



The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

November Field Trip

Brainerd Levee, 8 am Sunday November 1
Kevin Calhoun, kac@tnaqua.org, will lead a trip to the Brainerd Levee. Bring waders if you have them.

November Meeting

Thursday, November 12 at Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center. Board Meeting at 5:30, Program at 6:00. Further details TBA.

Letter from the Editor

This issue of the Chattanooga Chat includes photos from our October meeting. That's exciting. After a hiatus of several months, Mike Seeber, our new Vice President for programs, presented a program on families of birds, their characteristics, and genetic relationships.



Out of an abundance of caution, we ceased offering field trips and meetings in March of this year. We have now learned that outdoor gatherings are safer than indoors, so the October meeting took place outdoors at the Hubert Fry Pavilion of the Tennessee Riverpark.

Gary Brunvoll, our new Vice President for field trips scheduled three for the month of October and one in November. Soon it will be time for Christmas Bird Counts of which our chapter organizes three, Nickajack, Hiwassee, and Chattanooga.

Christmas Bird Counts began more than 100 years ago and the National Audubon Society coordinates them at an international level. The search for and documentation of birds provides important data on the state of bird populations in our area and is an important resource for researchers seeking to find trends in bird populations.

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Letter continued

I recently interviewed our statewide President, Danny Gaddy, for another project. He related how he could find a Brown Creeper in a specific location for the Hiwassee Christmas Bird Count year after year. One year when that habitat was disrupted, he saw no Brown Creeper and has seen none since. The species survives, but that brown creeper no longer shows up on the count.

Thanks to Corry Hagen of Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center for taking on the role of President of the Executive Committee and moving our organization forward. Thanks to all of our officers, directors, and volunteers listed in the inset.

Good Birding
Ray Zimmerman



Officers, Directors and Volunteers

President – Corey Hagen
VP Programs -- Mike Seeber
VP Field Trips – Gary Brunvoll
Treasurer – Fran Hiestand
Secretary – Ray Zimmerman
Historian – Barbara Johnson
Statistician – Keven Calhoon
Newsletter Editor – Ray Zimmerman
Facebook and website management –
Jeffrey Schaarschmidt
Youth Advisor – Luke Thompson

Sandhill Crane Festival Cancelled

David Aborn recently posted information on our Facebook page indicating that the 2021 Sandhill Crane Festival at Birchwood is cancelled. There is no word as to whether the viewing platform at Hiwassee Refuge will be open. Your editor will certainly miss his annual pilgrimage to Birchwood.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Hugh Barger recently shared this link about a Rose-breasted Grosbeak that displays male plumage on one side of the body and female plumage on the other. <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/bird-male-female-grosbeak-gynandromorph>

Chapter Report

Your newsletter editor also sends the quarterly chapter report to the Editors of “The Tennessee Warbler,” our statewide newsletter. Please send any chapter news to Ray Zimmerman, znaturalist@gmail.com It is also appropriate to send obituaries or news of recent demise of members. The editors of the Tennessee Warbler are anxious to receive this information.

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Chattanooga TOS needs your photographs and stories.

If you have good photographs of birds or birdwatchers from meetings or field trips, we can use them on our web site and Facebook page. Please send them to Jeff Schaarschmidt, Schaarschmidt@yahoo.com
We can also use photographs and stories in the Chattanooga Chat. Please send those to znaturalist@gmail.com

Sightings

October 19

Here are some birding highlights for October 19, 2020, identified on my property in Hamilton County at Birchwood, and other notable species observed at the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge, also near Birchwood, but in Meigs County.

American White Pelicans – First of Season for me, a flock of about 25 at HWR

Bald Eagle – two adults at HWR

Red-breasted Nuthatch – at home

Magnolia Warbler – at home

Bay-breasted Warbler – at HWR

Black-throated Blue Warbler – at home, a new yard bird and a new year bird

Palm Warbler – at HWR

Yellow-rumped Warbler – at home, at HWR, and at the VW Wetlands

Charles Murray

October 18

I identified two first of season species for me at my property in Hamilton County at Birchwood today. First, I saw a female Purple Finch and later a male Purple Finch. Then, later in the day, a first of season winter wren was also observed on my property.

Charles Murray

October 13

It was another busy morning of banding at Greenway Farm, with lots of thrushes, as well as the first Winter Wren of the season.

Swainson's Thrush = 10

Wood Thrush = 6

Gray-cheeked Thrush = 5

Gray Catbird = 3

Magnolia Warbler = 3

Ovenbird = 1

Winter Wren = 1

Red-bellied Woodpecker = 1

David Aborn

October 8

Today was not as busy as Monday, but I still banded a nice assortment:

Wood Thrush = 5

Ovenbird = 2

Downy Woodpecker = 2

Gray Catbird = 1

Gray-cheeked Thrush = 1

Brown Thrasher = 1

Blue Jay = 1

I also saw a flock of 10 Tennessee Warblers feeding on hackberry fruit, and I heard my first Yellow-bellied Sapsucker of the fall.

David Aborn

October 5

It was a big day banding at Greenway Farm this morning; 31 birds. Thrushes galore!

Wood Thrush = 12

Gray-cheeked Thrush = 5

Swainson's Thrush = 3

Gray Catbird = 5

Tufted Titmouse = 2

Brown Thrasher = 1

Hooded Warbler = 1

Magnolia Warbler = 1

Scarlet Tanager = 1

David Aborn

Click this link to see our web page:

ChattanoogaTOS.org



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Join CTOS:

Membership Dues

Individual: \$28

Student \$15

Family: \$32

Sustaining: \$40

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

NEW: Join or renew your membership online!

ChattanoogaTOS.org

Select membership level, click “Add to Cart”, and you will be taken to the Secure PayPal site where you can pay by credit card or PayPal account

All dues, donations, gifts, and bequests are tax deductible under Sec. 501 (c) (3), the Internal Revenue Code.

Need to pay by check?

Make your check out to “TOS” and send to:

Fran Hiestand,
CTOS Treasurer
8935 N. Hickory Valley Rd
Chattanooga, TN 37416

If you are a new member, please include your address, phone number, and an email.

October 9

Here are some birding highlights from my home property in Birchwood or elsewhere in Hamilton County, as noted, or at the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park in Meigs County.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – only one was still here – October 8 – home

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – first of the season (FOS) – October 8 – home

Red-breasted Nuthatch – October 9 – home

Veery – A LIFE BIRD for me – October 9 – CRMP

Swainson’s Thrushes – a few seen both dates – home

Tennessee Warbler – October 8 – CRMP, October 9 – home

Magnolia Warbler – both dates – home; October 9 – CRMP

Bay-breasted Warbler – October 9 – home

Yellow-rumped Warbler – October 8 – DeFriese Road, Birchwood – October 9 – home

Dark-eyed Junco – first of the season (FOS) – October 9 – home

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks – from one to several almost daily since September 19 at home

Charles Murray

October 6

On my property in Birchwood, I saw my second Red-breasted Nuthatch of the year. Later in the morning, I noted Tennessee, Magnolia, and Pine warblers at home. In late morning at the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge viewing area in Meigs County, I saw several Palm and Pine warblers near the gazebo. Then I went to Bledsoe County to search for a Western Kingbird and some Scissor-tailed Flycatchers that had been found on Old York Highway (Old Highway 28) near Nine Mile Crossing Road by Roi and Deborah Shannon on October 3 and reported October 4. Thanks to Roi’s help, I was able to locate both species. The Western Kingbird was a new life bird for me. I also saw two or three first-of-the-year (FOY) Scissor-tailed Flycatchers in the same area as the Western Kingbird.

Charles Murray

September 17

The two Sanderlings and Least Sandpiper flew over Nickajack Dam at 9:20 CDT. Trying to relocate.

Bruce Dralle

September 21

I had my busiest day of the season today. My totals were:

Brown Thrasher = 5

Hooded Warbler = 5

American Redstart = 3

Ovenbird = 2

Tennessee Warbler = 1

Magnolia Warbler = 1

Canada Warbler = 1

White-eyed Vireo = 1

Gray Catbird = 1

Northern Cardinal = 1

I also saw my 1st Chestnut-sided Warbler and Veery of the fall.

David Aborn