



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, December 9, 2010

7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting:

Program: Jack Leather will do the December program on his and Vicky's trip to the Galapagos Islands they made this past summer. It is a fascinating place and we look forward to Jack's program.

5:30 p.m. Executive Board Meeting

Thanks to: Clyde Blum for presenting the November program, and to Star Klein for providing refreshments.

Field Trips

Saturday, December 4: BIRD THE HONORS COURSE MEET: 10:00 AM AT THE HONORS COURSE

CLUBHOUSE AREA

LEADER: DAVID STONE (423) 238-4234 OR EMAIL

rockyturf@comcast.net

The honors course contains some good bird habitats. David has many golf carts available this time and there is room for a lot of birders. Please call David by Friday afternoon, Dec. 3 to reserve your spot. If you have not been there before email or call David for directions, as it can be hard to find. Be sure to dress for the weather. It will feel cold on the golf carts even if the weather is nice.

Remember to meet at the Clubhouse area not at the maintenance area where David usually meets the group.

Saturday, December 18: 58th ANNUAL CHATTANOOGA CHRISTMAS

COUNT (ALL DAY) If you are interested in helping, please contact Kevin Calhoon (423) 785-4070 or e-mail kac@tnaqua.org if you can help. There is a \$5 per field observer fee. 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.

Sunday, December 26: 26TH 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.

Saturday, January 1: 44th ANNUAL HIWASSEE CHRISTMAS COUNT

(ALL DAY) If you are interested in helping, please contact Kevin Calhoon (423) 785-4070 or e-mail kac@tnaqua.org if you can help. 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 2011 year list!

What Have You Seen

November 19

Kevin Calhoun saw a juvenile Pacific Loon this morning at Booker T Washington State Park in Hamilton County.
Tommie Rogers, Hamilton County

November 12

Banding at Greenway Farm this morning produced the first Fox Sparrow of the season. I also banded 6 White-throated Sparrows, 3 Hermit Thrushes, 1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1 Field Sparrow, and 1 Brown Thrasher.
David Aborn

November 9,
male Rusty Blackbird
Fall Creek Falls State Park
John Froeschauer, Nashville

November 2010

Robins and waxwings were in abundance in my nets at Greenway Farm, along with a good mix of other birds. My totals for this morning were:
American Robin - 19
Cedar Waxwing - 14
White-throated Sparrow - 8
Hermit Thrush - 3
Golden-crowned Kinglet - 2
Tufted Titmouse - 1
Eastern Towhee - 1
Blue Jay - 1
David Aborn

November 2010

Candies Creek
Gadwall-51
Hooded Merganser
Great Blue Heron-46
Great Egret-18
Killdeer--75
Least Sandpiper-1
Dunlin-7
South Mouse Creek
Belted Kingfisher-male
Great Blue Heron
Killdeer--15

B & B Marina area
Carolina Wren
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Hermit Thrush
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Field Sparrow-2
White-Throated sparrow-2
Northern Cardinal-2m
Brown Thrasher
Northern Mockingbird

David Chaffin
Cleveland
Bradley Co

November 20

Approximately 14 Pine Siskins
Three Rusty Blackbirds,
White-crowned Sparrow,
white headed Northern Cardinal
Tommie Rogers

November 24

Buffleheads on the pond at Camp Jordan in East Ridge this morning. Possible Fish Crows (only heard them once, though).
Tim Jeffers

November 24

Snow Goose – Soddy Lake and Sequoia Employee recreation area.
Bill Holt

November 25, 2010

Standifer Gap Marsh
Canada Goose 10
Mallard 170
Virginia Rail 4
Sandhill Crane 4 flyover
Mourning Dove 4
Belted Kingfisher 1
American Crow 4
Carolina Chickadee 5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1
Hermit Thrush 1
American Robin 85
Northern Mockingbird 3
Yellow-rumped Warbler 5
Eastern Towhee 5
Song Sparrow 30

Swamp Sparrow 30
Northern Cardinal 4
Red-winged Blackbird 4
American Goldfinch 40
David Patterson

November 1
Pine Siskins
Purple Finches
Carol Fegarido

To Hunt or not to Hunt

If you oppose the establishment of a hunting season for Sandhill Cranes, you should write a letter (sorry no emails) to the TWRA commissioner for Hamilton and other counties in the area. Send to: William Brown, Suite 1000 Volunteer Building, 832 Georgia Avenue, Chattanooga, TN.37202

Also we encourage you to use the link below to respond to the survey on the proposed hunting of Sandhill Cranes in Tennessee. It's one question and a simple yes or no vote. It takes very little time to respond.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RPCM LJV>

Please note that the wording of the survey may be a little confusing as it says "Please vote below for the TWRA proposed Sandhill crane season," but should say "Do you want a Sandhill Crane hunting season in Tennessee." The survey is not limited to Tennessee residents. It would be nice if TWRA got a BIG response.

Also please send a letter to Director Ed Carter, and to each of the Commissioners, expressing why you think a crane hunt is a bad idea, and encourage your members to write. Melinda Welton has said that she would

be happy to review and/or edit your letters if you want this assistance. Her e-mail address is: weltonmj@earthlink.net

If you need more information before you vote, you can find more information on the TOS web page at: <http://www.tnbirds.org/ConsPolCom/Proposed%20Crane%20Hunt.html> or the NTOS web page at: <http://www.mindspring.com/~tnwarbler/NTOS/Crane%20Hunting.html>

Conservation Policy Committee

Kevin Calhoon is retiring from the TOS Conservation Policy Committee. They would like to fill it with someone else from the Chattanooga. If you have a real interest in conservation issues effecting birds and are a bit of activist, please let David Stone know.

Our President on the Radio

David Stone will be on The Tony Sanders Show on Talk Radio 102.3 Saturday, Dec. 11 from 6:00 - 7:00 AM. David will be talking about the proposed crane hunting season and other birding questions. You are encouraged to listen and call in with your comments.

Vickie Henderson on Sandhill Cranes

Vickie Henderson Art has an article about Sandhill Crane hunting at <http://vickiehenderson.blogspot.com>. The blog also includes a brief overview of her *Tennessee Conservationist* article on the Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge. She also has a review of Stephen Lynn Bales Book *Ghost Birds*, all about early research on the Ivory Billed Woodpecker

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, P.O. Box
2003 Collegedale, TN 37315. (423) 653-1640
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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Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society
P.O. Box 2003 Collegedale, TN 37315

Chattanooga TOS Website:
www.chattanoogatos.org

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.