



The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

January Meeting

Ascension Lutheran Church
720 S Germantown Rd
Thursday, February 9, 2012
5:30 PM Executive Board Meeting
7:00 PM Monthly Meeting:

Program

Tim Jeffers will show some of his best bird photographs from 2011. Tim has done this program for us the last two years in honor of Dick Schier. Dick had been doing the program each year until his untimely death in April of 2010. Tim has always shown new birds or birds photographed at different angles or age. The program is always interesting.

Sharron Schier will provide refreshments after the meeting. We thank Fran Hiestand and Sandy Caldwell for providing refreshment at the January meeting.

Thanks to storyteller Brian "Fox" Ellis for his portrayal of Audubon at our January meeting.

Crane Festival

Dear CTOS...

Many thanks to each and everyone of you for all your wonderful help and many contributions during this year's Sandhill Crane Festival. From the sharing of scopes and field guides, to help with loading shuttles, answering questions both on the Refuge and at Birchwood, to manning the TOS and welcome table, and donating items for the silent auction and buying tickets for the dinner, you did it all with energy and

enthusiasm! The Festival would not have been the tremendous success it was without each and everyone pitching in and giving it their best.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

Cyndi Routledge
Melinda Welton

More thanks:

Major kudos go to Melinda, Cindy, TWRA, and the many other people involved with the festival for making it a very successful event! David Aborn

Dues are now Due

I am in the process of making deletions. If you have not sent in your dues, please do so by January 31 in order to avoid an interruption of your Chat. If you are unsure of your status, please contact me immediately.

If you have decided not to renew your membership this year, there is nothing more you need to do. I will make the deletion automatically.

Thanks everyone. I hope 2012 is treating you well and the birds are stopping at your feeders.

Cathy Lockwitz,
P.O. Box 2003
Collegedale, TN 37315.

February Field Trips

Saturday, February 11, 2012 - Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, Decatur, Alabama

Kyle Waggener – Trip Leader

7:00 AM, EST - Meet at former Food Lion on Brown's Ferry Road in Tiftonia – I-24 north to Brown's Ferry Road exit, right on

Brown's Ferry Rd., parking lot is a short distance on the left. Please notify Kyle – 423-693-7533 or kylwag@yahoo.com or Starr Klein 423-991-0249 or starr.klein@dixiegroup.com if you plan to participate. This will be an all day trip. Further directions will be available at the TOS meeting on February 9.

Saturday, February 25, 2012 – Barn Owls & Woodcocks at Hayden Wilson's Farm – 5:00 PM, EST – Leader: Hayden Wilson 423-994-5359 for reservations.

This field trip has been very successful and great fun in past years. After we get our fill of birds, all are welcome to fill up on hot dogs, snacks and drinks. Please call ahead so he knows how many hot dogs to buy. Plan to bring a side dish or dessert to compliment the hot dogs.

Directions: From Chattanooga, go north on US Hwy. 27 to Soddy-Daisy. Take Hwy. 111 toward Dunlap. After crossing the mountain, take the first exit (East Valley Rd.). Turn right onto East Valley Rd., go approximately 1 mile, then turn left at Kelly's Crossroad. When the road forks at the cemetery, turn left. Hayden's house is less than 1/2 mile on left at the top of the hill. His house number is 1664.

Christmas Bird Counts

The Chattanooga CBC was held on Saturday December 17. Thirty-two participants (excellent number!) found 95 species which is just about average but a good count. Highlights included:
1 female COMMON MERGANSER (Very rare on this count)
1 Snow Goose
2 Great Egrets
1 Barred Owl (Never easy on this count)
5 Canvasback
5 Redhead
2 House Wren
Thanks again to everyone who helped, it was a great turn-out!!
Kevin Calhoon

The Hiwassee CBC was held on January 1, 2012. Fifteen observers found 85 species which is somewhat below average for count. The waterfowl numbers were quite low.

Highlights included:

3 Blue-winged Teal (very rare in winter)
1 immature Golden Eagle
1 Merlin
8 Eastern Screech Owl (excellent number)
2 Loggerhead Shrike
2 Snow Goose
3 Great Egrets
10168 Sandhill Crane
6 Whooping Crane
1 Hooded Crane
Kevin Calhoon

Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge

Dec 7

The Olin Corporation's branch in Charleston, TN, sponsored school field trips for approximately 300 fifth-grade students from Charleston, North Meigs, Riceville, and South Meigs elementary schools to the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge and the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park in Meigs County on Monday and today. They learned about area wildlife from Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency speakers and learned about Sandhill Cranes and Whooping Cranes from Dr. David Aborn, UTC, and Ms. Jen Davis, International Crane Foundation. Other volunteers included long-time birders Ken Dubke, Rick Houlk from Blue Moon Cruises, and myself.

Particular thanks to Hale Booth from Olin who coordinated the field trips and to others from Olin who assisted in planning and facilitating the activities at the CRMP and at the HWR.- Charles Murray

December 10

American Redstart – photographed
American White Pelican, Whooping Crane, Mute Swan, Sandhill Cranes, Bald Eagles, Northern Harrier

Tim Jeffers

December 14

First sighting of the Hooded Crane by Marie Sutton and Phyllis Deal from Lexington, KY. Thanks To Charles Murray for reporting this information..

January 13

On the last day before the Tennessee Sandhill Crane Festival, one observer at the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge saw the Hooded Crane drop out of sight behind a hill across the slough from the viewing area. Visitors saw numerous Sandhill Cranes. Brian Fox Ellis, who will be presenting his 'John James Audubon' stories at the festival, and I saw at least 4 whooping cranes on Hiwassee Island from the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park overlook near dark.

Charles Murray

January 6

Total visits to HWR since December 13 are now at least 2192.

Charles Murray

January 8

Thanks to Dan Jacobson and any others who encouraged visitors to sign the visitors list at Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge. At least ninety-three visitors today raised the total visits since December 13 when the Hooded Crane was first noted at HWR to at least 2481. A tenth country, South Africa, was added to the list. Visitors saw several Bald Eagles, Snow Geese (white and blue phase), and thousands of active Sandhill Cranes.

Charles Murray

January 20

The hooded crane did a "fly-by" at 10:20 a.m., then returned for 5 minutes in view beginning at 11 a.m. A Merlin was seen.

Nevada became the 44th state represented! At least 48 visitors were at the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge in Meigs Co. at Birchwood today.

Charles Murray

Other Sightings

December 9 near Chester Frost Tennis Courts - Bald Eagle.

John Kuehnel

December 11 – Polk County

The immature Tundra Swan is still near the Greasy Creek Bridge on Lake Ocoee, with a flock of Canada Geese.

Gerald Linderman

January 6

7 Brewer's Blackbirds at the Cookie Jar Cafe just south of Dunlap Tennessee

Terry Witt, Murfreesboro

December 26 Amnicola Marsh

35 Hooded Mergansers

Also saw 32 on January 1

Ray Zimmerman

December 28, Standifer Gap

Merlin

Jeff Taylor, Hendersonville

January 20

If you haven't already discovered it, a very interesting blogspot is available on the Harrison Bay Eagle nest, check it out at <http://hbspeaglecam.blogspot.com/> . Soon they will start allowing tours to get a closer look at the nest, they will be early on Tuesday mornings , look for an announcement when they will start and how you can sign up for one.

Harold Sharp

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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**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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P.O. Box 2003 Collegedale, TN 37315