



# The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter  
Tennessee Ornithological Society

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## Meeting

**Ascension Lutheran Church**  
**720 S Germantown Rd**  
**Thursday, September 10, 2009**

5:30 p.m. Executive Board Meeting  
7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting:

**Program:** Gary Brunvoll will give a talk will be "Birding In Guyana".

**Bird of the Month:** Marcelle Hagen will have some photos and a brief story about the release of two female bald eagles in Sitka Alaska.

## New Contact Information:

The new contact information for Cathy Lockwitz, TOS Treasurer, is [burdbrane@ymail.com](mailto:burdbrane@ymail.com). Cathy manages subscriptions for the *Chat*.

## Thanks

Thanks to Debbie Shelley of the Chattanooga Zoo for presenting our August program and to Dr. Roger Nelson for the Bird of the Month program on the Black and White Warbler.

## Field Trips

### Bird The Honors Course

Tue., Wed. and Thur., Sept. 15, 16 & 17;  
Sept. 22, 23 & 24; Sept 29, 30 & Oct. 1  
Meet: 5:30 pm at the Honors course maintenance building.

Leader: You MUST RSVP in advance - David Stone (423) 238-4234 or email [rockyturf@comcast.net](mailto:rockyturf@comcast.net).

David will accept the first seven people to register for each of those days listed for The Honors Course

The honors course contains some good bird habitats. See migrating warblers at close range including Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green and American Redstart. For those wishing to bird the Honors Course unaccompanied some weekday morning, contact David a few days in advance so that he can check availability.

### Soddy Mountain Hawk Watch

Sat., Sept. 19. Meet:

10 am at the Soddy Mountain Hawk Lookout

Leader: Jimmy Wilkerson (423) 593-5455 Directions: take Hwy. 27 N to Soddy-Daisy. Take Hwy. 111 N to the top of the mountain. Take the Jones Gap Rd. exit and turn left. Follow this road for a little over 2 miles until it dead-ends at the hawk lookout. Climb the bank and you're there.

September is the peak of Broad-winged Hawk migration. If weather conditions are right, we may see some nice kettles of Broad-wings. Other raptors expected this time of year are Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle and Northern Harrier. Come join the hawk watchers and help them count hawks. Dress for the warm weather, wear sun block and a hat. Bring a snack, drinks, binoculars and a lawn chair.

### **Whigg Meadow Bird Banding**

Aug 31 - Sept 21 2009 (weather permitting).

Meet: 7:00am to 3:00pm (except on the 21st when we will close up around noon). Visitors may also help set up on Aug 30, beginning mid day.

Leader: Dave Vogt at:

[dfvogt@netzero.com](mailto:dfvogt@netzero.com) or 423/447-3042.

You are invited to attend the 12th season of fall bird banding at Whigg Meadow.

Bring a folding chair, hat, raingear, sunscreen, drinking water, hand wipes and a lunch. The elevation at Whigg Meadow is near 5000 ft. and temperatures are often cooler than in the lowlands. There are no restroom facilities in the area so, be prepared to "rough it". The road is still a gravel byway but is now possible for most passenger vehicles to drive all the way to the meadow.

### **Visitors to the Banding Station are asked to observe these requests.**

Avoid net lanes except during scheduled net checks led by authorized workers.

Do not attempt to handle or extract birds from nets until you have been fully trained and authorized by attending Bander-In-Charge.

All pets must be kept on leashes and kept away from net lanes.

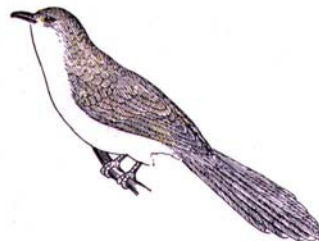
During periods of high capture rates keep conversation at banding station to a minimum.

Since bathroom facilities are not present on the Meadow, visitors are encouraged to practice proper back country toilet practices and bury all wastes.

**ACCOMODATIONS:** Primitive camping is permitted on the meadow. Indian Boundary Campground is located about 12 miles from Whigg and has restrooms including showers. There are

a number of more primitive campgrounds located near the Tellico River. Hotels in the area include Green Cove Motel (modest accommodations on the Tellico River), 423/253-2069. Snowbird Mountain Lodge (very nice though somewhat pricey) is located on the Cherohala Skyway, 828/479-3433. The KOA in Tellico Plains (888/562-47711, [www.koatellcoplains.com](http://www.koatellcoplains.com)) offers modest but reasonably priced "Kamping Kabins", but be aware of the one hour drive from Tellico Plains to Whigg Meadow.

**DIRECTIONS;** From Tellico Plains take Cherohala Skyway (hwy 165) for approximately 24 miles. As the Skyway crosses over the North Carolina Line it becomes Hwy 143E. Continue on 143E about 1.5 miles until you cross a bridge at Stratton Meadows. Turn left on gravel road immediately after bridge. Bear left at fork and go under Skyway. This is forest service road 217 (also known as North River Rd). Continue on 217 for about a mile and turn left on first gravel road on left. This is forest service road 61. It is fairly rough but can be traveled in 2 wheel drive vehicles with a reasonable ground clearance. Continue on 61 for 4 or 5 miles to a gravel parking area at the meadow. Vehicles are prohibited on the meadow itself so, walk out the dirt track to the opposite end of the meadow to the banding station.



## Bird Box Totals

AUGUST 21,200

Riverwalk Bird Club: Final count for 2009

Submitted by Harold Sharp

Location and Number boxes----Young Birds Fledged

Bluebirds—Chickadees—Tree Swallows—Titmouse—Wrens

Chickamauga Dam To Curtain Pole Road (54)	143	6	133	6	5
McKamey Animal Center(11)	35	6	18	6	
Standifer Gap Marsh (13)	37		31		
DuPont Track(9)	46				Nuthatch-6
Greenway Farm(25)	70	21	7		
TOTALS	<u>331</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>189</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>5</u> <u>6</u>

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GRAND TOTAL all species----576

We also estimate 20 Purple Martin nests at Greenway Farm with estimated 60 fledged. We had several Bluebird nests used by Tree Swallows for second nest, also Bluebirds using Tree Swallow nest for second nesting.

We had our first Tree Swallow nest 3 years ago, this year we had 35 nests of Tree Swallows that fledged 189 young. The Worlds tallest Osprey nest at the dam fledged 2 Ospreys in mid-July.

Thanks to all RWBC members for helping to build, install, check and clean the nest boxes at these locations.

## What Have You Seen?

**David Stone** reported an America Redstart on Aug. 12 at The Honors Course. That was 18 days earlier than I have seen one here before.

**Dick Shier** posted some excellent images on his email list. These included Pileated Woodpecker, Green Heron, Mockingbird, and Yellowthroat. If you would like to be added to his mailing list, contact [rschier461@aol.com](mailto:rschier461@aol.com).

**Hold Sharp** has posted links to a Ride the Wind slide show and to chatt-a-birdin'. Contact [sharp\\_h@bellsouth.net](mailto:sharp_h@bellsouth.net) to be added to his mailing list.

## 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**



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

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