



# The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter  
Tennessee Ornithological Society

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## May Meeting

**Ascension Lutheran Church**  
**720 S Germantown Rd**  
**Thursday, May 13, 2010**

5:30 p.m. Executive Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting:

**Program:** Dr. Roger Nelson will be our presenter. His topic will be "Almost Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About The Great Blue Heron". Dr. Nelson always tells us something we did not know about birds. We will also have the migration bird count to talk about as well as other sightings.

**Refreshments:** Please contact David Stone, [rockyturf@comcast.net](mailto:rockyturf@comcast.net) if you are willing to do refreshments.

**Thanks to:** Steve Snow for presenting our April program. Lois Bean and Katherine Boyles provided refreshments

## Dear Members,

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the death of Dick Schier of a heart attack. Dick was an active member of the Chattanooga chapter of TOS. It was only February at our monthly meeting that Dick did the program showing pictures of birds he had photographed in the past year.

We will certainly miss his love of life spirit. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife Sharon and to Dick's children.

David Stone,  
President

## May Field Trips

Third Annual Chattanooga Bioblitz  
Birding Walk, Saturday, May 1: Meet:  
7:30 AM in Nature Center Parking Lot.  
Leaders: Call Kyle Waggener: 821-1160  
Ext.112, [kwaggener@chattanooga.org](mailto:kwaggener@chattanooga.org).  
or Clyde Blum - 886-4130 For Info..  
Participants in this bird walk will assist in collecting data for the third annual Chattanooga BioBlitz. The walk will begin at the front parking area of the Nature Center at 7:30 am. Bring your binoculars and water. Dress appropriately for the weather and be prepared for several hours of birding and a couple miles of walking. There entrance fee to the Nature Center is free for all because of the BioBlitz.

## SAT., MAY 8: NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT

The Chattanooga Chapter of TOS has been a part of every North American Migration Count since they began in 1991. Help celebrate International Migratory Bird Day with a day in the field watching birds! If you have helped in the past, you are encouraged to cover the same area as before. Be sure to call Kevin and let him know you are planning on counting and where you will be. If you are not confident in your identification skills, you may be teamed up with a more experienced birder. Please contact Kevin Calhoon, count compiler, on or after May 4th at (423) 785-4070 or email at [kac@tnaqua.org](mailto:kac@tnaqua.org). There will be no compilation this year.

## **Dick Shier**

I was never fortunate enough to meet Dick Schier, and sadly now that will never happen. However as a bird and wildlife photographer I was able to ask Dick photography questions and he always graciously took the time to answer each of them, many times with a lengthy and thoughtful response. When he asked if he could link to my photo galleries, on a website that he was starting by and for Tennessee Birders and Photographers I was very flattered. I would be honored to make sure that his efforts to have such a website continue. Each time that I traded emails with Dick I always made sure to thank him ... Now I would like to thank him one last time. Dick ... Thank you for all the help that you so kindly provided.

Bob Howdeshell  
Maryville, Tennessee

I was on Dick's mailing list and always enjoyed his photos and the often amusing narrative that came with them...like of running across several lanes of highway traffic in Florida to get a photograph of a Limpkin in a roadside ditch or of the Boat-tailed Grackel that poked its head in the car window looking for a hand-out at Jekyll Island.

Dean Edwards,  
Knoxville, Tennessee

I, too was on Dick's mailing list and so enjoyed reading his stories and looking at his beautiful photos that I saved many of his messages in a separate email folder so that I could re-read them. I was fortunate enough to encounter him once at Concord Park when he was here in Knoxville looking for the Long-Tailed Duck. We located her together. He had a

wonderful sense of humor and will be greatly missed.

Carole Gobert  
Knoxville, Tennessee

I echo Dean's comment. I, too, was on his mailing list and looked forward to his entertaining stories and incredible photos. He will be missed.

David Aborn  
Chattanooga, TN

## **Officers**

The Chattanooga Chapter of TOS will hold elections of officers at the July meeting. If you are willing to serve, please contact David Stone, [rockyturf@comcast.net](mailto:rockyturf@comcast.net)

## **What Have You Seen**

From Tim Jeffers  
I spotted a couple of Bobolinks on the East slope of the Brainerd Levee (4/21/10) and again (4/22/10) directly across from the Wal-Mart retention pond.

From David Aborn  
I got great looks at a Yellow Warbler singing near the Wal-Mart entrance to Brainerd Levee.

April 23  
John Henderson, Jan Chadwell, and I spent yesterday morning trying for the Bewick's Wren, but to no avail. We had a pair of scissor-tailed flycatchers (FOY) building a nest on a utility pole crossbar, and a singing orchard oriole, along with three eastern kingbirds (FOY). We heard a prairie warbler (FOY) along this area (Wilson Co). We saw a cattle egret (FOY) on Highway 41 in Coffee Co.  
David Chaffin

April 23

I heard my FOY Chuck-Will's-Widow last night while walking my dog. This is always a welcome spring sound.  
Harold Birch

April 22

I had Hooded, Kentucky, and Yellow-throated Warblers today along with a Giant Swallowtail Butterfly.  
J. N. Howard, Marion County

14 April 2010

The migrants keep rolling in; there was a Wood Thrush singing in my back yard this morning.  
David Aborn  
Chattanooga, TN

13 April 2010

There was a male Scarlet Tanager at Greenway Farms this morning. There are also loads of gnatcatchers, 3 White-eyed Vireos, and 2 Prairie Warblers.  
David Aborn  
Chattanooga, TN

10 April 2010

At Greenway Farm I saw my first Prairie Warbler and Red-eyed Vireo of the season.  
David Aborn  
Chattanooga, TN

April 12

Saw my first Chimney Swift around 12:45 pm flying over downtown Chattanooga. Seen from a deck on the Unum building.  
J Marty Paige  
Chattanooga, TN

April 22

I was pleased to find a Cerulean Warbler singing on the Wheeler Farm addition to Fall Creek Falls State Park on 20 April

2010. I will monitor this location to see if it maintains a territory through the breeding season.

David Vogt  
Fall Creek Falls State Park

April 7

While cruising up river at 1230 hours Captain Dave and I observed two American White Pelicans in the Harrison Bay and Patton Island area.  
Rick Houlk, Aboard the Blue Moon  
Hamilton County, TN

April 5

This morning we have a singing yellow-throated vireo in our yard.  
J. N. Howard, Marion County

April 2

Merlin photographed in the yard.  
Scott Somershoe

March 30

I saw 2 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, 1 Barn Swallow, and 1 Tree Swallow at Greenway Farm yesterday (3/30).  
David Aborn  
Chattanooga, TN

March 31

Yesterday afternoon while riding around The Honors Golf Course, I saw 3 hawks together come flying out of a group of trees no more than 30 feet apart. Much to my surprise they were all Broad-winged Hawks. We have had a pair nest around the golf course for the past few seasons. I am baffled by 3 being together.

David Stone  
The Honors Course  
Ooltewah, Tn.  
Hamilton Co.

\$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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