



The Chattanooga Chat

Ray Zimmerman, Editor: znaturalist@yahoo.com 315-0721
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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

Meeting

Ascension Lutheran Church

720 S Germantown Rd

Thursday, October 8, 2009

5:30 p.m. Executive Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting:

Program: Ron Hoff from Clinton, Tennessee is the state count compiler for TOS. He has spoken to us before and will present a program about birds he saw while in China and Taiwan recently

Dues

Renew your dues early to help our chapter keep on track. Send your renewal to Cathy Lockwitz, 4525 Lake Haven Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37416. Cathy's new email address is burdbrane@gmail.com. Cathy also manages subscriptions for the *Chat*.

Field Trips

Sunday, October 18: Brainerd Levee

Sparrow Stomp with Clyde Blum

MEET: 8:00 am at the levee parking area on Shallowford Road.

For more information call Clyde at (423) 886-4130.

Clyde will lead this annual Brainerd Levee wading walk where we'll look for sparrows such as LeConte's, Henslows, Lincoln's, etc. You will need hip or chest waders to walk the low, wet areas of the levee. Others are welcome to attend, but if you are looking from higher ground it is challenging and difficult to spot the sparrows.

Saturday, October 10, Accipiters - Meet 10:00 am at the Soddy Mountain. Hawk Lookout.

Leader: Jimmy Wilkerson 593-5455

Mid-October is usually the peak of accipiter migration in Tennessee. Most of the Broad-winged Hawks will be past Tennessee and on their way to Mexico and Central America, but there should still be some hawks migrating. Dress for the weather! Wear a hat and sunscreen if it is sunny, and be sure to bring a lawn chair and snacks. Cancelled if raining or 100% overcast.

Thanks

Thanks to Marcelle Hagen for presenting the bird of the month talk and to Gary Brunvoll for the program on "Birding in Guyana".

What Have You Seen?

Cravens House Update

I finally had a chance to get out and see what was happening migration-wise at the Cravens House on Sunday (9/6) for the first time this fall. There was not a lot of warbler diversity, but quite a few migrants were in the area. Highlights were as follows:

- 11 American Redstart
- 2 Tennessee Warbler
- 1 Blue-headed Vireo
- 11 Red-eyed Vireo
- 2 Baltimore Oriole
- 1 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
- 1 Summer Tanager

3 Scarlet Tanager
10 Eastern Wood Peewee
1 Indigo Bunting

I had a nice late afternoon movement of warblers in my neighborhood at Cravens House yesterday afternoon (9/15).

1 Golden-winged
1 Blue-winged
Worm-eating
6 Magnolia
3 American Redstart
2 Tennessee Warbler
1 Black-throated Green

Kevin Calhoon
Assistant Curator of Forests
Tennessee Aquarium
423-785-4070

Riverwalk Bird Club

Do you know how many baby birds RWBC members have produced? We are not sure of the final count as we have not monitored all the boxes we have installed or given to people, but we do know that the years 2007 to 2009 have produced 1330 in the boxes we monitor regularly.

Do you know what the Riverwalk looks like from outer space? It's all posted on the RWBC web site.

All the above is posted on the RWBC web page, plus more. Thanks to Jack Gentle for establishing this great site and keeping it updated.

Check it out at

<http://home.comcast.net/~rwbirdclub>

Don't forget that you can print your own calendar each month, just click on the RWBC Home Page at <http://home.comcast.net/~rwbirdclub>, then click on "downloads" and print any month. We thank Jack for adding this extra to our web page; the photos are the monthly Shot of the Month Winners

from 2008. While you are there check out the "Slide Shows".

We have 4 great slide shows there and would have more if we could locate some good music that we have permission to use.

See RWBC Shot Of The Month on

<http://www.chattanooga.com/outdoors> check it out, look for it down the left side.

From Dick Schier

I want to thank David Kirschke, of Nashville, who ferreted out the Bank Swallows at Woods Reservoir.

Continuing with the quest to run down some early fall migrants, I added one to my "list" that eluded me for some time, other than one instance out in Arizona.

They pass through Tennessee from their breeding grounds in Canada, Alaska, and even north of the Arctic Circle, on their way to their wintering grounds South of the U. S. Border.

Bank Swallows nest in tunnels that they excavate in vertical sand or dirt banks associated with riverbanks, seacoasts, and at sand, soil, and gravel mining operations.

Bank swallows are most commonly seen in large groups over nesting colonies or foraging while traveling together, frequently with other swallow species. David Kirschke had very kindly posted a sighting of Bank Swallows near Woods Reservoir, not far from Winchester, Tennessee, so that was more than close enough!

Over the river, through the woods, and over the Mountain we went on a drizzly morning, on our Swallow-trek, looking for groups of these little swallows (message included photographs).

From Maria Derrick

Here's a report on the progress of the UTC chimney swift nest during August. The swifts built the nest close to the ceiling on a sheltered exterior wall on the UTC campus. The chicks hatched in mid-July.

Week of August 3 – The chicks gave raucous cries when the parents arrived or even sometimes when a person walked under the nest. A lot of their feathers had grown out, though some still stuck up at funny angles, giving them an untidy appearance.

August 10 – In the morning, the chicks were out of the nest and clinging to the wall nearby, all together in a clump. In the afternoon, they were all back in the nest again.

August 11 & 12 – The young were again clumped on the wall; for the first time I was to see them well enough to count that there were four. Their cries when the parents returned were very loud and could be heard at least 50 yards away.

August 13 – Both parents were on the wall, along with the clump of chicks.

August 18 – Only two chicks were on the wall in the morning, so over the weekend some had begun flying! All four were back on the wall in the afternoon.

August 19 – Three of the four chicks were on the wall.

August 20 – One of the young birds was back in the nest; the others were gone. In the afternoon one of the young birds got inside the building and perched close to the ceiling, beyond the reach of several concerned would-be rescuers. Two other birds were perched outside beside the nest.

August 21 – The inside bird was captured and released around noon in a daring rescue by our hero, Steve Smith of the UTC Facilities Department. Once

apprised of the situation, Steve got a ladder, climbed up and nabbed the bird before it could move. He attempted to place the bird on the outside wall, but as soon as he released it, the bird flew away. All the bird lovers who had been worried about the youngster were greatly relieved that it was once again outside where it belonged. At the time of the rescue, two other birds were perched outside, beside the nest.

August 24 – Only one bird was perched beside the nest.

August 26 – 27 – No birds!

August 28 – One adult bird was perched beside the nest on this rainy morning.

From the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology

The U.S.-Mexico border in southern Texas is a busy place. The wide, flat streets of Brownsville, Harlingen, McAllen, and (just across the Rio Grande) Matamoros teem with dusty pickups, farm stands, tiny Tex-Mex restaurants, and more than 700,000 people. The region is a hotbed for beautiful and coveted birds, too: 516 species flit through the area's distinctive mesquite, marshy resacas, and parched arroyos.

South Texas is also a corridor for hundreds of thousands of people trying to slip across the border from Mexico. Along the entire border, the U.S. Border Patrol turns back about one million illegal immigrants every year and seizes about 500 tons of smuggled narcotics. The lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas is perennially in the top three busiest of the Border Patrol's 20 sectors.

Read the full story at

<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/NetCommunity/page.aspx?pid=1345>

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

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