetings or field trips are scheduled for May.

We have an exciting meeting planned for June.

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Announcement about events originally scheduled for the Statewide Spring Meeting, Page 3

Sightings reports begin on page 3

Photographs by *Maria Derrick*

House Finch (Male)
Hairy Woodpecker (female)

Page 2 Tree Swallow
Rufous Sided Towhee

By Ray Zimmerman
Page 3 Canada Goose on Nest, Green Heron

Thanks to Jim and Dawn Greenway for organizing the Young Birder's Club.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear CTOS Member,

I hope everyone is doing well and staying healthy. While Governor Lee and Mayors Berke and Coppinger have started relaxing the stay-at-home orders, there is still a restriction on gatherings of more than 10 people. In addition, even if larger gatherings were permitted, I personally do not think the community is at a point where they can safely take place. Therefore, the May 2020 CTOS meeting will be cancelled. We will see how things shape up for June (I have more to say on that below).

If you have not visited the Chattanooga TOS website recently ([chattanoogatos.org](http://chattanooga.org)), you should definitely check it out! Jeffrey



Schaarschmidt has done a great job making it easier to navigate, updating information, and generally making look more eye catching. On behalf of CTOS, I thank him for his efforts!

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President's Message continues

Finally, whether we meet face-to-face in June or do something virtually, there is an important matter the club will have to take care of; namely electing new officers. Because of their work requirements, Jim and Dawn Greenway will no longer be able to fill the roles of Secretary, Vice-president for Field trips, and Vice-president for Programs. Fortunately, they are still going to be in charge of the very successful Chattanooga Young Birders Club, and hopefully that program will continue to grow! Gary Lanham, who has served admirably for

many years as our Treasurer, has said he will no longer serve as a board member, and I am no longer willing to serve as President. PLEASE CONSIDER SERVING IN ONE OF THESE ROLES! IF THE BOARD GOES UNFILLED, THEN THE CHAPTER WILL REMAIN IDLE UNTIL PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO SERVE; IT IS AS SIMPLE AS THAT! I recognize that new officers may be faced with the possibility that a second round of COVID-19 might prevent meetings and field trips again, but perhaps they can work around it, such as recording presentations by the monthly speakers or field trips and posting them on our web page and/or on social media. As I have said repeatedly, this is YOUR organization, and people need to start taking some responsibility for it. You won't be left entirely on your own; past officers are willing to answer questions and help ease your transition into whatever role you fill. Dawn Greenway will

be submitting descriptions of the various positions to give you an idea of what the responsibilities are. If you are interested in serving, send me your name and what position you would like to fill, and we will vote in June.

Stay well, and good birding!

David Aborn

CTOS President

Check out our new web pages.

[Chattanooga Chapter Web Page](#)

[Tennessee Ornithological Society Web Site:](#)





Spring Meeting?

See You in the Fall!

The Spring Meeting of the Tennessee Ornithological Society has been postponed to the fall. We hope to conduct our Annual business at our scheduled fall meeting October 16-18 at Cedars of Lebanon State Park. Details will be posted at our website. To our knowledge, TOS has never cancelled an annual meeting but the times are truly unprecedented. Fortunately,

in the safety of Nature, we can continue birding from home or with smaller groups. -
Danny Gaddy, President, Tennessee Ornithological Society

Jeff Scharschmidt has made serious upgrades to our [Facebook page](#).

[The Tennessee Warbler](#), our statewide newsletter, is now available online.

[The Hatchie Birdfest](#) went virtual this year. Videos are still available on their [Facebook Page](#).

The Fall Meeting is scheduled October 16—18 at the Cedars of Lebanon State Park.

What Have Your Seen?

April 11

At Enterprise South Nature Park this morning there were 2 Blue-winged Warblers. Other migrants there were Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Red-eyed Vireos, Yellow-throated Vireos, a White-eyed Vireo, and a Prairie Warbler.

David Aborn

April 10 Bill Haley reported hearing a FOS Wood Thrush in his yard in Soddy Daisy. He also reported hearing a Chuck Wills Widow the previous evening.

April 6

Yesterday, April 6, I noted my first Ruby-throated Hummingbird of the year on my home property in Birchwood (Hamilton County). This male showed up at a hummingbird feeder in early afternoon. Another highlight of the day was the sighting of two Hairy Woodpeckers, also at my property. Hairy Woodpecker sightings are infrequent for me anywhere around Birchwood. These two responded to a sound recording of their “peek” call followed by their “whinny” call on the iBird Pro phone app. Also on April 6 at home, I observed the most richly colored male White-throated Sparrow I have ever seen. I still have a few of these sparrows around, but most seem to have already started their migration north to their nesting grounds.



Charles Murray

Join Chattanooga TOS

Membership Dues

Individual: \$28

Student \$15

Family: \$32

Sustaining: \$40

Lifetime: \$460 (Lifetime members must pay \$10 local dues each year.)

Send checks payable to "TOS" to:

Gary Lanham,

TOS Treasurer

21 Cool Springs Road

Signal Mountain, TN
37377

chattanooga-
tos@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.

April 6

Four female Brewer's Blackbirds are feeding on the ground around the Cattle Farm Buildings. Check both sides of Snow Hill Road and the trees around the Cattle Farm Buildings.

April 5—This afternoon there was a Cattle Egret feeding at a small farm pond along Snow Hill Road. Location 9559-9569 Snow Hill Road.—35.11.49 N 85.1.49 W Ooltewah TN -Bruce Dralle

April 7—Charles, your update prompted me to write! I had not had hairy woodpeckers come to my house's birdfeeders for many years, but this winter a male and female have been visiting regularly. In the past, their visits were very infrequent; one might show up every two or three years. Now I see one or the other of them several days a week. The only thing I did differently this year was to add a new feeder, one that offers a big log of compressed food. That's the feeder they usually choose. - Maria Derrick

I also have a pair coming to suet. Never had them visit before since we moved in two years ago, although I'd seen the male in the woods winter before last. They sure are shy birds. - Kathy Malone

April 2—At the wetland off Curtain Pole Rd. in Chattanooga there is a male Blue-winged Teal. - David Aborn

March 31—The East Tennessee Nursery/Tree Farm is closed to - all traffic until 5 pm on weekdays. Pedestrian and bike access is allowed from 5-8 pm weekdays and all day weekends. Gee Creek campground is closed. I do not know if you are allowed to walk-in to the camping area. So far the Forest Service roads at Chilhowee and Thunder Rock remain open. - Rick Houlk

April 1— Around noon today I found a male Brewer's Blackbird on Pineville Road. The Brewer's was feeding in the short grass next to the brown brick building.

The location of the brown brick building is right at the railroad tracks. This is the same location where the Upland Sandpiper was seen last May. 817 Pineville Road. - Bruce Dralle

Frequently mentioned : Visit [Cherokee Removal Memorial Park](#) and [Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge](#)