



The Chattanooga Chat

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

December Meeting

Ascension Lutheran Church
720 S Germantown Rd

Thursday, December 10, 2009

5:30 p.m. Executive Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting:

Program: Dennis Harris will do our December program. His presentation will be "Bird Biology - Adaptation for Flight & Survival". Dennis is a long time birder and member of Chattanooga TOS. This should be a very informative presentation.

Refreshments: Stacy Stone will provide the refreshments after the meeting.

Thanks

Thanks to Tennessee State Ornithologist Scott Summershoe for presenting the program and to Zachery Reynolds for providing refreshments at the November meeting.

From Theresa Graham

The December issue of *The Tennessee Warbler* is now available online:

<http://www.tnbirds.org/>

Please feel free to pass this along to your chapter's membership.

The newsletter is at the printer this week and will likely be mailed next week and in the hands of the membership the first part of December.

Wishing you and your family a safe, blessed and wonderful Thanksgiving!

Theresa Graham, Warbler Editor

North Alabama Birding Trail

The Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources have produced a map and brochure with information on bird watching opportunities in North Alabama. The map outlines three travel loops with 50 different birding locations. For full information, call (866) 238-4748 or visit the web site at:

www.northalabamabirdingtrail.com

Land Between the Lakes

Land Between the Lakes is a reserve near Paris, Tennessee and managed by the U.S. Forest Service. Bird watching and other wildlife viewing opportunities abound, and a variety of regularly scheduled programs include nature hikes, presentations, butterfly counts and planetarium shows. For full information and a schedule of upcoming programs, visit www.lbl.org or call (270) 294-2000.



December Field Trips

Saturday, December 12: CHESTER FROST PARK AND PINKY'S POINT.

Meet: 8:30 am at the boat launch area at Chester Frost Park, just past the beach.

Leaders: Harold Birch (842-4626) and Starr Klein (886-2575)

Possibilities include Bald Eagle, Bufflehead, Bonaparte's Gull, and sparrows. Be sure to dress in layers and wear comfortable walking shoes.

Saturday December 19: 57th Annual Chattanooga Christmas Count (All Day)

If you are interested in helping, please contact Kevin Calhoun (423) 785-4070 or e-mail kac@tnaqua.org.

Everyone is invited to participate! If you wish to count with a more experienced birder, be sure to let Kevin know. Join us for a compilation at the Ascension Lutheran Church at 6:00 pm. Even if you can't count, come hear what was found during the day and plan to bring some goodies for hungry birders who have been out all day.

Saturday, December 26: 25th Annual Nickajack Christmas Count (All Day)

Contact David Spicer at 423-894-5310 if you plan to help out. If you had a certain area last year, you are encouraged to survey the same area. If you desire another area, or wish to be paired with someone else, that can be arranged.

Friday January 1: 43rd Annual Hiwassee Christmas Count (All Day)

If you are interested in helping, please contact Kevin Calhoun (423) 785-4070 or e-mail kac@tnaqua.org.

Please call Kevin if you plan to help with this count, or if you wish to be paired with another birder. What a great way to start off your 2009 year list!

What Have You Seen?

Dan Jacobson and I walked a couple of fields to sample sparrow numbers on the morning of Sunday November 10. We first walked the Riverport fields (off Amnicola Highway, Chattanooga) and came up with 8 species with the best being 6 Vesper Sparrows and 1

Henslow's Sparrow. It was a county year bird for both of us. Henslow's is a very difficult species to see in Hamilton County despite their presence as a breeding bird in middle Tennessee.

We then put our waders on and mucked through the Brainerd Levee behind Brainerd High School. We had mostly Song and Swamp Sparrows but did flush and get excellent looks of a single

LeConte's Sparrow. This is the first confirmed record for the levee and only the second or third for Hamilton County.

Dan was thrilled with these two new Hamilton County year birds which put him up in the 230's for the year. It was certainly the first time these two

Ammodramus sparrow species were seen in the same day in Hamilton County.

Dan has already blown by the county annual record of 219, a fantastic feat!

Kevin Calhoun

I did a quick survey of migrating water birds out from Booker T Washington State Park on the morning of November 24. There were a lot of birds moving and rafting in the main channel of the Tennessee River seen from the landing at the park. Highlights included:

one female WHITE-WINGED SCOTER
24 Redhead
10 Red-breasted Merganser
30 Lesser Scaup
71 Horned Grebe
65 Common Loon
5 Sandhill Cranes

The scoter was seen yesterday afternoon or this morning.

Dan Jacobson observed a female BLACK SCOTER out from Chester Frost County Park on November 23 and it was seen again this morning in the same area.

Kevin Calhoun

From Harold Sharp

How does it feel to be the proud parents of 1336 baby birds? That's how many have been produced in the RWBC bird box trails during the past 3 years. See the records at:

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

Look down the menu on the left side.

While you are there check the other neat stuff that Jack has on our web page.



Dues are Now Due

\$28 – Individual \$32 - Family
\$15 - Student \$40 - Sustaining
\$460 – Life member (Life members must pay
additional \$10 local chapter dues each year.)

TOS dues are now due. Please help your treasurer and yourself by paying your dues now to avoid subscription delays and extra effort. 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

Alert from Bird Watchers Digest

Some subscribers to *Bird Watcher's Digest* have alerted us that they received a renewal notification from a company called Publishers Billing Association. We do not do business with this company. These are fraudulent renewal notices. We handle all renewals in-house, and any renewal or subscription correspondence will come directly from us and include our logo.

We have been alerted to other suspicious companies with whom we have no business agreement who use similar practices. Most present themselves as a "billing services" or "magazine publisher" representatives. None of these companies is authorized to sell or represent *Bird Watcher's Digest* or *The Backyard Birds Newsletter*. We never allow another company to process our renewals.

If you have any questions about your renewal or subscription status, please call us toll-free at 800-879-2473 to speak to a live person at our office. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Laura Thompson Fulton

Circulation Director

Bird Watcher's Digest

Join and Support TOS

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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

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