

# 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.

# Chapter Program Report - SOAR Brought Birds!

Chattanooga TOS's February program was presented by John Stokes and Dale Kernahan of Save Our American Raptors (SOAR).

John and Dale brought several live birds of prey and provided an audio-visual program.

They focused on the birds' unique adaptations for survival, and Raptor conser-

vation.

Having the birds of prey added a really special element, as these species are most often seen perched or soaring hundreds of feet above.

*Program photos taken by Barbara Johnson and Ray Zimmerman.*



## Field Trip Report—Brainerd Levee



*Brainerd Levee participants. Not pictured, field trip leader, Gary Brunvoll.*

A small group of birders attended the Brainerd Levee field trip lead by Gary Brunvoll.

In total 40 species were observed, including numerous Wilson Snipe and a Lesser Yellowlegs.

Higher shore bird counts should start

being observed as we move into spring migration. The full eBird checklist can be found here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S105610640>

Thanks to Gary Brunvoll for leading this field trip.

**ON THE COVER:** American Woodcock, photographed by and used with permission of Jeffrey Schaarschmidt.

### Birds Are Nesting Earlier Due To Climate Change

According to an article in the Journal of American Ecology, increase in global temperatures associated with climate change have resulted in many migratory birds nesting up to 25 days earlier.

For migratory bird species, earlier spring warm-up could lead to a mismatch between nesting activities and food availability.

Ninety-six percent of land birds feed insects to their young to survive, so cold snaps in these early springs can be really detrimental.

The study assessed changes in nesting dates of 72 bird species in the Upper Midwest of the United States by comparing contemporary lay dates with those obtained from archived, historical museum nest records over a 143-year period (1872–2015).

This information was cross referenced with CO2 and temperature levels to arrive at the study's conclusion.

The article, *Climate Change Affects Bird Nesting Phenology: Comparing Contemporary Field And Historical Museum Nesting Records*, can be found on the Journal of American Ecology website. However, it will cost you \$10 to read.

### Bird Flu Outbreaks Reported In 26 States

The United States Department of Agriculture is reports bird flu outbreaks in 26 states.

Iowa has multiple outbreaks in seven counties, with a single outbreak in Franklin County infecting 250,000 birds, in a commercial flock of chickens.

Bird flu has also been detected at four commercial farms in southern Indiana, a flock of commercial broiler chickens in Kentucky, a commercial poultry flock in Delaware, a backyard flock of mixed species birds in northern Virginia.

While a strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza has been detected in Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania,

Virginia, and Maine in a non-commercial backyard flocks of birds.

These were the first times bird flu outbreaks have occurred in Michigan, New York, and Pennsylvania.

According to federal authorities, the commercial flocks have been euthanized.

While the wild birds sites have been quarantined and the properties have been "depopulated". It's not clear how the bird flu reached the wild flocks.

Because avian influenza viruses are naturally occurring and ever-present in wild birds, preventing or controlling it in wild populations is not feasible.

### Ducks Unlimited: Historic Temperature And Drought Conditions Cause Duck Populations To Plummet

According to Ducks Unlimited's 2021-2-22 Season in Review, Tennessee's total duck populations saw a reduction of 28%, while Mallards saw a decrease of 49%.

The reduction in duck populations was expected as a result of the historic high temperatures and drought conditions across the United States last year.

"Hunter reports generally supported this expectation with apparently low harvest of juvenile ducks in the central and eastern U.S. Weather and habitat conditions during the 2021–22 hunting season were highly variable in space and time, as drought and below average precipitation caused hunting success in many regions to be heavily dependent on availability of managed water."

The full, *Season in Review 2021–22: Indices of habitat conditions, weather, and regional duck abundance nationwide*, can be found here: <https://www.ducks.org/conservation/waterfowl-research-science/season-in-review-202122?po=waterfowl-research-&science>

## Tennessee Rare Bird Reports

An **American Bittern** was observed at Standifer Gap Marsh, in **Hamilton County**, on March 27.

The Long-tailed Duck that was reported in January, was reported as continuing at Chickamauga Dam, in Hamilton County, on March 25.

A **Common Gallinule** was reported present at the **Hambleton County** Sewage Treatment plant, on March 17.

A **Northern Goshawk** was photographed on Whitworth Rd, in Kenton, **Obion County**, on March 16.

A **Western Tanager** was observed in Townsend, **Blount County**, Tennessee on March 12.

A **White-winged Dove** was photographed in **Lincoln County** on March 11.

A **Trundra Swan** was observed at Three Rivers WMA, in **Obion County**, on March 9, but it was flushed by a Bald Eagle.

A **White-winged Dove** was reported on private property in **Sullivan County**, on March 5. It was last observed on March 6.

Two **Neotropic Cormorants** were observed at Drakes Creek Heron Rookery, in **Sumner County**, on March 1.

## 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@epbf.com](mailto:gbrunvoll@epbf.com). Gary will make sure your event is added to our online calendar and is promoted in the newsletter.

## Bird Banding at Greenway Farms

David Aborn will be netting and banding birds every Tuesday and Thursday, from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. during the months of April and May.

If you are interested in assisting David, you should meet him at the buildings near the gardens at 7:30 a.m.

Greenway Farms is a 180-acre park located at 5051 Gann Store Road, Hixson 37343.

If you have any questions, please email David Aborn: [david-aborn@utc.edu](mailto:david-aborn@utc.edu)

### April Events

Our full events calendar can be found on our website:

[www.ChattanoogaTOS.org](http://www.ChattanoogaTOS.org)

**April 2nd at 8 a.m. — Birding at Reflection Riding Arboretum & Nature Center**, located at 400 Garden Rd, Chattanooga, TN 37419. Jeffrey Schaarschmidt ([schaarschmidt@yahoo.com](mailto:schaarschmidt@yahoo.com)) will be hosting this walk. Participants will likely walk between 3 to 4 miles at a casual pace as they look for early migrants. Participants should bring binoculars, and something to drink.

**April 7th at 7 p.m. - Battlefield Birding - Search for Whip-poor-Wills & Chuch-will's Widows.** Danny Gaddy, will lead participants through the battlefield, checking traditional locations for migrating Whip-poor-Wills & Chuck-will's Widow. Participants should meet at the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center located at 3370 Lafayette Rd, Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742.

**April 9th, at 7:45 a.m. - Birding at Baylor School** - Meet event host Luke Thompson in the paved parking lot just before the guard shack, on the left. The Baylor School provides a nice range of habitats, which include short grass fields, forests, ponds and other wetlands. The Baylor School is located at 171 Baylor School Rd, Chattanooga, TN 37405.

**April 12th at 7 p.m. - Battlefield Birding - Search for Whip-poor-Wills & Chuck-will's Widows.** Danny Gaddy, will lead participants through the battlefield, checking traditional locations for migrating Whip-poor-Wills & Chuck-will's Widow. Participants should meet at the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center located at 3370 Lafayette Rd, Fort Oglethorpe, GA 30742.

**April 14th at 7 p.m.— Our monthly meeting will be held in the events building at Audubon Acres**, 12 W 13th St, Chattanooga, TN 37402. We will be discussing general club business as well as some of the bird walks and other events we have planned for the upcoming months, such as ***Birds and Beer!*** Now that I have your interest peaked, you will have to come to the meeting to learn more!

**April 16th at 8:00 a.m. - Birding at TBD.** Gary Brunvoll will be hosting a bird walk on this date, details to be determined. Please check our online calendar for the specific location and starting time.

**April 23rd at 8 a.m.—Birding at the Tennessee River Gardens**, located at 22573 US-41, Chattanooga, TN 3741. Clyde Blum will be hosting this walk. Participants will likely walk between 3 to 4 miles at a casual pace as they look for early migrants. Participants should bring binoculars, and something to drink.

# 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