



The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

February Meeting

Ascension Lutheran Church

720 S Germantown Rd

Thursday, February 11, 2009

5:30 p.m. Executive Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting:

Program: It has been a year since CTOS Member Dick Schier shared his best pictures with us. In February he will return and show us his latest and best bird pictures taken over the course of the last 12 months. Dick promises some surprises for us!

Refreshments: Dee Parker

Thanks to: Dr. Gary Brunvoll for presenting "Birding in Guyana" at our January meeting and to Dennis Harris who gave the presentation on "Bird Biology, Adaptation for Flight and Survival" at the December meeting. Stacy Stone provided refreshments at the December meeting.

February Field Trips

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge,

Meet: Food Lion on Browns Ferry Rd.,

Take the Browns Ferry Rd. Exit off I-24 W and turn right on Browns Ferry Rd.

Store will be on the left in ½ mile.

Leader: Kyle Waggener (423) 693-7533, kylewag@yahoo.com

Bring a lunch, snack, shoes suitable for mud, a scope (optional) and a full tank of gas. We will carpool to the Wheeler Natl. Wildlife Refuge where Refuge Manager, Dwight Cooley will lead our caravan to some closed areas of the

refuge to look for waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, etc. This will be an all-day trip so be prepared to get back late in the afternoon or early evening. Watch the weather and dress accordingly.

Barn Owls & Woodcocks Saturday,

February 27 Hayden Wilson's Farm Meet 5:00 PM Eastern Time if you want to try for Barn Owls, 6:15 for Woodcocks. Call Hayden (423) 994-5359 for more information.

Hayden Wilson's field trip for Barn Owls and Woodcocks has been a huge success in past years. After we get our fill of birds, all are welcome to get their fill of hot dogs, snacks, and drinks. Hayden asks that anyone staying for hot dogs, please call so he knows how many hot dogs to buy. Plan to bring a dessert or side dish to complement the hot dogs.

DIRECTIONS: From Chattanooga go north on U.S. Hwy. 27 to Soddy-Daisy. When the highway splits after crossing Soddy Lake take Hwy. 111 towards Dunlap. After you cross the mountain, take the first exit (East Valley Rd.). Turn right on East Valley Road and go approximately 1 mile and then turn left at Kelly's Crossroads. When the road forks at the cemetery, go left. Hayden's house is less than ½ mile on left at the top of the hill. His house number is 1664.

Watchable Wildlife

<http://www.tnwatchablewildlife.org/>

Christmas Bird Counts

The Chattanooga Christmas Bird Count was held on Saturday, December 19. Twenty-one participants in seven parties found 95 species. This is two parties less than usual due to last minute emergencies. The count usually totals around one hundred species.

Highlights included:

- 1 calling Barn Owl (getting very difficult to find in Hamilton County, especially in the count circle)
- 1 adult male Rufous Hummingbird and one immature male Rufous Hummingbird at Jonnie Sue Lyon's feeders on Signal Mountain.
- 1 Orange-crowned Warbler
- 5 American Woodcocks (Bill Haley found them all at the same location.)
- 4 Virginia Rails at Standifer Gap Marsh

Misses:

- Greater Scaup
- Northern Bobwhite
- Purple Finch
- Pine Siskin

I want to thank everyone who participated in this count!

- Kevin Calhoon
Count Compiler

Nickajack Christmas Bird Count

included a Golden Eagle Sighting ~ 12:30 PM, December 26, 2009
The eagle was sighted approximately 4 miles north of Jasper, Tennessee. To visit the location, take highway 41 north out of town. When the road bears left, continue straight onto Valley View Highway. The sighting was from the Puryear Construction Company parking lot approx 1 mile above Sequatchie, Tennessee in Sequatchie Valley
We first noticed a large bird that appeared to be an Eagle approaching from the north

As it got closer I noticed large white patches on the underside of both wings. At this point Jimmy and Cynthia Wilkerson started looking at the bird also.

As the bird banked the Golden Eagle Tail was very evident. Strong Dark Tail Band with heavy White continuing to the Body.

Submitted by David Spicer

The Hiwassee Christmas Bird Count

was held on January 1, 2010 on a sunny but chilly day. All three of the CBC's in the Chattanooga area had below average participation this year accounting for the below average numbers for all three of the counts. The Hiwassee count had 12 participants and observed 86 species.

Highlights included:

- 1 Snow Goose
- 2 CACKLING GOOSE
- 1 AMERICAN BITTERN
- 2 Great Egret
- 26 Bald Eagle
- 1 Merlin
- 10248 Sandhill Cranes
- 2 Vesper Sparrow
- 1 Purple Finch

Misses:

- Northern Pintail
- Northern Shoveler
- Lesser Scaup
- Herring Gull
- Pine Warbler
- Palm Warbler
- White-crowned Sparrow

Special thanks to everyone participated in the count this year!!

Kevin Calhoon
Assistant Curator of Forests
Tennessee Aquarium
423-785-4070

What Have You Seen

From the Floor

Members attending our January meeting announced:

Red Headed Woodpeckers along the Ocoee River
Woodcock at Camp Jordan
Rusty Black Birds at Standifer Gap Marsh

From Tim Jeffers

We have kept a bird feeder here in East Ridge, TN for several years now, but have a few different birds this winter, including Pine warbler, Brown headed nuthatch and Carolina wren (we probably have seen these before, but the vibrant brown made me look them up) These probably are very common around here, but are new to us.

Photographs Accompanied Message

From Dick Shier

Dave Vogt of the Chattanooga Chapter of TOS, who lives in Pikeville, posted on TN-BIRD that he had an American Tree Sparrow coming to his feeder since New Year's Day. I bundled up, roused up John Kuehnel, and on Saturday afternoon off we sped up and over the Mountain to Pikeville.

Presently the much-sought-after Tree Sparrow in fact appeared below Dave's feeder, and a frenzy of photographic activity ensued from our observation point.

Photographs accompanied message.

Lake Tanasi is only 550 acres in area, but last weekend, two Western Grebes were spotted up there, and they have lingered on the small Lake through yesterday.

Photographs Accompanied Message

Riverwalk Birding Shot of the Year - The Winner by Riverwalk Birding Club posted January 15, 2010

The Final Votes are in and the photograph called "Flaps Down," taken by Charles Dean, wins the Riverwalk Birding 2009 "Shot of the Year" by a wide margin.

http://www.chattanooga.com/articles/article_166848.asp

Rusty Blackbird Blitz

January 30th – February 15th

The Rusty Blackbird has been steeply declining with estimates of an 85-99% population drop over the past 40 years. Collaborating with Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's and National Audubon Society's e-Bird project, the Rusty Blackbird Technical Working Group (RBTWG) needs your help to find wintering concentrations of Rusty Blackbirds. Please help by participating in the Rusty Blackbird Hotspot Blitz. Instructions will soon be posted on the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center's Rusty Blackbird website:

http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/MigratoryBirds/Research/Rusty_Blackbird/

Dues Are Past Due

Some members are still outstanding and will be removed from mailing and voting lists in March if dues remain unpaid. Send checks to Cathy Lockwitz, 4525 Lake Haven Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37416. Note: all dues, donations, gifts, and bequests are tax deductible under Sec. 501 (c) (3) of the internal Revenue Code of the U.S. Please make checks payable to TOS. Help our organization save postage costs by signing up to receive you newsletter by email.

Join and Support TOS

\$28 – Individual \$32 - Family
\$15 - Student \$40 - Sustaining
\$460 – Life member (Life members must pay
additional \$10 local chapter dues each year.)

Send checks to Cathy Lockwitz, 4525 Lake Haven Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37416. Note: all dues, donations, gifts, and bequests are tax deductible under Sec. 501 (c) (3) of the internal Revenue Code of the U.S. Please make checks payable to TOS

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YOU ARE INVITED TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CHATTANOOGA CHAPTER, TOS

Membership in TOS is:
The Chattanooga Chat, monthly newsletter
The Tennessee Warbler, statewide newsletter
The Migrant, quarterly journal
Meetings, Field Trips and Special Events
Conservation and Educational Projects
Increasing knowledge and enjoyment of our
natural world

To Our New Members

A warm welcome to “The Wonderful World of Birds”... Join in the fun... Come to all of our events and bring your friend(s) if you wish.

**Chattanooga TOS Website:
www.chattanoogatos.org**

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