



# The Chattanooga Chat

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October 2020: Vol. 44, No 10

A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter  
Tennessee Ornithological Society

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**October Meetings: Thursday, October 8, Reflection Riding**  
Board of Directors Meeting at 5:30, Member Update Meeting at 6:00.

Our September meeting was a chance to meet the new directors and learn about the initiatives we have planned. October will offer another chance to hear the ideas currently under discussion, and to allow members to offer input. We will follow the meeting with a chance to bird the Lower Creek Road at Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center.

## October Field Trips

Tommie Rogers will lead a trip to the **River Gardens** on Oct 3. Meet at 8 AM. The gates should be open. The River Gardens is located on Highway 41 between the Raccoon Mountain Pumped Storage Plant and the Hale's Bar Marina. It is an excellent spot for viewing Osprey and migrating waterfowl.

Harold Birch (423-903-1665) will lead a trip to **Chester Frost Park** and **Pinkey's Point**. Friday October 9 at 9 AM. Meet at the Boat Ramp. We expect to see Brown Headed Nuthatch and Red Headed Woodpeckers.

Gary Brunvoll (423 227-2234) will lead a trip to **Cravens House**, Saturday, October 17th. Meet 8:30 at the lower parking lot. This is an excellent location for fall migrants.

## New Developments

At the August board meeting, we discussed potential projects and growth areas for the Chattanooga TOS. These included restoring the regular meetings and field trips. We have initiated both projects with further progress still to be made. We also discussed expanding and diversifying our membership and possibly taking on projects to develop birding opportunities. Please look over this list and consider volunteering for one of these committees to help implement the proposed projects. A board member will chair each committee.

Community Outreach/Membership Committee  
Project Planning Committee — Including a return to presentations.  
Marketing Committee  
Field Trip Committee  
Programming Committee

## **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

These are some goals set at the August Board Meeting. Send you feedback to znaturalist@gmail.com and I will forward it to the officers.

- Increase overall membership by 20%
- Get the Young Birders Club on solid footing and expand to other campuses.
- Decide on a new meeting location that will be inviting for our target audiences.
- Revitalize the field trip program.
- Reinitiate the programs with high quality speakers, either in person or online
- Diversify the membership in regard to age, ethnicity, and economic factors.
- Have field trip leaders/participants forward to the webmaster: (1) pictures of the participants - smiling and having fun, (2) pictures of birds observed, (3) a link to an eBird list generated from the field trip. My goal would be to publish a trip report for every field trip, to show to potential members visiting the website some of the benefits of membership. (Jeffrey)
- Create a business card that has the name of the club, the website/twitter/facebook links, and monthly club location/time, so that our members can provide them to unaffiliated birders they meet.
- Get Out Chattanooga (free monthly outdoor magazine) devotes one to two pages to birding each month. But I haven't seen any mention of our club in the magazine. We should seek to change this. Maybe even ask them to include our meeting/speaker schedule in their birding section. Alternatively, include our field trips.
- Identify partnerships with other groups or agencies which are undertaking civic/county area restoration or green space initiatives, so that CTOS can help advocate support for local and migrant bird species. (e.g. Chattanooga Audubon, South Chickamauga Creek Greenway, Wild Things, city/county agencies)
- Improve some birding habitat or encourage agencies responsible to partner with us. Thinking of places like the marsh and the levee. (Gary B.)
- Online payment options and options for automatic renewal. (Already Achieved)
- Set up competitions with other TOS chapters during events like the Christmas Bird Count.
- Meeting format. Why do people become members and why have we lost members?

## Sightings

September 5

When I first looked out at one of my hummingbird feeders early this morning in Birchwood (Hamilton County), I saw an agitated Ruby-throated Hummingbird. That's not unusual I was thinking (and you're probably thinking the same thing). Then I noticed a larger bird on the hummingbird feeder. When I had quickly grabbed my binoculars and looked at the larger bird, my thought was, "I've never seen this species in my life." Its relatively long and pointed bill and other features led me to the blackbirds section of my field guide where I discovered that the mystery bird was a first-year male Baltimore Oriole. I had seen only one of that species ever before, and it was an unmistakable adult! This afternoon a Prothonotary Warbler was noted at my property, as was a Hooded Warbler. The Prothonotary Warbler was a new yard bird for me.

Charles Murray

15 September 2020

Hamilton County, TN

I have been neglectful in posting my banding numbers over the past couple of weeks, but there hasn't been much to report; it has been very slow. All the migrants I have caught have this season have been Hooded Warblers, Canada Warblers, Kentucky Warblers and Ovenbirds, and I haven't seen much around. I did get a nice surprise catch this morning, and a 1st at Greenway Farm...Cooper's Hawk (the 98th species I have banded out there)! I also saw 8 Cedar Waxwings this morning. Thanks go out to Avery Young and Mallory Lindsay for their help the past couple of days!

Bird Banding at Greenway Farm

Here is what I have caught and seen out there over the past 2 weeks:

Banded:

Hooded Warbler = 9

Northern Cardinal = 5

Canada Warbler = 2

Ovenbird = 2

Carolina Wren = 2

Kentucky Warbler = 1

Tufted Titmouse = 1

Downy woodpecker = 1

Cooper's Hawk = 1

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**Photo: Tree Swallows at  
Chickamauga Dam by  
Ray Zimmerman**



## 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!**

**Click this link to see our web page:**

**[ChattanoogaTOS.org](http://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.

## Bird Banding Continued

Migrants Seen:

Hooded Warbler = 12

Ruby-throated Hummingbird = 12

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher = 5

Kentucky Warbler = 5

Ovenbird = 4

Gray Catbird = 3

Yellow-throated Vireo = 2

White-eyed Vireo = 2

Eastern Wood-Pewee = 2

Yellow-throated Warbler = 1

Great Crested Flycatcher = 1

Black-and-White Warbler = 1

Common Yellowthroat = 1

American Redstart = 1

David Aborn

September 15

On my property in Birchwood (Hamilton County) this morning, I saw a Magnolia Warbler. This is probably the most frequent migrant warbler that I see which doesn't nest here. I also saw a first-of-the-year (FOY) Black-throated Green Warbler. In late morning I went to the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park in Birchwood (Meigs County). Arriving about 11:10 EDST, within about 15-20 minutes I identified four warbler species and saw another species that I didn't get a good enough view to identify. All of these were noted in a walk of about 100 meters. The four species identified were a spectacular male Golden-winged Warbler (FOY), a FOY Worm-eating Warbler (The only other one I ever saw previously was on Lookout Mountain several years ago.), a Tennessee Warbler, and a Magnolia Warbler.

Charles Murry

Please submit articles and photos to Ray Zimmerman,  
znaturalist@gmail.com