



# The Chattanooga Chat

Ray Zimmerman, Editor: [znaturalist@yahoo.com](mailto:znaturalist@yahoo.com) 315-0721

April, 2010 Vol. XXXIV, No. 6

A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter  
Tennessee Ornithological Society

---

## April Meeting

### Ascension Lutheran Church

720 S Germantown Rd

Thursday, April 8, 2010

5:30 p.m. Executive Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting:

**Program:** Steve Snow will return to give his popular presentation. His photos include close up shots of birds on the nest and nestlings. Those who have seen Steve's presentation in the past will certainly want to attend again.

**Refreshments:** Lois Bean and Katherine Boyles will provide refreshments after the meeting.

**Thanks to:** John Yow from Ackworth, Georgia, author of *The Armchair Birder - Discovering the Secret Life of Common Birds*. He gave an informative program at our March Meeting.

Thanks also to Barbara McMahan who provided refreshments after the meeting.

## April Field Trips

### Chattanooga Nature Center,

Saturdays, April 3 through May 1: Meet 7:30 at the Nature Center Parking Lot.

Leaders: Clyde Blum 886-4130 or Kyle Waggener, 821-1160, extension 112 ([kwaggener@chattnanature.org](mailto:kwaggener@chattnanature.org)).

The Chattanooga Nature Center and the Tennessee Ornithological Society are teaming up again this year to offer five weekly spring bird walks. These walks will take place every Saturday from April 3, 2010 and ending on May 1, 2010. Participants in the May 1<sup>st</sup> bird walk will

assist in collecting data for the third annual Chattanooga BioBlitz. The walks will begin at the front parking area of the nature center. Bring your binoculars and water. Dress for the weather and be prepared for several hours of birding and extensive walking. The entrance fee to the Nature Center is waived for all CNC and TOS members. Otherwise the admission is \$8.00 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens and children ages 4 to 11.

**Bird the Honors Course**, Saturday, April 17 and 24. Meet 4 PM at the Honors Course maintenance building. Leader: David Stone (423) 238-4234 or email [rockyturf@comcast.net](mailto:rockyturf@comcast.net).

The honors course contains some excellent bird habitats. David has a limited supply of golf carts available and will only be able to take the first 12 who contact him for each Saturday. If you have not been there before email or call David for directions, as it can be hard to find. Be sure to dress for the weather. If you can't make it on these dates, call David to possibly set up a special tour for 2-4 people.

### Cravens House Migrants

Sunday April 18. Meet: 8:00 AM at lower parking lot of the Cravens House. Leader: Kevin Calhoun, 875-4070.

The Cravens House is one of the area's best locations during spring migration. Don't miss the excitement. We should spot a large number of migrants this weekend.

## State TOS Meeting

The Knoxville Chapter will host the spring meeting, April 30 – May 2. Friday night registration, Saturday afternoon meetings, and the Saturday banquet will take place at the Knoxville, Zoo, located off I-40 at Exit 392. Half price tickets to the zoo for Saturday afternoon are available by advance purchase only.

The conference hotel will be the Super-8 at Strawberry plains, (Exit 398). All field trips will leave from the hotel, which offers a free continental breakfast and Sunday brunch. A block of rooms is reserved at a rate of \$45.00 plus taxes per night, but will only be held until April 16, so make your reservations now at (865) 524-0855. Mention TOS when calling.

The speaker for the Saturday banquet will be Steve Hilty, tour leader for Victor Emmanuel Nature Tours and author of *A Guide to the Birds of Columbia*, and *Birds of Venezuela*. The menu for the banquet includes chicken piccata, spinach lasagna, and fresh fruit.

Field trips are still being finalized, but are likely to include Seven Islands, Kyker Bottoms, Sharp's Ridge, and/or Cross Mountain. One trip will go to the upper Smokies, despite the road closures.

Send your registration and \$10 conference fee to KTOS by April 15. For additional information, contact Robin Barrow, [braveladyrobin@gmail.com](mailto:braveladyrobin@gmail.com)

**Camp TALON** (Teen Adventures Learning Ornithology and Nature) is sponsored by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Georgia Ornithological Society, and the Atlanta Audubon Society. <http://www.gos.org/conservation/2010CampTALON.html>

## Book Review

*Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place*

Terry Tempest Williams  
10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition, 2001  
Vintage Books, New York  
ISBN 0-679-74024-4

*At the end of each day, I write down the names of all birds seen and read them aloud, regardless of who is there. It's like throwing a party and afterwards talking about who came. There are always those you can count on and those who will surprise you. And, once in a blue moon, an accidental guest will arrive.*

Such is the prose in *Refuge* by Terry Tempest Williams. The book is not a field guide. It is a collection of essays in which the author tells the story of the birds she observes at and around the Great Salt Lake as the lake rises to historic high water levels and inundates Bear Creek Wildlife Refuge and other fresh water habitats. With the story of the birds and the refuge she interweaves the story of her family, her Mormon faith, and her mother's second battle with cancer.

The book includes a "List of Birds Associated with Great Salt Lake." Featured species accounts in *Refuge* include White Pelicans, Magpies, Curlews, and many others.

Terry Tempest Williams has served as an educator at the Utah Museum of Natural History and has authored several nonfiction books. She is now the Annie Clark Tanner Scholar in Environmental Humanities at the University of Utah. Her husband, Brooke Williams is Executive Director of the Murie Center.

## What Have You Seen

*February 19 – Moss Island Wildlife Management Area*

Bill Pulliam of Hohenwald, Tennessee reported a Long Eared Owl.

*February 23 – Polk County*

David Chaffin reported a pair of Wood Ducks, male Redhead, male Ringed-Necked Duck, and Snow Geese at East Tennessee Nursery on Highway 411

*Hales Bar*

Tommie Rogers and Libby Wolf reported White Winged Scoters

*Marion County*

Tommie Rogers and Jonnie Sue Lyons reported a Trumpeter Swan

*February 25 – Blythe Ferry*

Rick Houk reported a Tundra Swan.

*March 3 – Downtown Chattanooga*

Dan Williams reported approximately 1,000 Sandhill Cranes flying north.

*March 6 – Brainerd Levee*

David Chaffin reported 1 Vesper Sparrow, 1 American Pipit, 123 Ring Billed Gulls, 1 Blue Winged Teal, 7 American Black Duck, 7 Green Winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Mallard, American Coot, and 1 Pied Billed Grebe.

*March 7 – Nickajack Dam*

Tommie Rogers reported a Long Tailed Duck. Viewed again March 8.

*March 7 Brainerd Levee Field Trp*

Tommie Rogers reported 6 American Pipits, 100+ Rusty Blackbirds, 8 American Black Ducks, 1 Taiga race Merlin, 1 Wilson's Snipe, and 1 Northern Rough Winged Swallow among the 50 species sighted.

*Standifer Gap Marsh – same trip*

Tommie reported 2 Virginia Rails, Fish Crows, Winter Wren, Marsh Wren, Savannah Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White Throated Sparrow, and Field Sparrow.

*March 8 – Chattanooga*

David Aborn reported a video clip regarding US Representative Zach Wamp's claim that surface coal mining is good for birds. It is available at [www.newschannel9.com](http://www.newschannel9.com) Bird expert Melinda Welton disputed Wamp's claim.

*March 9 – Nickajack Dam*

David Chaffin reported Great Blue Heron, Pied-Billed Grebe, Common Loon, American Coot, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Eastern Phoebe, Fish Crow, American Crow.

*March 9 – Chattanooga*

David Stone reported a Purple Martin at the Honors Course. They're back.

*March 9 – Hohenwald*

Bill Pulliam reported that Nashville Weather Radar showed a substantial northward movement of passerine birds.

*March 13 – Meigs County.*

John W. Kuehnel reported a pair of Osprey rebuilding the nest on the piling next to the boat ramp on the Dayton side of the Tennessee River near Blythe Ferry.

*March 15 – Ooltewah*

Bonnie Mattheus reported Wild Turkeys.

*March 23 – Signal Mountain*

Bruce Wilkey reported a Red Breasted Nuthatch.

## 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

**Your Chattanooga Chapter, TOS**  
**Meeting your needs**  
**For quality birding since 1915**



**POSTMASTER; Please send change of address to:**  
**The Chattanooga Chat, 4525 Lake Haven Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37416**  
**The Chattanooga Chat (USPS 418-230)**  
**Published Monthly by the Chattanooga Chapter - TOS**  
**Periodicals postage paid at Chattanooga, TN 37421**  
**Office of Publication 4524 Lake Haven Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37416**  
**Chattanooga TOS Website:**  
**[www.chattanoogatos.org](http://www.chattanoogatos.org)**

## 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.