



The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

December Meeting

Ascension Lutheran Church
720 S Germantown Rd
Thursday, December 8, 2011
5:30 PM Executive Board Meeting
7:00 PM Monthly Meeting:

Program:

Stephen Lyn Bales from Knoxville will do our December 8 program. Lyn has written a book about Dr. Jim Tanner's search for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, *Ghost Birds: Jim Tanner and the Quest for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, 1935-1941*. Ironically, one of the last, and perhaps it was the last, group that Jim Tanner spoke to about the Ivory-bill was at a CTOS meeting. Lyn thinks it was in 1988, two years before he died. Lyn said he has notes Dr. Tanner used in his talk to the CTOS. Lyn gave a talk to our club 4 years ago on another book he had written. This should be a fun program again with a lot of information about the Ivory-bill. Books will be for sale just in time for Christmas. At this time no one has offered to do refreshments for the meeting. Contact David (rockyturf@comcast.net) if you would like to do them.

C. E. Blevins 16 November 2011

It is with much sadness that I report the passing of C. E. Blevins on November 14, 2011. C. E. was a retired art teacher, missionary, and minister, who was once given a book of bird eggs. Fascinated by the variety of shapes and colors, he set out to replicate as many bird eggs as he could.

Over the next 20 years, he perfected his techniques and subsequently recreated the eggs of over 1,200 bird species in exacting detail. The Los Angeles Museum of Natural History was so impressed by his egg replicas, they asked if he would make a set of eggs for the museum to replace the deteriorating eggs in their collection. C. E. felt that the task was too monumental and declined, but the offer is testimony to the quality of his work. His eggs got the attention of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2008, and they invited him to display some of his eggs at public events they held at the National Conservation Training Center in West Virginia. C. E. was a frequent exhibitor at the Hiwassee crane festival, and even created the world's largest Whooping Crane egg for display there. To preserve his work and to teach people about birds, C. E.'s son Joel founded the C. E. Blevins Avian Learning Center in Cohutta, Georgia. His grandson, Zach Reynolds, is carrying on his egg-making tradition. To learn more about the avian learning center and about the life of C. E. Blevins, visit <http://www.avianlearningcenter.com/>
David Aborn

DECEMBER 2011 FIELD TRIPS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2: CHESTER FROST PARK AND PINKY'S POINT 8:45 AM – LEADER HAROLD BIRCH Meet at the boat launch area. Call 842-4626 for information. This park is a good birding spot any time of the year. Expect to see gulls and ducks, as well as Brown-headed Nuthatches and Red-headed Woodpeckers. Dress in layers and wear comfortable walking shoes.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17: 59TH ANNUAL CHATTANOOGA CHRISTMAS COUNT (ALL DAY) – If you are interested in participating, please contact Kevin Calhoun 423-785-4070 or E-mail at kac@tennis.org. There is a \$5 per field observer fee. Everyone is invited to participate.

27TH ANNUAL NICKAJACK CHRISTMAS COUNT (ALL DAY) – CONTACT DAVID SPICER AT 423-894-5310 OR birdsnbflys@gmail.com IF YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1: 45TH ANNUAL HIWASSEE CHRISTMAS COUNT (ALL Day): If you are interested in participating, please contact Kevin Calhoun (see above). This is a great way to begin your 2012 year list!

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JANUARY 14 & 15 CRANE FESTIVAL IN BIRCHWOOD – MORE INFORMATION NEXT MONTH

Dues are now Due

Your annual dues are \$28.00. These funds support TOS and the local chapter. Please mail your payment to:
Cathy Lockwitz,
P.O. Box 2003
Collegedale, TN 37315.

Whig Meadow Bird Banding

Below is a summary of bird banding results from the Sept 2011 banding efforts at Whigg Meadow Bird Banding Station. Capture rates and species diversity were both low this year. Swainson's Thrush was the most frequently captured species at 198. This is only the 2nd time in 14 years of Fall banding at this site that Swainson's Thrush outnumbered Tennessee Warblers. The later numbered only 73 captured and about half of these were “after hatching year” birds, which suggests that this species had a bad reproductive season. No species new to the station were captured.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this year's banding effort possible and thanks for the cooperation of Cherokee National Forest.

David Vogt,
Pikeville, TN

2011 Preliminary Summary –
Whigg Meadow Bird Banding Station
Cherokee National Forest
September 1-30

1 Sharp-shinned Hawk
2 Northern Saw-whet Owl
3 Downy Woodpecker
1 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
1 Least Flycatcher
2 Yellow-throated Vireo
38 Blue-headed Vireo
5 Red-eyed Vireo
2 Blue Jay
5 Carolina Chickadee
5 Tufted Titmouse
3 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
17 Veery
9 Gray-cheeked Thrush
138 Swainson's Thrush
3 Gray Catbird
5 Brown Thrasher
1 Golden-winged Warbler
72 Tennessee Warbler
1 Nashville Warbler
19 Chestnut-sided Warbler
27 Magnolia Warbler
3 Cape-may Warbler
50 Black-throated. Blue Warbler
5 Black-throated. Green Warbler
6 Palm Warbler
8 Bay-breasted Warbler
12 Black-and-white Warbler
4 American Redstart
32 Ovenbird
2 Common Yellowthroat
21 Hooded Warbler
1 Wilson's Warbler
3 Eastern Towhee
33 Dark-eyed Junco
5 Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Total individuals - 600
Total species banded - 38

What Have You Seen

October 15

I saw a Ruby-throated Hummingbird at my feeder.

Tommie Rogers

October 26

Today about 5:15 I watched at least one Magnolia Warbler (saw it more than once) feeding on insects in small Elms near a creek. This is my latest date to see one at the golf course (I also saw one at noon yesterday in the same area).

Small Elms (only 10 feet tall with small trucks) hold onto their leaves much longer in the fall than larger trees. I think this attracts insects to small trees later into the fall. On top of that you do not get warbler neck looking at them!

David Stone

October 29

Our first White-throated Sparrow for the season has arrived and is feeding in the backyard this morning

J Marty Paige

Hiwassee Refuge

I spent about 3 hours at the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge (HWR) in Meigs County late this morning and into the early afternoon. Wildlife watchers cannot walk around on the refuge after October 31 until March 2 next year, so it was a good time to go, and the weather was great.

About 11:30 AM, I heard and finally saw a lone Sandhill Crane. I was thinking it might have spent the summer in the area until I heard some more sandhills. Five more cranes came into sight from the north and circled for awhile as if deciding whether or not to stay. While watching them through my binoculars, I noticed a group of about 20 sandhills much higher and heading south. Meanwhile, I lost sight of the five that were circling, so I don't know if they came down on the refuge or not.

Other species seen were:

1 fish crow - I am identifying it as such because of the very different call from American crows. I listened to the fish crow sounds on the Stokes CD later.

American crows - several

Palm Warblers - several in the large oak near the viewing gazebo

Yellow-Rumped warblers - several near the bridge that crosses the end of the slough a couple of hundred yards to the east of the gazebo

1 adult Bald Eagle + 1 subadult. The second one had an almost completely white head and tail. (Ken Dubke and I saw a similar pair in "aerial combat" - talons-to-talons - VERY IMPRESSIVE FLIGHT MANEUVERS) at HWR yesterday.)

2 great blue herons

Carolina Chickadees

Blue jays

1 Northern cardinal

Mourning doves

Turkey vultures

Black vultures

2 Belted kingfishers

1 Pileated woodpecker

1 Killdeer - heard (Two were seen in a different area at HWR yesterday)

1 Phoebe

1 Tufted titmouse

2 Mockingbirds

1 Eastern bluebird

Charles Murray

November 4, 2011

When I got back to the UTC campus after banding this morning, there was a Peregrine Falcon flying around McKenzie Arena! It circled the area a few times and then perched on top of the arena (maybe hoping to score some Mocs/Lady Mocs basketball tickets?). I didn't have my binoculars handy, so I couldn't tell if it was banded.

David Aborn

Please send your sighting records to:

Ray Zimmerman znaturalist@gmail.com

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 TOS Website:

www.chattanooga.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.

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Tennessee Ornithological Society
P.O. Box 2003 Collegedale, TN 37315