



The Chattanooga Chat

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August, 2010 Vol. XXXIV, No. 10

A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

No August Meeting

Join us in September

August Field Trips

C.E. Blevins Avian Learning Center
Saturday, August 21 & Sunday August 22.

Leader: Joel Blevins (423) 667-0927
or avianlearningcenter@gmail.com

The C.E. Blevins Avian Learning Center is offering free tours for TOS members on Saturday, August 21st and Sunday, August 22nd. The tour will begin around 10 a.m. and will last a couple of hours. We will also have lunch for those who sign up in advance (as there are no restaurants within easy traveling distance). There is no time limit on the visitation as we are open from 10 am til 4 pm each Saturday. The tour consists of: an introduction to oology, egg painting, habitat trail with bird identification game, and nest building. Note: participation in individual events is not required--children and adults welcome. Our building is air conditioned, so don't let the hot weather discourage you.

The Avian Learning Center needs the input of TOS members. Please consider visiting us. We have over 1200 species represented in our egg collection, and a growing number of real nests for your viewing.

Please contact Joel Blevins if you plan to attend.

Directions: I-75 South to Varnell/Tunnel Hill Exit @20 miles south of Chattanooga, take Hwy 201 East to Varnell (@ 6 miles) then turn right onto Hwy 2 East. Travel on Hwy 2 approximately 2 miles to intersection with Hwy 71. Turn left (North) onto 71 then proceed approximately 6 miles. When you see Beaverdale/Cohutta road on the right, pay close attention--you will take the next right turn, just past Manis Grocery, onto Old Cleveland/Dalton Pike. There is an avian learning center sign just before Manis Grocery. Proceed approximately one mile then turn right on Hopewell Rd (again, follow our signs) then one mile to Blair Rd, on left. Turn left onto Blair, first building on the right 1000 feet.

Joel Figarido

We are saddened to report the drowning of Carol & Charles Figarido's son Joel Saturday July 24. While Joel and family were on vacation at Grand Tetons National Park, their 10 year old son Joey fell into the swift flowing Snake River. His dad Joel jumped in and was able to save his son but was not able to save himself in the swift moving current. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family.

What Have You Seen

July 23

Betty Wampler called me earlier in the week and told me that the habitat for shorebirds was excellent at the Brainerd Levee was excellent right now and she had seen three juvenile Little Blue Herons, several Great Egrets, 7 peeps (probably Least Sandpipers) and two Solitary Sandpipers. I finally got out there last evening (7/23) and had the following:

- 1 beautiful alternate plumaged Stilt Sandpiper
- 2 Solitary Sandpiper
- 1 Spotted Sandpiper
- 7 Least Sandpiper
- 3 juvenile Little Blue Heron
- 6 Great Egret
- 2 Green Heron

Kevin Calhoun
Assistant Curator of Forests
Tennessee Aquarium

July 1

Ed Schneider and I made a trek to Chattanooga to see what we could find on a hot summer day. We had one Least Bittern do a flyby at Standifer Gap Marsh. No rails were found, but then again the marsh is 80% dry.

At a boat ramp/beach area on the north side of Woods Reservoir just east of the UT Space Center (don't know the name of the rec area) we had about 160 Barn Swallows roosting under the awnings of the main building at the top of the hill. A lot of juveniles in the mix. Just seemed like a lot of barn swallows in one place for 1 July. There were

bunches of Cattle Egrets flying to and from Little Elder Island, which looks to be covered in nesting wading birds again this year.

Good birding!
Scott Somershoe
State Ornithologist

Scissor Tails

There have been enough entries on tin-bird regarding Scissor Tailed Flycatchers to merit their own section in the *Chat*.

June 24

On the way home from a Butterfly Foray in Franklin County last weekend, we drove by a new location (at least for me) of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. There was one sitting on a wire across from the Bledsoe County High School, along US 127. On the drive to the Foray on the Friday before, we saw 2 adults in the usual locations on Ninemile Road, also in Bledsoe County.

David Trently
Avian Pursuits Nature Tours
Knoxville, TN

July 13

I'm listing nine sites below where Scissor-tailed Flycatchers have been confirmed to breed or suspected to breed (because present from May through early August) in Bledsoe County. If other sites in the county have been found to harbor STFLs during this period, please send along the relevant info.

Ninemile Crossroad about 0.3 km east of Old Rt. 28 (the original breeding location); breeding confirmed many times by presence of nest,

young in nest, fledged young, and juveniles.

Ninemile Crossroad about 0.25 km east of the site where Short-eared Owls were found a few winters ago; breeding suspected from sighting of 2 adults on only one occasion.

Ninemile Crossroad about 0.75 km west of Upper East Valley Rd.; breeding suspected from sighting of 2 adults in early August, but may just have been post-breeding dispersers from nearby sites.

Old Rd. 28 about 0.4 km south of Ninemile Crossroad; breeding confirmed by presence of fledged young being fed by adults.

Brushy Cemetery about 3 km north of Ninemile Crossroad on Old Rt. 28; breeding confirmed by presence of fledged young being fed by adults.

Akins Rd. near Swafford Pond; breeding confirmed by presence of used nest and juvenile nearby.

Slaughterhouse Rd.; breeding confirmed by presence of juvenile.
Oxier Hollow Rd.; breeding suspected (possibly confirmed).

Lower East Valley Rd. about 5 km south of Rt. 30; breeding suspected by presence of adult in June.

Thanks, Steve Stedman
Cookeville, TN

Saturday July 17

South Pittsburgh, Marion Co, TN

I found a nest on the light pole described by the Wilkersons (below), and a hatchling beak could be seen in the nest. I did not see any adults at the nest while I was there, but I did see a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on a wire within a block of the nest.

I posted a couple rough photos:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/timjeffers/4805163199/>
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/timjeffers/4805163287/>

July 21
Bean Stadium
South Pittsburgh
Marion co., TN

Tuesday evening around 6:30 pm eastern we saw the adult flycatchers feeding 3 nestlings about ready to fledge. The largest of the trio was briskly exercising it's wings during the time it was not getting more than its share of the food provided by the busy parents.

I suspect that anyone could see the young out of the nest and visible in the area sitting on wires by the week end.

Jimmy and Cynthia Wilkerson
Hixson
Hamilton co., TN



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\$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, P.O. Box
2003 Collegedale, TN 37315. (423) 653-1640
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Chattanooga TOS Website:
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.