



The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

July Meeting

Ascension Lutheran Church

720 S Germantown Rd

Thursday, July 8, 2010

5:30 p.m. Executive Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting:

Program: The speaker for our July 8 meeting will be Dr. David Haskell from the University of the South. Dr. Haskell is a member of TOS and always gives an interesting program. His program will be "Biodiversity and Conservation in Ecuador".

Thanks to: Kevin Calhoun from The Tennessee Aquarium for presenting our June program "Birding in Australia." Thanks to Fran Hestand for providing refreshments.

No August Meeting

July Field Trips

Sat., July 24: Sequatchie Valley Scissor-tailed Flycatchers

Meet: 7:30 am (EDT) at the Bi-Lo on Signal Mtn. Road

Leader: Starr Klein

starr.klein@dixiegroup.com or call 423-886-2575

Recent reports from the Sequatchie Valley, near Ninemile Crossroads, have found several Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. Other possibilities are Grasshopper Sparrows, Eurasian Collared-doves, Dickcissels and Loggerhead Shrikes. Dress for warm conditions and bring

something to eat and drink. Prepare for at least a half-day of birding.

What Have You Seen



May 23

There has been a Winter Wren singing in the tract of virgin timber near the base of Fall Creek Falls, Van Buren Co. TN for the last 3 weeks. I have not observed any behavior that confirms that this bird is nesting but it does seem to be trying to maintain a territory. I am not aware of Winter Wrens nesting in the Cumberlands but, wonder if they occur at Frozen Head or any other of the higher peaks in this range. Please comment if you are aware of other summering Winter Wrens in this region. I understand some high elevation breeders are found in lower altitudes at Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest, NC and wonder if the old growth stand at Fall Creek Falls may attract unusual nesting species as well.

David Vogt, Pikeville, Bledsoe Co. TN



Great Crested Flycatchers

Saturday morning, while picking raspberries, I noticed 2 birds were making loud Wheeps and flitting in the low branches of the trees close to me. I quickly recognized the sound and located 2 Great Crested Flycatchers. They never flew near me, but they never flew too far away either. They kept up their Wheeps until I left the area. When I moved away, they stopped making their noise and I noticed that they were flying to the cross bars of a never occupied set of Purple Martin gourds that were directly over the raspberries. Further investigation revealed they were flying to one Gourd. Inside I was able to make out the large mouths of two babies. I have had Great Crested Flycatchers on my property before, but never saw them at a nest. This was quite a nice end to my berry picking day.

- Harold Birch

The North American Migration Count

was held in Hamilton County on May 8. Eighteen participants observed 142 species (not bad for the windy conditions).

Highlights included:

Cravens House:

3 Veery

1 Gray-cheeked Thrush

12 Swainsons Thrush

15 species of warblers including Black-throated Blue

Brainerd Levee:

1 Connecticut Warbler

2 American Bittern

1 Semipalmated Plover

2 Bank Swallows

2 Blue-winged Teal

1 Hooded Merganser

2 Bobolinks

Standifer Gap Marsh:

18 flyover dowitcher species

1 Least Bittern

1 Virginia Rail

1 Marsh Wren

1 Canada Warbler

9 Bobolink

2 Northern Shovelers

Other birds seen:

Mourning Warbler - Greenway Farm

Peregrine Falcon

3 Bald Eagles

I want to thank all of the participants, it always seems so hard to contact people, but on count day they always come out and do a wonderful job!!

Kevin Calhoun - Assistant Curator of Forests, Tennessee Aquarium

May 28

This is the latest tally on the RWBC bird boxes. We still have 9 boxes from Invista and 30 at Greenway Farm to add. As of May 28 we can report the following fledglings from our boxes:

128 Bluebirds

117 Tree Swallows

24 Chickadees

6 Titmice

- Harold Sharp

Hinch Mountain Field Trip

Eight members of the Chattanooga chapter, TOS saw or heard 71 species this past Saturday while birding Hinch Mountain and Sequatchie Valley from just west of Hinch Mountain south to Dunlap. We started our list as we approached Hinch Mountain from Spring City. This site hosts a number of species nesting in a variety of habitats ranging from pastures, ponds, rural roadsides and creek side then into deciduous forest and then up steep slopes to the summit at a little more than 3000 feet. Some of the area has been recently logged resulting in fairly open spaces in the forest. After leaving Hinch Mountain on the Sequatchie Valley side, we traveled past grassy fields, pastures, and rural roads to Dunlap.

We had 14 warbler species (including Cerulean, Chestnut-sided, Worm-eating, Prairie, and ovenbird) and 5 Flycatchers (including a Scissor-tail on nest along ninemile crossroad in the Valley north of Pikeville where they have nested in recent years), and single yellow-billed cuckoo and Blue Grosbeak. No Dickcissel, grasshopper sparrow, Shrike, or Oriole.

This is a fun trip for June and we all had fun and good looks at a good variety of birds. Harold Birch and I really enjoyed leading the trip thanks to the enthusiastic group and the cooperative birds. It was a good day.
- Danny Gaddy

Honors Golf Course

Sixteen birders from the Chattanooga chapter of TOS birded The Honors Golf Course in Ooltewah in hot humid conditions from 5:00 PM until 8:45 Saturday, June 13. Many of the birders were beginners so they had a great time.

We saw and/or heard a total of 45 bird species. Highlights included a nesting pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers that gave us great looks, Wild Turkeys with little ones, Gray Catbird, Northern Rough-wing Swallow and 3 Purple Martin colonies.

Birders included John Eaton, Marion Eaton, Doug Hayes, Geraldine Hayes, Cathy Lockwitz, Margaret Mendonca, Michael Mendonca, David Patterson, Jodi Patterson, Sally Scholze, Donna Shelman (and 2 guests) & David Stone + 2 other guests.

David Stone
Birds seen included:

Mallard
Wild Turkey
Green Herron

Turkey Vulture
Cooper's Hawk? (or Broad-winged - only a quick look in heavy woods)
Red-tailed Hawk
Morning Dove
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Eastern Phoebe
Great Crested Flycatcher
Eastern Kingbird
Blue Jay
American Crow
Purple Martin
Tree Swallow
Northern Rough-wing Swallow
Barn Swallow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Carolina Wren
House Wren (heard only)
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Eastern Bluebird
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
European Starling
Yellow-breasted Chat (heard only)
Summer Tanager
Eastern Towhee
Field Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Northern Cardinal
Blue Grosbeak (heard only)
Indigo Bunting
Red-winged Blackbird
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Orchard Oriole
House Finch
American Goldfinch

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
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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.



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