

# The Chattanooga Chat

The newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society





**The  
Chattanooga Chapter  
of the  
Tennessee  
Ornithological Society**

**OFFICERS**

**President**  
Corey Hagen

**VP of Field Trips**  
Gary Burnvoll

**VP of Programs**  
Ray Zimmerman

**Treasurer**  
Fran Hiestand

**Secretary**  
Vacant

**Historian**  
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**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.

**March 10, 2022—Chapter Meeting**

Chapter Meeting and Program: Our monthly meeting will take place at Audubon Acres at 6:30 p.m., followed by the program. Our March program will feature John Stokes and Dale Kernahan of SOAR, Save Our American Raptors. John and Dale will present live birds of prey and an audio-visual program. They will focus on the birds' unique adaptations for survival and on Raptor conservation. Both novice and experienced bird watchers will enjoy this program.

**Birding Advocacy - Brainerd Levy Mowing**

The grass fields along the Brainerd Levy plays host to numerous grassland birds throughout the year. This is one of the best locations to observe migrating Bobolinks in Hamilton County, and it played host to breeding Dickcissels in 2017.

In past years the City has mowed the grass during the middle of migration and/or nesting seasons. Member Tommie Rogers made contact with the city on this issue, and Club President, Corey Hagen, drafted a letter to the city to explain how mowing during peak migration and breeding adversely affect area bird populations.

A meeting with city officials is present set for Thursday, March 3, 2022. The goal is to work with the city to develop a mowing plan that will leave the fields undisturbed during the

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

**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:** Trumpeter Swan, observed in Maury County in March 2021. Photographed by and used with permission of Jeffrey Schaarschmidt.

Free Birding Apps That Will Make Birding More Enjoyable, Part 2



Sibley Guide to Hummingbirds

Android & iPhone

**Official Description:** The Sibley Guide to Hummingbirds app is a comprehensive guide to 19 North American Hummingbird species. All the detailed hummingbird artwork from David Sibley's Guide to Birds Second Edition is included as well as thorough descriptions and distribution maps.

**Review:** The free Sibley Guide to Hummingbirds is a paired down or lite version of the Sibley Guide app, which costs \$20. However, instead of covering all North American birds, the free version limits information to just hummingbirds species.

The app has all of the identification information on hummingbirds that you would find in the paperback field guide. Additionally, it also has audio files of each hummingbird's calls. The app also allows users to view the plates from two different species via a split screen, which can assist users when attempting to make a tricky identification.

The app's content is great. However, the user interface is not intuitive, especially for the audio files and the split screen function. Additionally, the app doesn't have a easy way to return to the home screen, often times making it easier to simply close and restart the app than to hit the back button multiple times. For these reasons I deducted 1.5 points from the score.

**Ease of use:** Okay

**Score:** 3.5 out of 5 stars



Raptor ID

Android & iPhone

**Official Description:** Hawk-Watch International's Identification Guide to Raptors" puts expert hawk identification content in the palm of your hand.

In this guide to North America's 34 species of diurnal raptors, you'll find nearly 1000 annotated photos, and cutting edge identification video for each species, geared toward helping you identify raptors in flight. If you're just getting started with birding, this app covers the basics; if you're already an expert hawk watcher, this app covers all the variation that can lead to identification confusion, even among the most seasoned birders.

**Review:** Raptor ID delivers on ALL of its claims. In fact, it probably sells itself short in the official description.

The information provided for each raptor species exceeds that of most field guides.

For example, the app contains narrated videos of the raptors in flight, with the audio pointing out field marks as the video displays the same.

The user interface is very intuitive, and as a result there is basically no learning curve. Simply start the app and enjoy.

If you are trying to identify a raptor, this should be your go to mobile app.

**Ease of use:** Very Good

**Score:** 5 out 5 stars



Firefinch

Android & iPhone

**Official Description:** As a precursor to the eagerly anticipated new app by celebrated ornithologist, author and artist, Faansie Peacock, the FIREFINCH team proudly presents this collection of more than 130 species. This app includes all Southern African seabirds, plus the Marion Island specials that occur outside the SA nautical limits.

FIREFINCH features Peacock's masterful illustrations, depicting birds as you really see them at sea. The plates are complemented by a carefully curated collection of pictures by top bird photographers, with annotations that bring the images to life.

**Review:** There is no doubt that this is the best sea bird field guide app at that exists. While it only lists birds seen in South Africa, it still has value for a sea birder in the United States because many of these same birds are found in the United States. The plates are things of beauty and the identification tips are very informative.

HOWEVER, this app has an AWFUL privacy policy. The privacy policy acknowledges they collect your name, address, email address and even banking information. If you have installed it on your phone I recommend that you immediately uninstall it. This is sad as it is otherwise a truly outstanding app.

**Ease of use:** Very Good

**Score:** ZERO out 5 stars

Tennessee Rare Bird Reports

On February 24, Richard Chandler observed **Franklin County's** first county record for a **Western Meadowlark**. Diagnostic audio was attached to the eBird report.

A flyover **Neotropic Cormorant** was photographed in **Sumner County**, on February 20th. It was observed towards the dam.

Three **Long-tailed Ducks** were reported well out in lake off Cooks Recreation Area in **Davison County**.

A **Tree Sparrow** was observed at the Walmart Distribution Center in **Green County**, on February 7th.

Two **Western Meadowlarks** were Observed in **Obion County**, near the E. Caudle Rd & S. Crockett Bend Rd, on February 7th.

A **Mute Swan** was reported near South West Point in **Roane County**, on February 5th.

A **Long-tailed Duck** was reported on Lake Chickmauga, observable from the Dam, in **Hamilton County**, on February 4th.

A **Long-tailed Duck** was reported on Robco Lake in **Shelby County** on February 4th.

A **Surf Scoter** was observed south of the Kingston boat dock on Hwy 58 in **Roane County** on February 3rd.

A **Common Redpoll** was observed at the Lichterman Nature Center, in **Shelby County**, on February 2nd.

# 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