

The Chattanooga Chat

CHATTANOOGA CHAPTER OF THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Swainson's Warbler

Photo Credit: Shutterstock

NO JUNE PROGRAM

Join us July 7 at 4pm, Potluck at Greenway Farms

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By OJ Morgan

From what I can tell from the various lists and alerts I've received recently, it seems we've had a fruitful spring for warblers and other migrating birds. Also, and much to my delight, the number of birders seems to have been increasing as well. Quite a few names I've never seen before are popping up around the region, which is helped, undoubtedly, by the thriving digital opportunities allowing us all to share our experiences with each other.

While the digital advantages have greatly improved our access to learning about birds, to connecting with each other, and to finding the best places to find a variety of birds, I do think CTOS has a vital place at the center of the digital world of birding. Nothing will ever improve upon being with one another, in person. I'm thinking especially of our younger birders or those just starting to follow a new interest. I'm sure all of us more experienced folks can name those people who helped us along the way and cemented our interest in birding, those who freely shared with us their vast knowledge and the passion that sustained them over the years and who continue to do so. That sort of exchange is only possible through us being together, something CTOS has been doing in a variety of ways for 60 years.

As part of our effort to keep us connected, in person, I want to encourage everyone to come to our potluck dinner on July 7, at the Greenway Farms Conference Center. Families are welcome, as we hope to get to know one another better and build upon the connections we've made over the years. It will also be a wonderful time for new birders to meet those who have much to offer them as they embark upon this enriching journey.

Finally, if you'd like to help us make this happen, just let us know. You can email me at ojmorgan@gmail.com, or contact CTOS at chattbirders@gmail.com.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the 7th !



Mississippi Kite

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MAY FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Point Park Birding: Led by William Otis

May 5, 2024, 7:40AM, traveling 0.65 miles, 95 minutes

3 Birders joined Will for a foggy walk around Point Park. Here is what we saw:

2 Mourning Dove, 8 Chimney Swift, 2 double-crested Cormorant,
1 Red-shouldered Hawk, 2 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 1 Pileated Woodpecker,
1 Eastern Wood-Pewee, 1 White-eyed Vireo, 1 Yellow-throated Vireo, 1 Red-eyed Vireo,
3 Carolina Chickadee, 2 Tufted Titmouse, 1 White-breasted Nuthatch,
1 Carolina Wren, 1 Brown Thrasher, 2 Northern Mockingbird,
2 Wood Thrush, 1 American Robin, 15 Cedar Waxwing, 1 House Finch, 1 Chipping Sparrow,
1 Eastern Towhee, 1 Blackpoll Warbler, 3 Palm Warbler, 4 Yellow-rumped Warbler,
2 Black-throated Green Warbler, 3 Northern Cardinal, 1 Indigo Bunting

Number of Species: 28

Crabtree Farms: Led by Barbara Johnson, Danny Gaddy, and Kent Pennington

May 11, 2024, 8:30AM, traveling 0.62 miles, 161 minutes

We had 13 people come to this event, including a young family and some people new to birding.

2 Chimney Swift, 1 Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 1 double-crested Cormorant,
2 Yellow-crowned Night Heron, 1 Green Heron, 1 Cooper's Hawk, 1 Red-shouldered Hawk,
1 Broad-winged Hawk, 1 Downy Woodpecker, 1 Eastern Wood-Pewee, 2 Eastern Phoebe,
1 Great Crested Flycatcher, 1 White-eyed vireo, 3 Red-eyed Vireo, 1 Blue Jay,
2 Carolina Chickadee, 1 Tufted Titmouse, 1 Purple Martin,
3 Northern Rough-winged Swallow, 1 Cliff Swallow, 8 Carolina Wren, 1 European Starling

Number of Species: 40

Craven's House Birding: Led by Keving Calhoon

May 12, 2024, 8:00am, traveling 2.28 miles, 173 minutes

Kevin led 9 other birders in a search for Olive-sided Flycatchers. We didn't see one (this time!), but we did see a Red-eyed Vireo on her nest.

1 Mourning Dove, 2 Chimney Swift, 1 Black Vulture, 1 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 3 Downy Woodpecker, 2 Eastern Wood-Pewee, 2 Eastern Phoebe, 1 Great Crested Flycatcher, 5 White-eyed Vireo, 6 Red-eyed Vireo (one on a nest), 2 Blue Jay, 1 American Crow, 2 Carolina Chickadee, 7 Tufted Titmouse, 3 White-breasted Nuthatch, 6 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers,
1 House Wren, 5 Carolina Wren, 1 Gray Catbird, 3 Brown Thrasher, 4 Eastern Bluebird, 2 Cedar Waxwing, 6 American Goldfinch, 2 Eastern Towhee, 3 Brown-headed Cowbird, 2 Tennessee Warbler, 3 Hooded Warbler, 2 American Redstart, 6 Magnolia Warbler, 2 Blackburnian Warbler, 2 Chestnut-sided Warbler, 1 Blackpoll Warbler, 3 Summer Tanager, 6 Scarlet Tanager, 7 Northern Cardinal, 1 Indigo Bunting

Number of Species: 36

MAY FIELD TRIP REPORTS, CONTINUED

Chickamauga Battlefield Birding with Danny Gaddy; Tuesday and Wednesday evenings

Participants have spotted several Chuck-will's-widow, along with Chimney Swifts, Common Nighthawk, Dickcissel. Eastern kingbirds, various Vireo, Acadian Flycatcher, Great Crested flycatchers, Wood Thrush, various Sparrows, various Woodpeckers, Indigo Bunting, Summer and Scarlet tanager, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Wood Pewee, Eastern Bluebirds, plus all of the regulars.

May 20, Honors Golf Course, 5pm: led by David Stone

Our group had a great afternoon and we spotted 50 different species!
Canada Goose, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Great Blue Herron, Green Herron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Wood-Pewee White-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Purple Martin Cliff Swallow, White-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Carolina Wren, Brown Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, House Sparrow, House Finch American Goldfinch, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow Eastern Towhee, Yellow-breasted Chat, Eastern Meadowlark, Orchard Oriole Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Grackle Summer Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting

May 28, Honors Golf Course, 5pm: led by David Stone

56 species were spotted: Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Chimney Swift Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Killdeer, Great Blue Herron, Green Herron Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Tree Swallow Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Purple Martin, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher Carolina Wren, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Yellow-breasted Chat, Eastern Meadowlark, Orchard Oriole, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Grackle, Pine Warbler, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting



Killdeer at the Honors Course

Photo credit: David Stone



Searching for the Killdeer at the Honors Course

Photo Credit: David Stone

TN-BIRD BY BARBARA JOHNSON

This spring, I've gotten a steady stream of state-wide first-of-year bird sightings and field trip announcements, all courtesy of TN-Bird. If you've heard another birder say something like: "I read about the painted bunting sighting on TN-Bird" and felt out of the loop, read on!

TN-bird is a listserv that distributes Tennessee bird-related information to its subscribers. I asked David Aborn of CTOS to tell us how best to use TN-Bird. "TN-Bird's purpose is for people to report bird sightings in Tennessee, ask bird related questions e. g. 'How often should I clean my feeder, where are good birding locations?'), and for chapters to make announcements and reports (e. g. information about spring and fall TOS meetings, results from field trips, Christmas Bird Count results). People can subscribe to the list by going to <https://www.freelists.org/list/tn-bird>. People who post should include the date and county of the sighting(s) at the start of their post, and sign their name and the city where they live at the end of the post. At <https://www.freelists.org/archive/tn-bird/>, they can see all the postings since the founding of TN-Bird in 2002; the archives are organized by year, then month within each year. You can also search the archives to find posts about particular species, posts by a particular person, etc.

Bob Biller of Elizabethton moderates TN-Bird, reading submissions and approving them before they are posted and emailed. I asked Bob about the history of the listserv.

"In the late 1990s, Wallace Coffey approached me about running a local birding website. I had some limited experience with rudimentary web sites of the time and I agreed to do it. We created "Valley Birds", a web site that encompassed Southwest Virginia through middle Tennessee and that quickly expanded to West Tennessee. A lot of the content was bird sightings but we would occasionally put in some detailed birding material. We mixed in essays on birding, local birds, and Bristol Bird Club trip reports. Wallace knew it was taking a lot of my time to keep the site updated, and he started looking into more automated ways to report sightings. He was big on being able to report stuff instantly because of the new technology that smart cell phones provided. When he found the Freelist server, he approached Andy Jones and a few others to help him with launching TN-Bird and Bristol-Birds. When Wallace passed away in September of 2016, I became a moderator on TN-Bird and Bristol-Birds Listserv. TOS officially asked me to be a moderator after they took over control of the Listserv in 2018 or '19."

David says, "With the advent of bird-related social media accounts, postings on TN-Bird have really dropped, but it is still a good way to reach people and document sightings." If you'd like to know more about what's going on with Tennessee birding, subscribe and get in the loop!



Yellow-crowned Night Heron Photo credit: Shutterstock



Peregrine Falcon Photo credit: Shutterstock

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