



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, January 12, 2011
5:30 PM Executive Board Meeting
7:00 PM Monthly Meeting:

Program

Adventures with Audubon

Spend an hour in the studio of one of America's greatest naturalists and wildlife artists. Storyteller Brian "Fox" Ellis portrays Audubon in these entertaining and meticulously researched monologues drawing from Audubon's journals, essays, and letters to his friends and colleagues.

This program was developed with a grant from the USFWS as part of their celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Fox has performed as Audubon in museums, nature centers, birding festivals, schools and libraries across the United States, including Audubon's home in Henderson, Kentucky.

Sandy Caldwell & Fran Hiestand will be providing refreshments after the meeting.

Thanks to Stephen Lyn Bales of Knoxville for presenting our December program. Starr Klein and Stacy Stone provided refreshments.

JANUARY FIELD TRIPS

Saturday and Sunday, January 14 & 15

Blue Moon Cruises, in conjunction with the Crane Festival. We will be cruising at 10:00 and 2:00 each day. The 10:00 on Saturday is sold out.

The price is \$39.00 per person and includes a Bar-B-Q buffet. We depart from Sale Creek Marina and cruise to the Bald Eagle's nest at Highway 58. These eagles have been on the nest for over a month at this time. The cruises will last about 3.5 hours.

Sale Creek Marina: From Chattanooga, take US 27 North (Corridor J) through Soddy-Daisy. Continue 5.5 miles past Hwy. 111 turnoff. Turn right at Amoco/BP (traffic light) at McCallie Ferry Road. Continue on McCallie Ferry Road for approximately 2 miles and take the left fork onto May Road. Go 0.7 miles to stop sign at Mayflower Road. Continue straight on May Road for 1.3 miles. Take 2nd right after the Crossroad onto Lee Pike. Go 1.4 miles on Lee Pike and take a left at the stone entrance into Regatta Point subdivision. Turn left into marina driveway. Parking is on the left. For reservations, contact Rick Houlk, Blue Moon Cruises, 888-993-2583
www.bluemooncruises.org

Saturday, January 28, 8:00 A.M. –

Nickajack Dam, Stevenson and Guntersville, AL – Trip Leader: John Henderson (423-802-7549) – Meet at the Food Lion in Tiftonia. CAR POOLING IS NECESSARY. We will stop on the back side of Nickajack Dam, then drive down the valley (east side of the TN river) toward Stevenson. There are a few lunch places in Stevenson or bring your lunch. We can also stop in Scottsboro for lunch. For those who want to bird more, we can continue on to Guntersville for a different assortment of birds. We should be finished with the Stevenson area around noon and Guntersville about 3:00 - 4:00 PM

Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge

January 21

Leader: Kyle Waggoner

Watch for an announcement.

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.

Cathy Lockwitz, our treasurer received several thank you notes with the dues payments. These are greatly appreciated.

Crane Festival

Here is an article about the Crane Festival.

http://www.chattanooga.com/articles/article_214448.asp

What Have You Seen

Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge

Canada Goose 5, Mallard 4, Hooded Merganser 50, Common Loon 6, Pied-billed Grebe 2, Double-crested Cormorant 50, American White Pelican 1, Great Blue Heron 3, Bald Eagle 3 (1- Adult / 2- Sub), Northern Harrier 1, Red-tailed Hawk 3, American Coot 200, Sandhill Crane 1000,, Killdeer 2, Ring-billed Gull 20, Mourning Dove 3, Belted Kingfisher 2, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, Downy Woodpecker 1, Eastern Phoebe 1, Blue Jay 4, American Crow 18, Carolina Chickadee 4, Carolina Wren 2, Eastern Bluebird 6, Northern Mockingbird 2, European Starling 15, Northern Cardinal 3.

Nov. 17 & 18 Standifer Gap Marsh-

11 Northern Shovelers, 3 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 3 American Wigeon (2 drakes, 1 hen), 8 Sandhill Cranes, Great Blue Heron, 12+ Mallards, Turkey Vulture, Killdeer, 34 Canada Geese, Red-winged Blackbirds

Nov. 22

2 Northern Pintail, 8 Mallards, Savannah Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, 3 Turkey Vulture.

Hugh Barger

November 23

Two whooping cranes were definitely identified over Hiwassee Island very late in the day (5:30 - 5:40 PM) and a third whooper was likely present, but it was at a great distance, and there was too little light left to be certain that it might not have been a White Pelican or Snow Goose.

Charles Murray

November 25

About 5:35 PM today, from the viewing platform at the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park in Meigs County at Birchwood, I saw 2 Whooping Cranes land on the "pond" on Hiwassee Island. Many hundreds of Sandhill Cranes were also returning to the area on or near Hiwassee Island to "roost" for the night. An hour or so earlier, several dozen Sandhill Cranes flew over and later fed in the fields visible from the gazebo at the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge. A Northern Harrier, several ducks, and numerous double-crested Cormorants were also present at the HWR.

Charles Murray

November 25

I have been surveying the Tennessee River from Chickamauga Dam to the Vincent Road landing to monitor the waterbird migration. Have not yet seen the big rafts of ducks we usually see by now, but still some interesting movement including four hen Surf Scoters just upriver from the Vincent Road landing (yesterday 11/24). Some other highlights included:

61 Common Loons, 75 Horned Grebes, 2 Red-breasted Mergansers, 2 Bufflehead, 1 Black Duck, 31 Banaparte's Gull, 21 Ring-billed Gull

Kevin Calhoon

November 28

Coming up on the Tennessee River this morning from Chattanooga in the driving rain, I was able to spot a raft of Coots very near the Interstate that had to contain 8-to 10 thousand Coots. These were the first Coots for me this Fall, probably because I haven't been birding much lately. It was fun to see them-just a large black mass!

Linda V. Kelly
Nashville, TN

November 28

Hiwassee Refuge viewing area today from 2:00 - 2:45 p.m. we observed 4 Whooping Cranes in the green field visible from the viewing platform.

The 4 Whooping Cranes stayed together, and we watched them feeding with spotting scope, and binoculars.

The rain was of no concern to the multitude of Sandhill Cranes standing in the green fields. It was great to hear their noisy voices again.

Susan Baumgardner, Knox. co.

November 30

Even though large numbers of Sandhill Cranes were migrating to the south this morning, late this afternoon I saw the largest number of cranes at Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge in Meigs County at Birchwood that I've seen so far this season. I didn't see any whooping cranes today. After the heavy rains of Sunday and Monday, the normal shallow water "roosting areas" of the cranes are flooded. At dark the cranes were still circling as if looking for safe roosts. I wonder where they roost under these circumstances.

Charles Murray

December 1

This morning was one of the best I've ever spent at HWR. Arriving at the gazebo viewing area at about 7:45 a.m., I ran into Rick Houlk who was already there, and we saw several dozen Sandhill Cranes in the fields. We decided to go on to the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park at about 8:15 a.m.

From the viewing platform there, we saw 2 Whooping Cranes, hundreds of Sandhill Cranes, 4 or more Bald Eagles, and numerous ducks of several species, including canvasbacks. About 9:30, we returned to the gazebo area. Rick soon spotted a juvenile and an adult Northern Harrier and we had some great views of the juvenile hunting over the refuge fields. About that time, perhaps thousands of Sandhill Cranes appeared high in the sky, apparently migrating toward other southern states.

Charles Murray

I was at the western ferry landing near Hiwassee Island looking for eagles to photograph. No eagles, but I saw a Common Loon fishing close to the landing. Just after sundown, Misty saw a big white bird floating down the TN river next to the island. It was bright white with some black lines in the tail feathers, a WHITE PELICAN.. We just got back from Panama City where we saw hundreds of brown pelicans, some of them pale grey, but not white like this one. Tom Chittenden

December 3

Today We saw 3 adult Bald Eagles at Hiwassee Refuge. One Bald Eagle flew down to the ground ,and picked up nesting material, then flew across the water holding sticks with his feet. Two other adult Bald Eagles flew over. Last but not least we saw one Whooping Crane among many Sandhill Cranes. I also saw geese, gulls, and herons. At the Cherokee Removal site we saw one adult Bald Eagle sitting in a tree top. I watched a deer swim the chanel, and get out on the other side.

Susan Baumgardner, Knox County

I received several reports of a Hooded Crane at Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge and of a Tundra Swan at Parksville Lake.

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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P.O. Box 2003 Collegedale, TN 37315