

The Chattanooga Chat

The newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society





The
Chattanooga Chapter
of the
Tennessee
Ornithological Society

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THE CHATTANOOGA CHAT

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

Chattanooga-Area Christmas Count Results



A Sandhill Crane flying over the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge, during the January 1, 2022 CBC Count.

The Chattanooga CBC, December 18, 2021
Four participants observed 96 species of bird, which is about average for this count. Highlights included:

- 2 Pacific Loons – out from Chickamauga Dam
- 1190 American White Pelicans – Record high for Hamilton County
- 3 Peregrine Falcons – record high for 1 this CBC
- 1 Merlin
- 1 Marsh Wren
- 13 Orange-crowned Warblers – record for this CBC
- 1 Osprey
- 1 Purple Finch

The Hiwassee CBC, January 1, 2022
Nineteen participants found 92 species, which is a little below average for this count. Highlights included:

- 11184 Sandhill Cranes
- 462 American Pelicans
- 2 Barred Owls – difficult on this count
- 1 Peregrine Falcon -only second time on this count
- 1 Orange-crowned warbler – difficult on this count
- 732 Rusty Blackbird – second highest number ever for count.

Secretary Position is Open

As noted in the previous issue, 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

**REMINDER:
Membership
Dues Are Due
for 2022**

The club’s membership year runs January 1 through December 31. The club provides a number of ways to join or renew for 2022.

You can join or renew online from the Join page of our website (<http://ChattanoogaTOS.org/joining-or-renewing-as-a-member/>) using your credit card or PayPal account.

Additionally, you can print the membership form from page 5 of this newsletter. You can either mail it in with a check or money order, or bring the same to the next club meeting.

Your membership dues allow us to offer exciting field trips and engaging programs at our monthly meetings.

Members receive our monthly newsletter, [The Chattanooga Chat](#), along with membership in the state Tennessee Ornithological Society. All state members also receive the [The Tennessee Warbler](#) newsletter and [The Migrant](#) quarterly journal.

ON THE COVER: Barred Owl at Rankin Bottoms, Davidson County, Tennessee, photographed by and used with permission of Jeffrey Schaarschmidt.

Free Birding Apps That Will Make Birding More Enjoyable, Part 1



eBird
Android & iPhone

Official Description: eBird Mobile makes it easy to record the birds you see in the field, and seamlessly link these observations with eBird--a global online database of bird records used by hundreds of thousands of birders around the world.

This free resource makes it easy to keep track of what you see, while making your data openly available for scientific research, education, and conservation.

eBird Mobile is the only app that passes information directly from the Android device to your eBird account on the web.

Review: If you use eBird to log your bird observations, then this is a must have app. Simply open the app, sign into y

our eBird account, and log your sightings.

The application does all of the other work for you. It uses your mobile devices gps to note your location and distance traveled and your phone's clock to note the start and stop time.

When you are done, answer a few questions, and hit submit.

Ease of use: Good

Score: 4 out of 5 stars



Merlin Bird ID
Android & iPhone

Official Description: Merlin Bird ID helps you identify birds with ease. This app is a digital field guide with more than 80,000 photos and sounds, plus maps, and ID tips! Merlin is the most fully featured and global bird app available, and the only one enabling both sound and photo identification powered by AI.

Review: This free app has become my go to birding identification app, replacing my very good Sibley birding \$20 app.

The app is very easy to use, but requires a little set up. After downloading the app the user will have to go to the upper right and tap the three lines to open the menu, then scroll down and click the Bird Pack link. This will generate a list bird packs the user can load into the app. Select and install the US and Canada pack. I have used the Australia, Ecuador, Brizil, and Namibia packs. All are just as great as the US and Canada pack.

Additionally, if you sign into your eBird account under the same menu, the app will place a small check mark next each species you have observed.

Ease of use: Very Good

Score: 5 out of 5 stars



GoBird
Android & iPhone

Official Description: Discover and identify birds around you, for free, anywhere in the world. Find the best bird eBird-hotspots. Find rare bird sightings in your area. Review the map of where a particular species has been spotted.

Review: The app uses your phone GPS to determine your location and provides a list of eBird hotspots in your area. It also provides a list of recently observed birds, based on recently submitted eBird reports.

This allows the user to filter the information based on date (1-30 days) and distance by (1 to 31 miles). Users can further filter the list of birds to show only rare birds. It has a built in bird field guide, but the user interface needs some work. I find it much easier to use the Merlin bird field guide.

I used this app extensively while on a trip to Colorado to locate birds. As noted the app only allows users to obtain reports from a max of 31 miles from their current location.

I would rate it higher if that could be increased to 100 miles.

Ease of use: Very Good

Score 4 out 5 stars

Tennessee Rare Bird Reports

A **Snow Bunting** was photographed by Sandy Vandenberg in Cades Cove, in the Great Smokey Mountain National Park, in **Blount County**, on January 7.

A **Lark Sparrow** was photographed by Bob Foehring at Shelby Farms, in **Shelby County**, on January 7. The bird is continuing as of the 17th.

A **Long-tailed Duck** was photographed by Cade Campbell at South Holston Lake—Musick's Campground, in **Sullivan County**, on January 16.

A **Harris Sparrow** was photographed on private property, in **Williamson County**, on January 16.

A **Surf Scoters** and 3 **White-winged Scoters** were observed on Ish Creek Bay, in **Blount County**, on January 16.

A **Painted Bunting** was photographed by Karin Beuerlein, coming to a feeder in **Knox County**, on January 16. The bird came to the feeder twice and hasn't been seen since.

A female **Rufus Hummingbird** was observed in **Davidson County** on January 18th. The homeowner was able to see the band on it's leg and confirm it was the same bird they had there last year.

Do you want to lead a field trip?

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 gbrumvoll@epbfi.com. Gary will make sure your event is added to our online calendar and is promoted in the newsletter.

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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
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Chattanooga, TN 37416