



# The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter  
Tennessee Ornithological Society

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## March Meeting

**Ascension Lutheran Church**

**720 S Germantown Rd**

**Thursday, March 11, 2010**

5:30 p.m. Executive Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting:

**Program:** John Yow from Ackworth, Georgia is the author of a new book *The Armchair Birder - Discovering the Secret Life of Common Birds*. I am sure everyone will find John's talk quite interesting. He will also have copies of his book available for purchase.

**Refreshments:** Barbara McMahan will provide refreshments after the meeting.

**Thanks to:** Dick Schier for presenting photographs from recent birding expeditions at our February meeting. Thanks also to Dee Parker for providing refreshments.

## February Field Trips

**Sunday, March 7: Brainerd Levee**

**Meet:** 8:30 am at the parking lot near the intersection of Shallowford Road and Moore Road.

**Leader:** Tommie Rogers -  
[Bananaguit1@comcast.net](mailto:Bananaguit1@comcast.net)

Ducks are preparing for their departure, but a number should still be in the area if the water levels are right. Some early arrival shorebirds are possible as well as some waders. Bring a scope if you have one and a bottle of water. Dress for the weather, which can get quite windy on the levee.

**Saturday, March 15:** Anniston

Museum of Natural History

**Meet:** 8:30 am at the Food Lion at the Brown's Ferry Rd. Exit. We will car caravan to Anniston.

**Leader:** Kyle Waggener (423) 693-7533 or email - [kylewag@yahoo.com](mailto:kylewag@yahoo.com)

Join us for a "behind-the-scenes" tour of The Anniston Museum of Natural History. They have an impressive collection of 400+ bird specimens some dating back to 1860. Included in their collection are endangered and extinct species such as the Passenger Pigeon and the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. We will be treated to their impressive bird egg collection and historic Regar bird collection that can't be displayed. There are several other exhibits such as The Dynamic Earth, Alabama: Sand to Cedars, NatureSpace, Attack and Defense, Environments of Africa, and Ancient Egypt. The cost is \$6 per person. Please bring cash, exact change would be appreciated because we have to pay as a group. Anniston is about 125 miles from Chattanooga and it will take about two hours to get there. We may stop at some birding hotspots along the Alabama Birding Trail on the way there and back. We need a minimum of 10 people for the tour so please contact Kyle to reserve your spot.

## Upcoming Field Trips

Honors Golf Course, April

Cravens House, April

Spring Migration Count, May 8

## What Have You Seen

The Nickajack Bald Eagles on Canyon River Road now have an active nest as of Monday February 8. She *gingerly* stepped around the nest before she settled to incubate. They are now in the nest directly across the road from the old nest. This is private property. It is in the far tree line making a scope necessary to see the bird from the road and sadly making it impossible to see when the leaves appear.

I wish she had stayed with the old nest but a heavy large limb from tree had broken and fallen into the nest. Glad no birds were in the nest when it happened. I wish the limb could have been removed when it fell and I think she would have stayed with this nest, which was so easy to view, but my tree climbing and chain sawing limb removing days are over. - Jonnie Sue

From TN-Bird February 9

Since TWRA stopped planting as much corn last year and this year, the cranes have eaten it all by early January and either head south or spread out to other areas. The Dayton Airport and the surrounding fields and pastures are usually good places to look. I have seen them as far afield as Sale Creek, Pikeville, and Evansville. Numbers may pick up again as cranes start moving back north in a few weeks. The highest number of cranes I have ever seen out at Hiwassee was ~14,000.

David Aborn

Chattanooga, TN

From TN – Bird February 21

Libby Wolfe and Tommie Rogers found 2 White Winged scoters at Bennett Lake from the boat ramp; I talked Becky into a detour after the match. Sure enough, after about 15 minutes of searching, I found the two birds (FOY), although, the tangential light made both birds look brown. One was definitely a female with the double white smudges, but I thought I saw a white spot behind an eye on the other. Bennett Lake is near Nickajack Dam in Marion County.

I got a call from Dan Jacobson that he and two others had found an eared grebe and spotted sandpiper at the Booker T Washington State Park in Hamilton County. They had found these two around 9am, but both were gone when they left.

I walked at Tinsley Park nature trail, and heard 2 pine warblers singing (FOY for Bradley Co).

Checked on the widgeon at Blythe Ferry in the afternoon late, and finally had 3 male American Widgeons (FOY).

David Chaffin

Cleveland TN

Bradley Co

From Harold Sharp

If you are looking for a feeding frenzy, go by Chickamauga Dam and look at the Gulls feeding on shad minnows, there must be 6 to 8,000 flying below the dam and that many more resting on the calm waters above the dam.

From TN - Bird February 13

Today, Dan Jacobson found a Pacific Loon on Chickamauga Lake about 12:30 PM. The viewing spot was on Webb Road off of Hwy. 58. Locals know the sight as "windward point", it's the only

spot on Webb Road where you can view the lake and be looking toward the dam. A scope is a must as the bird was out some distance and in the direction of the dam. I relocated the bird at 2:50 PM in about the same location Dan described, near a large red buoy with a broad green stripe.

Good luck and good birding,  
John Henderson  
Chattanooga

From TN-Bird February 20  
John Henderson and I hit spots in Hamilton and Marion Co this morning.

Booker T Washington State Park  
Red Breasted Merganser(m, f)-FOY  
Wild Turkey-2 Gray Catbird-this area actually accessed off Webb Road, first turn in on right, just beyond yellow barrier, over stream. This was a FOY, of course, for this out of season species. Some of you will remember this as a traditional site for eastern screech-owl in the past, but not recently.  
Webb Road - probably the Pacific loon  
Dan Jacobson and John had seen earlier - FOY.

Nickajack Dam including Shell Mound area. Target bird was an orange crowned warbler that Tommie Rogers had seen earlier opposite the dump station pull around, which we missed. We had the consolation of two female red breasted mergansers from the dam. Amnicola Marsh – tried for fox sparrow and orange crowned warbler without success. A pair of northern shovelers, one pair of hooded mergansers, and 3 Green Winged teal were the only ducks. John split off after this stop.

Camp Jordan-had 2 calling fish crows in the tree on the island in the middle of the

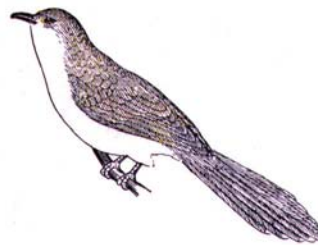
arena pond. Target bird and FOY.  
Candies Creek-2 great egrets, 3 great blue herons, pair of ring-necked ducks, and 5 gadwall (3m, 2f-FOY for Bradley County). Also, 7 Ring Billed gulls were a new Bradley Co year bird.

Wright Farm, Charleston, Bradley County, loggerhead shrike on McBryant Road slightly south of the location from the past 2 years, today seen at the junction of a woods edge on the east side and a ditch on the west side. FOY for Bradley County

David Chafin  
Cleveland TN  
Bradley Co

From TN-Bird February 21  
I checked for the swan at Graham Lake in Madison County today, and found it at the parking area/cove on the south side of Cotton Grove Road, at the east side of the lake. The line at the base of the bill is notched at the gape, indicating Tundra Swan, although the forehead is pointed rather than rounded. Legs were black. With Sibleys in hand I thought making the determination would be easy, but it wasn't. I have some good photos I can send if anyone wants to see.

Ken Osier  
Hendersonville, TN



## 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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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](http://www.chattanoogatos.org)

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