

The Chattanooga Chat

The newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society





The Chattanooga Birding Club is the Chattanooga Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

OFFICERS

President Corey Hagen

VP of Field Trips Gary Burnvoll

VP of Programs open

Treasurer Fran Heistand

Secretary open

Historian Barbara Johnson

Communications Jeffrey Schaarschmidt

WEBSITE

www.ChattanoogaTOS.org

THE CHATTANOOGA CHAT

The Chattanooga Chat is published monthly by the Chattanooga Chapter for the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

The Chattanooga Chat's New Look

The Chattanooga Chat has a new editor and a new design. This is a result of Jeffrey Schaarschmidt taking over as editor of the newsletter after long time editor, Ray Zimmerman, retired from the position.



Former Newsletter Editor, and current VP of Programming, Ray Zimmerman

Going forward, we will try to post trip reports, such as the Crabtree Farms report in this issue. This will help create excitement and result in greater attendance and participation at events, as we hopefully move past Covid.

The Board offers our

thanks and appreciation to Ray Zimmerman for his many years of service as editor of the Chattanooga Chat.

His hard work and dedication have helped keep members and the general public informed on the happen-

ings within the club, as well as bird sightings in the region.

Ray is not totally retiring. Instead he has agreed to accept the appointment as VP of Programming for the club.

Secretary Position is Open

As noted in this issue (see Board Appoints New VP of Programming), Ray Zimmerman has been appointed to fill the vacant position of VP of Programming. Prior to this appointment Ray served as Secretary.

His appointment to VP of Programming leaves the position of Secretary open. If you are interested in the Secretary position, please contact Club President, Corey Hagen, at chagen@reflectionriding.org

Board Appoints New VP of Programming

The club's board has appointed Ray Zimmerman to fill the vacant position of Vice President of Programs.

Ray has already set up a number of exciting programs to be held in conjunction with our monthly meetings.

This move will leave the Secretary position open. If you are interested in the Secretary position, please contact Corey Hagen.

Upcoming Programs

Our programs are held in conjunction with our monthly meeting, in the event hall at Audubon Acres, at 6 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

November 11 - Viewing, "My Life as a Turkey." See November Events, on page 4, for full details.

December 9 - Barbara Johnson: Chimney Swift viewing and other outreach programs for beginning birdwatchers.

January 13 - Laura Marsh, Birding from your Couch, a program for beginners.

February 10 - David Hanni with Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, nongame division

March 10 - John Stokes with SOAR, presents live birds of prey.

ON THE COVER: This Piping Plover was located in Coffee County, on September 5, 2021, by Susan McWhiter. Check out the article on our website: www.chattanoogatos.org

Field Trip Report: Club Co-Hosts Birding Outing With Crabtree Farms To Attract New Members



October 16, 2021—in attendance were approximately 25 new birders.

Club member Barbara Johnson recently hosted a bird walk at Crabtree Farms with the goal of promoting the club among potential new members.

The event was promoted as open for beginners of all ages. The club even had several pairs of binoculars that it loaned out to participants that didn't own a pair. Participants walked around Crabtree Farms observing different species including fall migrants.

The best part about co-hosting this event with Crabtree Farms is they help promote the event which gave the event and club greater exposure. This model was a huge success and hopefully we will see some of the beginner participants join the club and attend future events.

MORE FIELD TRIPS OUTSIDE OF THE CHATTANOOGA-AREA?

This past year Chattanooga TOS held two field trips outside of the Chattanooga-area. Specifically, we held a field trip to bird the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and Hinch Mountain. Both of these trips were a huge success.

The club is currently trying to determine if members would be interested in participating in some additional distant field trips. Possible destinations could include Ensley Bottoms (Memphis, TN), Dauphin Island (Alabama), and Magee Marsh (Oregon, OH). If you have a suggestion for another location, please let us know.

We hope to discuss this topic during a future meeting.

Tennessee Rare Bird Reports

A **Black-legged Kittiwake** was observed by Rubin Stoll at **Duck River Unit**, in **Humphreys County** on **October 28**. It was chased away by gulls, in the direction of the pump house, and wasn't relocated.

A **Cave Swallow** was located by Daniel Jacobson, at **Chester Frost Park** in **Hamilton County**. The bird was observed associating with Tree Swallows and Barn Swallows for approximately 15 minutes before it flew off.

A **Limipkin** was located by Iris Kilpatrick at Duck River Unit, in **Humphreys County**, on October 25. This is the 5th state record. The bird was still present as of the date this newsletter was published. Please check out our website for a full article on this bird, including how to get to the observation location.

The **Burrowing Owl**, located in **Humphreys County**, in April has returned, as of October 24. Last spring the owl could be observed with a scope from the dirt mound across Herbert Road from the site, but cannot currently be seen due to leaf cover. Hopefully, it will remain long enough for the fall leaves to drop from the trees.

Report continues on Page 4

Christmas Count Dates

The **Nickajack Christmas Bird Count** will take place will be held on **TBD**.

The **Chattanooga Christmas Bird Count** is scheduled to take place on **December 18th**. The **Hiwassee Christmas Bird Count** will take place on **January 1st**.

More information will be provided on the calendar on our website and in the next issue of *The Chat*.

Tennessee Rare Bird Reports Continued

A deceased female **Painted Bunting** was found in **Hamilton County**, on Oct. 20. The bird was a victim of a window strike.

A **Say's Phoebe** was observed by Justine Nation on October 19, in **Wilson County**. It was chased away by a Cooper's Hawk shortly after being discovered.

A **Fulvous Whistling-Duck** has taken up residence at **Ensley Bottoms** in **Shelby County**. It has been associating with the resident Black-bellied Whistling Ducks. The most recent report took place on October 17th.

A **Rufus Hummingbird** was photographed in **Hamilton County**, October 14th, but departed that same day.

A **Townsend's Solitaire** was photographed on **Clingman's Dome**, on October 11th, and continued for two days, moving between **Sevier County**, TN and Swain County, NC. This appears to be the 1st Sevier County record.

A **Black-legged Kittiwake** was photographed by Shane Williams at **Concord Park In Knox County**, on **September 28**. The bird continued for one day. This appears to be the first County Record for this species.

THANKS!

Thanks go out to Ron Hoff for his presentation, "The Birds of Polynesia" at the October meeting.

November Events

Our full events calendar can be found on our website: www.ChattanoogaTOS.org

November 6, at 8 a.m.—Birding at Montague Park, 11511 E 23rd Street, Chattanooga, TN 37408. Meet in the parking lot. Event leader Luke Thompson. If you have any questions, please email Luke at ldtbirds37@gmail.com

November 11, at 6 p.m.— Club meeting and program, 900 N Sanctuary Rd, Chattanooga, TN 37421. A special showing of the film *My Life as a Turkey*. Here is the PBS description of this film.

After a local farmer left a bowl of eggs on Joe Hutto's front porch, his life was forever changed. Hutto, possessing a broad background in the natural sciences and an interest in imprinting young animals, incubated the eggs and waited for them to hatch. As the chicks emerged from their shells, they locked eyes with an unusual but dedicated mother.

Deep in the wilds of Florida's Flatlands, Hutto spent each day living as a turkey mother, taking on the full-time job of raising sixteen turkey chicks. Hutto dutifully cared for his family around the clock, roosting with them, taking them foraging, and immersing himself in their world. In the process, they revealed their charming curiosity and surprising intellect. There was little he could teach them that they did not already know, but he showed them the lay of the land and protected them from the dangers of the forest as best he could. In return, they taught him how to see the world through their eyes.

TBD - Nickajack Christmas Count, more information will be provided on the calendar on our website and in the next issue of *The Chat*.

Do you want to lead a fieldtrip?

The Club is looking for members to lead field trips. If you would like to lead a field trip in the upcoming months, please contact our VP of Field Trips, Gary Brumvoll, at gbrunvoll@epbfi.com. Gary will make sure your event is added to our online calendar and is promoted in the newsletter.

Chattanooga Chapter of Tennessee Ornithological Society

Membership Form

You can also join online on our website: <http://chattanoogatos.org/joining-or-renewing-as-a-member/>

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

(Please ensure letters and numbers are unambiguous; use upper case letters if necessary)

Mobile phone number: () _____ - _____

Annual Dues:

Individual Membership: \$28.00

Family Membership: \$32.00

Student Membership: \$15.00

State Sustaining Membership: \$40.00

State Life Membership: \$460.00 (local dues of \$10.00 still payable each year)

FYI: \$10.00 of your dues is retained at the local chapter, and the rest goes to the state organization. The extra contribution in the State Sustaining Membership goes to the state, but you may also designate an additional contribution for either the local chapter or the state organization. All dues, donations, gifts, and bequests are tax deductible under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

You can send a check for dues at the address below. *Make checks payable to "TOS".*

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