



The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

Meeting

Ascension Lutheran Church
720 S Germantown Rd

Thursday, November 12, 2009

5:30 p.m. Executive Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting:

Program: Scott Sommershoe, State Ornithologist with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency will give a preview of the Watchable Wildlife webpage as well as some information about other ongoing initiatives. Scott said he believes the new web page will be a great asset.

Refreshments provided by Zackary Reynolds after the meeting. We thank Starr Klein for providing refreshments for the October Meeting.

Receive the *Chattanooga Chat* by email

If you now receive the Chat through the US Mail but have internet, please consider switching to getting the Chat through email.

Renew Your Dues

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. See page 4 for membership rates.

Fall TOS Meeting

November 6 -8

Columbia, Tennessee

The Tennessee Ornithological Society will hold the 2009 Fall Meeting in Columbia, Tennessee on November 6 – 8. The Mayfield – Gray Chapter will co-host this meeting with the Buffalo River Chapter. Planned events will include the annual symposium, a board of directors meeting, and field trips.

Lodging

A block of rooms is being held at the Richland Inn at 2405 Pulaski Highway, Columbia. This is at the intersection of Highway 50 and Highway 41. For reservations, call (931) 381-4500 or 1 (800) 828-4832. Reservations may be made at anytime. Cost per room is \$75.00, including tax.

Field Trips

Due to the phosphate industry in Maury County, this area is blessed with a diversity of bird species. Field trips will include Monsanto Ponds, Williamsport Lakes, and other secret out of the way spots only known by local birders.

For more information on the meeting, contact Tommy.Edwards@tn.gov

Field Trips

Sandhill Cranes at Birchwood

The Birchwood Elementary School will host their Sandhill Crane day on Saturday, November 14. Bob Sargent will give a talk at the school. They have asked for our help with scopes and binoculars at the viewing area at Hiwassee Refuge. If you are willing to help, please contact Kimberly Tyler, tyler.kimberly@hcde.org

Additional field trip information may be released at a later time.

From the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology

The following stories appear in full on the web page of the laboratory - <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/> and on other web pages as listed.

The View from the Back of a Flying Albatross

How does a flying albatross see the world as it forages across the windswept Southern Ocean? Scientists from the National Institute of Polar Research and the British Antarctic Survey found out by attaching a lipstick-sized camera to the back of a Black-browed Albatross. <http://birdsredesign.wordpress.com/>

Sign up for Project FeederWatch!

Do you enjoy watching birds at your feeders? Join Project FeederWatch, a fun and rewarding citizen-science project. As you observe the birds, you'll learn more about their behaviors and witness the changes at your feeders. Your participation helps scientists understand changes in populations of feeder birds throughout the years.

Join the FeederWatch community to learn more about birds and share your observations.

FeederWatch begins in November. Sign up today to receive your FeederWatch kit. New participants receive the *FeederWatcher's Handbook*, instructions, an identification poster of common feeder birds, a bird calendar, the Cornell Lab's *BirdScope* newsletter, and *Winter Bird Highlights*, an annual summary of results from Project FeederWatch. A \$15 fee (\$12 for Cornell Lab members) helps defray costs of materials and participant support. <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/>

Ithaca, the Golden Eagle, Dies at Age 37

Ithaca was one of the first three Golden Eagles to be produced by artificial insemination, a technique to help captive breeding programs of endangered raptors. The eagle succumbed to complications from West Nile virus after a long and distinguished life <http://birdsredesign.wordpress.com>

New Greeting Cards Open with Bird Song

A new series of greeting cards features beautiful birds from the Cornell Lab's art collection and authentic sounds from the Macaulay Library.

Artist Maya Lin Unveils Sculpture to Raise Awareness of Extinction

Maya Lin, the artist who created the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., has turned her focus to the extinction crisis and opportunities for conservation. Lin collaborated with scientists at the Cornell Lab to develop soundscapes and video sequences of endangered wildlife, drawing on the Macaulay Library's archive. Viewers

experience the sounds and images emanating from the tip of a cone reminiscent of a fallen sequoia log.

<http://birdsredesign.wordpress.com/>

What Have You Seen?



Honors Golf Course

On September 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 29, and October 1, David Stone opened The Honors Course to CTOS members for migration birding from 5:30 until dark. For all the days combined, participating birders saw 74 species. The first week was overcast with rain and the threat of rain. Those days produced the lowest bird totals. The last day, October 1, produced the best results with 46 birds seen. Clyde Blum and Diane Whitman came to the course the morning of October 1 on a separate expedition and got 52 birds between 8:30 and 1:00. Participating birders over the 9 days included Clyde Blum, Ka Datz, Doug Hayes, Geraldine Hayes, Starr Klein, Dee Parker, Rick Schoonmaker, Sand Schoonmaker, Susan Schott, David Stone, Kyle Waggoner, Diane Whitman, Lois Bean, Bill Bell, Catherine Boyles, Gary Brunvoll, Fran Hiestand, Dan Jacobson, Linda Kelly, Andy Michard, and Sally Michard.

David and Lane Tullis saw a spectacular flight of Warblers near their home on October 6:

25 Tennessee Warblers
15 Black Throated Green
5 Bay Breasted

2 Pine
1 Palm
2 Nashville
5 Redstart
2 Black and White
5 Magnolia
1 Blue Winged
5 Chestnut Sided
1 Orange Crowned
1 Baltimore Oriole
12 Rose Breasted Grossbeaks

Soddy Mountain Hawk Watch

Near Soddy-Daisy, TN
Hamilton County

Due to the rainy September, watchers could only devote 10 days (44.25 hours) to the project this year. As we near the end of the Broad-winged Hawk season, we are pleased to present the year to date totals:

5090 Broad-winged Hawks
112 Sharp-shinned Hawks
18 Cooper's Hawks
6 Merlins
4 American Kestrels
2 Peregrine Falcons
12 Osprey
21 Bald Eagles
72 Black Vultures
5 Northern Harriers
1 Unidentified Falcon
5343 Total Raptors

Sightings also included
2 Common Highhawks
1 Double Crested Cormorant

Cynthia Wilkerson
Hixson, Tennessee

Dick Schier has collected links to a number of rare bird alerts on his web page. To use these links see <http://www.richardschier.com/RBA.html>

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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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**