



The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

July Meeting

Ascension Lutheran Church -720 S
Germantown Rd

Thursday, July 9, 2009

5:30 p.m. Executive Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting:

Program: Chris Sloan will give a
presentation on "North Carolina Pelagic
Birding"

Dee Parker will provide **refreshments**.

July Field Trip

Friday, July 24: **BAT WATCH**

Meet: 7:15 at the Chattanooga Nature
Center.

LEADER: Kyle Waggener (821-1160
X-112)

COST: CNC OR TOS MEMBERS - \$6
ADULTS \$3 CHILDREN, NON-
MEMBERS \$9 ADULTS, \$4.50
CHILDREN, price includes a free bat
book for your family.

Meet at CNC for an informative
presentation about bats. We will then car
caravan to the Nickajack Cave, home to
more than 60,000 endangered gray bats.
There is a short walk to the viewing
platform. As the sun sets, the tiny gray
bats wing their way out of the cave to
feed on insects. Bring a flashlight and
wear comfortable walking shoes. This is
a very popular program and space is
limited. Pre-registration and prepayment
are required. I have reserved space for
15 TOS members.

White Nose Syndrome

Those attending the bat watch may be
interested to know that several US caves
have been closed to cavers due to the
outbreak of white nose syndrome among
indigenous bats. According to the U.S.
Fish and Wildlife Service as reported in
www.fws.gov/northeast/white_nose.html
the outbreak was first noticed in upstate
New York. Bats with fungal growths on
their noses are reported from Vermont to
Virginia with death rates as high as 100
% in some caves. Reports indicate that
White Nose Syndrome may be spreading
into the Southeastern U.S.

From The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology

This week, the sounds of Ivory-billed
Woodpeckers earned a special place of
honor in American history: A 1935
recording from the Cornell Lab's
Macaulay Library was added to the
Library of Congress's National
Recording Registry. It was the only
nonhuman voice to make this select
group of 25 recordings chosen for their
historical, cultural, or aesthetic
significance. Other sounds included
music from the original cast of "West
Side Story," John Lee Hooker, and The
Who. For the story and links to a
montage of the recordings, visit our
[Round Robin blog](#).



Great White Heron Sightings

June 20

The White Morph Great Blue Heron is still below the dam. I found it in a tree just below the launch ramp and got a few shots before a boat spooked it this morning. Look for it on the new rock pile under the RR bridge or the barge anchored just below the bridge, if it's on the east bank it will be near the launch ramp. Too many fishermen and boats keep it moving, plus the GBH are always spooking it. – Harold Sharp

June 19

Well our resident visitor from the Far South continues to abide below the **Chickamauga Dam**. This is a rare one indeed for this area.

Kevin Calhoon reported that this is the very first **Great White** to visit Southeast Tennessee, and only the 4th one EVER in the entire state.

Its normal range: The **Florida Keys** and South Florida including the Everglades!

To my knowledge there have been no major storms to drive it this far north. I wonder how it got here?

Well, it is HOT here to be sure!

I have been reading various write-ups on the **Great White Heron** to see a spirited debate on whether it is a true morph of a Great Blue or has sufficient differences to have remained a separate species, which it once was.

rschier461@aol.com (Message had several attached files that were photos of the bird.)

June 23

Harold Sharp reported a second Great White Heron.

Scissor Tailed Flycatchers

June 15

The Scissor-tailed have been nesting in our area for several years. Four or more I'm sure. A pair has been nesting in South Pittsburg for several years also. In fact John H reported this on TNBIRD on the 14th. Where did you see yours?

We're always interested in new sites.

Harold Birch

Soddy Daisy

June 16

I located this pair in Dunlap, TN. They are very easy to find and watch. They are located on Hwy 127 north in front of the Sequatchee Valley Electric office. There is a power pole located in the front of the office and just south of their southern entrance. Thank you for your information. If anyone is interested in seeing the birds they should come over and watch them. They are very easy to find.

Michael Griffith

Thanks

Thanks to Kevin Calhoon for his excellent presentation on birding in Antarctica and South America at our June meeting.

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Tennessee Aquarium on the hatching of a Penguin in their Penguins Rock exhibit.

What Have You Seen?

Hinch Mountain Field Trip

The trip to Hinch Mountain turned out to be a very good one. The weather was perfect: mostly sunny but not too hot.

We saw or heard a total of 65 species between Hinch Mountain and Sequatchie Valley. Birds of note on the mountain: Blue Grosbeak, Oven Bird, Red-eye, White-eye & Blue-headed Vireo, Chestnut-sided, Kentucky, Hooded Warbler, Acadian Flycatcher, Redstart, Wood Thrush, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Broadwing Hawk. In the valley: Bob White Quail (seen singing on a fence post), Green Heron, 2 Adult Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and their 2 young (still in the nest), Kestrel, and approximately 10 Wood Ducks. For the butterfly watchers: we also stopped to admire several Mourning Cloaks
Harold Birch

Possible Fish Crows

Easter Sunday, Cynthia and I took our grandson, Dakota, crappie fishing near Soddy Daisy.

We saw and heard several spring FOS birds for us! Nothing unusual but we did see an Osprey flying overhead several times. It caused me to wonder if there is another Osprey nest in the area? Then we had a group of 15 crows that flew overhead. Of the 4 or 5 that were calling, all sounded like Fish Crows. We distinctly heard both syllables. If so, we have never seen this many Fish Crows in Hamilton county at one time.

Jimmy Wilkerson (from tn-bird)

Tree Swallows

Last year we decided to install some nest boxes along the river just below the dam to see if we could attract some Tree Swallows to them. Soon after they were up the Tree Swallows moved in and nested in 3 or the four new boxes plus 3 old ones we had up back along the road. Don, Roger, Bill and Harold re-installed the Tree Swallow boxes along the river, as we put them up we had five Tree Swallows flying around us sometimes within 6 feet, as soon as we moved to the next box they would land and go in the one we had just installed. This morning I made these photos standing within 6 feet of the Tree Swallows who have claimed these boxes. What a great bird to photograph or just enjoy watching. Check them out.
Harold Sharp (5 images attached.)

March 19, 2009

Washington, D.C. – Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar today released the first ever comprehensive report on bird populations in the United States.

Contacts: Alicia King, 703-358-2522/571-214-3117.

Alicia_F_King@fws.gov

JULY / AUGUST BUTTERFLY COUNTS

For more information, contact Bill Haley, compiler of these counts, at wgh@tnaqua.org, or you can call him at (423) 756-4106 (H), (423) 785-4056(W).
Sat., July 18: Catoosa-Whitfield Co., GA (6th annual 4th of July count)
Sat., July 25: Stevenson, AL (7th annual 4th of July count)
Sat., Aug. 29: Tennessee River Gorge, TN (3rd annual seasonal fall count)

\$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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For quality birding since 1915**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO BECOME
A MEMBER OF THE
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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



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