



# The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter  
Tennessee Ornithological Society

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## June Meeting

We will hold our June meeting at White Oak Park in Red Bank. Our board meeting will be a discussion of the potential for Chimney Swift Towers in the park. Members may want to explore the trails to look for birds in the area.

**Thursday, June 10**

**5:30 pm Executive Board**

**7:00 pm Monthly Meeting**

**Thanks** to our President, Corey Hagen, for hosting many of our 2020/2021 meetings at Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center and leading bird walks at some of the meetings.

## Field Trips

Danny Gaddy will lead a Chuck-Will-widow and Whip-poor-will at the Chickamauga battlefield on June 1st and 3rd. Meet him at the visitor center at 7:30 pm.

Also, Roi and Debbie Shannon will lead a trip to Hinch Mountain on June 12. David Stone will offer birding At The Honors Golf Course in Ooltewah Monday, June 7. We have two sessions to choose from 8:00 - 11:00 or 5:00 - 8:00. This event is limited to ten people per session. Contact David Stone at [rockyturf@epbfi.com](mailto:rockyturf@epbfi.com) to reserve your

place. He will give priority to anyone who has joined the club since 2019. Others can contact David, and he will put you on the list if space permits.



All Photos in this edition courtesy of Maria Derreck

## Happinest Wildlife Rehabilitation calls for Volunteers.

It can be great fun looking at a beautiful bird through binoculars. It is even more fun to hold a tiny newly-hatched orphan bird in your hand and try to guess what it is! And then to spend a few weeks feeding it and watching it turn into one of those beautiful birds you've always seen.

Happinest Songbird Rescue and Rehabilitation needs volunteers to take care of babies and injured adults that

come in, and the rewards are great. You can work any time you choose for a couple of hours or as long as you wish, once a week or as often as you want to. We promise excellent training, good company, and hundreds of birds! Check us out online to sign on as a volunteer, or contact me (Fran Hiestand 423-504-1192) for more info or a visit to the rescue.



#### **From the TOS Website**

<https://tnbirds.org/news/>

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) has been one of our nation's most effective bird conservation laws for over 100 years. Last year, however, a new federal rule severely weakened the MBTA, ending the enforcement of a provision that holds the industry accountable for bird deaths. Recently a new act has been proposed by some members of Congress to restore and expand the protections provided by the MBTA. The Migratory Bird Protection Act would regulate incidental bird mortalities by requiring mitigation fees for unavoidable impacts and encouraging best practices to reduce bird mortality.

#### **Sightings**

I noted 48 bird species today beginning on my property in Birchwood (Hamilton County), traveling to the TWRA Yuchi Refuge in Rhea County, and returning

home. As I traveled, I checked other locations in Meigs and Rhea County along the way.

Some highlights from my property included a Wild Turkey hen which was startled when I appeared unexpectedly. She used a "killdeer-like" evasive tactic to lead me away from two tiny young. I heard one Wood Thrush on my property today, but I heard at least 3 in recent days. Several Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are increasing at home, and I have several Downy Woodpeckers, including young, coming to suet feeders.

From various sites in Rhea County, 37 species were seen or heard. Highlight species from Yuchi Refuge included a first-of-the-year bird for me – a male Summer Tanager. Other Yuchi species of note included Prairie Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, more than a half-dozen Yellow-breasted Chats, and a Barn Swallow that I accidentally flushed from its nest under the gazebo roof. At the TWRA Chickamauga (Cottonport) Management Area on Martin Springs Road, I observed one Prothonotary Warbler and saw one Yellow-billed Cuckoo and heard another.

Charles Murray



May 20

Hamilton County, TN

There was a Swainson's Warbler singing behind Walker Hall at Audubon Acres this morning.

David Aborn

May 15

This morning in Birchwood (Hamilton County), a Connecticut Warbler was observed. The warbler was a life bird for me (and was, of course, a first-of-the-year bird as well). A Cooper's Hawk failed to catch a bird under my feeders later in the day, but it perched in a nearby tree long enough to identify it. It became my latest first-of-the-year (FOY) bird.

Charles Murray

May 15

5/15 tri-colored heron was reported yesterday on ebird at the Brainerd Levy and is continuing today. It is in the pond behind Boyd Buchanan School.

There are also two common gallinules in the ditch just above the pond.

Tim Jeffers



## Join TOS

Membership dues:

\$28- individual      \$32- Family  
\$15- student      \$40- sustaining  
\$460- Life (Life members must pay \$10 local chapter dues each year.)

**NEW: Join or renew your membership online!**

[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 Please include an email address.

Mark Obmascik

Author of *The Big Year* recently spoke out in an interview with American Birding Association:

In 2004, Mark Obmascik suddenly burst onto the birding scene with the release of his first book, *The Big Year*—and his fame escalated when Hollywood made it into a movie in 2011. But that was then, and this is now. The Denver-based journalist, Pulitzer Prize winner, father, and drop-of-a-hat birder still keeps plenty busy. At age 44, he pursued his own kind of Big Year, summiting all 54 of Colorado's 14,000-foot mountains, as related in *Halfway to Heaven*, which won a National Outdoor Book Award in 2009. Obmascik's most recent book, *The Storm On Our Shores* ...

Read the rest here: <https://www.aba.org/a-birding-interview-with-mark-obmascik/>