

The Chattanooga Chat

March 2023

The Chattanooga Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

Ray Zimmerman, Editor

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March Program

Birding Magee Marsh

March 9, 7:00 PM

Meetings are at 7:00 PM

Ascension Lutheran Church

729 S. Germantown Road, East Ridge,

Tennessee 37412

For our March 9 program, Mel Vandergriff will present photographs and tell the story of "The Biggest Week in Birding," held in mid-May every year in northern Ohio. Mel recently retired as the manager of the Wild Birds Unlimited store on Brainerd Road. He will present colorful photos of many birds that migrate through Magee Marsh and the surrounding areas by Lake Erie. This is a beautiful place to observe the warblers. Many times, you get to see them only a few feet away. Bird photos from Magee Marsh in this Newsletter by Mel Vandergriff.

Starr Kline Memorial

The memorial service for Starr Klein will be this Sunday at 1:00, at Saint Timothy's Episcopal Church, with receiving of friends after the service. The address is 630 Mississippi Ave, Signal Mt, Tn. 37377.





Baltimore Oriole at Magee Marsh

Please see Pages 2 and 3 for field trip information.

See page 4 for a Chattanooga Christmas Bird Count and membership information.

Field Trips:

Renaissance Park Bird Walk

Saturday, March 11

8:30-10:00

133 River St, Chattanooga, TN 37405

Leader: Barbara Johnson

Contact: chattbirders@gmail.com

Renaissance Park Field Trip Continued: Look and listen for spring migrants and resident birds in the field, woodland, pond, and river habitats in this downtown park. Meet on the river (south) side of the largest hill by the parking lots. There is a parking fee here. The event will be canceled in the event of steady rain.

Birds at Chickamauga Battlefield

Danny Gaddy will offer two types of field trips to the Battlefield. The morning trip will be "Birds and Battles." The evening trips will be "Listening for Nightjars – Chuck-wills-Widows & Whip-poor-wills." As always, dress for the weather and be prepared to walk or stand. Let me know if mobility is an issue so I can plan for inclusive birding.

Birds and Battles will be a car caravan to 2 or 3 sites to survey the birds present and learn what happened in that area during the Battle in 1863. Park Historian Jim Ogden will describe the action in the vicinity.

Meet at 8 am at the visitor center:

March 8 Wed

April 5 Wed

April 26 Wed

Listening for Nightjars will car caravan to an area of the park where these nocturnal birds nest and call at sunset and after. For the safety of participants, do not plan to bushwhack in the dark.

Meet at 7:30 pm at the visitor center.

April 4 Tues

April 12 Wed

April 19 Wed

April 25 Tues

April 28 Friday

You may email me at gaddy@catt.com or call 423-316-5647 for information or directions. - Danny

Danny

Spring Migrant Bird Walk at Crabtree Farms

Saturday, April 29

8:30- 10:00

1000 E 30th St, Chattanooga, TN 37407

Leader: Barbara Johnson

Contact: chattbirders@gmail.com

Crabtree Farms is a community-focused urban farm committed to education, food access, and sustainable agriculture. See, hear, and learn about the birds which visit and nest in the various farm habitats. All ages are welcome, from beginners to seasoned birders. Bring binoculars if you have them; there will also be a limited number to borrow. Wear long pants and sturdy shoes; bug spray is recommended. The field trip will be canceled in the event of rain.

More Field Trips

Birds at Reflection Riding

Saturday, April 8

8 am

Leader: Gary Brunvoll

Contact: gbrunvoll@epbfi.com

Birds at Tennessee River Gardens

Sunday, April 16

8:00 am

Leader: Clyde Blum

Contact: cdblum@bellsouth.net



Vice President for Field Trips

We called for volunteers to take on leadership roles in the last newsletter, and OJ Morgan answered the call.

Letter from OJ Morgan
Hey Folks!

Gary Brunvoll has passed the torch to me to organize the CTOS field trips, which I'm looking forward to doing. Years ago, Pixie and Gary Lanham took me along on a walk along the Riverpark on one of my first birding adventures, and I remember the time as a turning point in my interest in birding. Since then, I've been on trips with David Stone and many others, leading me to travel worldwide on other fulfilling birding trips.

I'm a living testimony to how these trips can change people's lives in good ways.

Many of you I've met and others of you I'm looking forward to meeting, but I'm writing to gauge your interest in leading or helping to lead future trips for CTOS. Some of you have also led regular bird counts and banding events, which we want CTOS members to continue enjoying. In any case, I'd really appreciate your help by taking the lead in whatever piques your interest.

I've combed through about 15 years of our newsletters to get as comprehensive a list as possible, but many of you may have other suggestions for possible trips. And there may be some I've missed. Already, some have mentioned the Forks of the River Wildlife Management Area just south of Knoxville, the Seven Islands State Birding Park just north of Knoxville (both could be done in conjunction with the Knoxville TOS), and the Wolftever Creek Greenway.

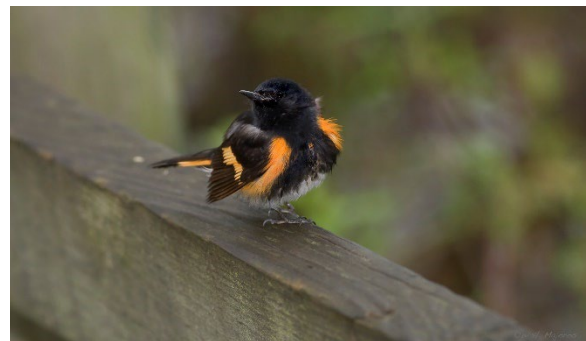
Finally, if any of you have suggestions about improving these field trips in the future, I'm open to your ideas. All are welcome!

Please contact me by email if you want to help lead a trip. We can go from there.

Thanks,

OJ Morgan

ojmorgan@gmail.com



American Redstart at Magee Marsh

Chattanooga Christmas Bird Count

Thirty-four observers (most in many years) found 98 species (a little above average) on the Chattanooga CBC held on December 17.

Highlights included:

Snow Goose 2

Ring-necked Duck 273 (an all-time high for the count)

Pacific loon 1

American White Pelican 74

Virginia Rail 1

Sora 1

Least Sandpiper 6

Nighthawk sp. (looked odd, not sure if Common)

Red-bellied Woodpecker 106 (an all-time high for the count)

Merlin 1

Palm Warbler 20 (an all-time high for the count)

I want to thank everyone who helped with this count!

Kevin Calhoun, Count Compiler

We still seek officers to assist in our way forward.

President

Vice President for Program

Treasurer

Secretary

TOS State Board Members (We can elect up to five)

Here are some non-board opportunities.

Field trip leaders: All are welcome to propose and lead bird walks. You don't need to be an expert-- other birders will be along to help!

Refreshment providers for monthly meetings: Whether you'd like to supply snacks and drinks or coordinate with a few others, we'd love your help making our events more enjoyable!

Monthly meeting door greeters: Welcome meeting attendees as they arrive, offer name tags and mailing list signup sheet,

Monthly meeting room setup and cleanup: Help place chairs and tables or put the room back into shape at closing.



Common Yellowthroat at Magee Marsh
Photo by Mel Bandergriff

Join and Support Chattanooga TOS

You can now join online.

<https://chattanoogatos.org/joining-or-renewing-as-a-member/>

You can also send a check to
Fran Hiestand CTOS Treasurer 8935 N.
Hickory Valley Road Chattanooga, TN
37416

High School and Elementary Student memberships are \$15.

Individual memberships are \$28.

Family memberships are \$32.

Sustaining Memberships are \$40.

Life memberships are \$460.