



# The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter  
Tennessee Ornithological Society

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## Meeting

**Ascension Lutheran Church**  
**720 S Germantown Rd**  
**Thursday, June 9, 2011**  
**5:30 PM Executive Board Meeting**  
**7:00 PM Monthly Meeting:**  
**Includes election of officers, see page 3**

**Program:** Dr. David Aborn will be our speaker for the June meeting. His program will be about his trip to Nebraska in March. This includes his going to the North American Crane Workshop. As David said, Nebraska is crane central. He will also show waterfowl and shorebirds he saw while there.

**Refreshments:** No one has signed up for refreshments for the June meeting.

**Thanks to:** Ron Hoff for presenting our June meeting. Fran Heistand and Sandy Caldwell provided refreshments at the May meeting.

## In the News

Cynthia Rutledge posted a link on the tn-bird list to an article about the proposed crane hunt in Kentucky.

<http://10000birds.com/kentucky-first-in-crane-hunting.htm> is the article. It appears on the 10,000 birds web zine <http://10000birds.com/>

The US Fish and Wildlife Service posted an article on the shooting of a Bald Eagle in North Carolina.

<http://www.fws.gov/southeast/news/2011/11-041.html>

## Field Trips

SATURDAY, JUNE 4: SEQUATCHIE VALLEY SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHERS

MEET: 7:45 AM (EDT) AT THE TRACTOR SUPPLY CO. ON SEQUOYAH RD EXIT OFF HWY. 27 IN SODDY DAISY.

LEADER: STARR KLEIN 423-886-2575 OR EMAIL

[starr.klein@dixiegroupp.com](mailto:starr.klein@dixiegroupp.com)

The Scissor-tailed Flycatchers have been seen back at the Ninemile Crossroads again this year. Other possibilities are Dickcissels, Grasshopper Sparrows, Eurasian Collared-Doves, and Loggerhead Shrikes. Dress for warm conditions and bring something to eat and drink. Prepare for at least a half-day of birding.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4 & 11: BIRD THE HONORS COURSE

MEET: 4:30 PM AT THE HONORS COURSE MAINTENANCE BUILDING

LEADER: DAVID STONE 423-238-4234 OR EMAIL

[rockyturf@comcast.net](mailto:rockyturf@comcast.net)

The Honors Course contains some good birding habitat. Of special interest this time of year are the close up views of Purple Martin colonies.

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We may also see Eastern Bluebirds, Blue Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, Yellow-breasted Chat, and possibly an Eastern Screech Owl. David will try to accommodate as many people as possible since there are two dates. If you have not been to the Honors Course before call or email David for directions, as it can be hard to find. Be sure to have insect repellent and especially something good for ticks.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18: BEWICK'S

WREN & HENSLOW'S SPARROWS  
MEET: 8:00 AM (EDT) AT THE  
DISCOVERY CENTER IN  
MURFREESBORO, TN  
LEADER: TERRY WITT

[terrywitt@bellsouth.net](mailto:terrywitt@bellsouth.net)

We'll start in Murfreesboro looking for the Bewick's Wren and will go by Manchester for the Henslow's Sparrows on our way back to Chattanooga. Other birds of interest could be Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Blue Grosbeaks, Grasshopper Sparrows, and possibly Lark Sparrows. There will be bathrooms and places for food along the way. Directions to Discovery Center, 502 SE Broad St, Murfreesboro, TN 37130: Exit I-24 at US 231 (Exit 81) north to Murfreesboro. Turn right on Hwy 41 (SE Broad) and the Discovery Center is on the right in one block. Plan on leaving the Chattanooga area by 6:15 am to arrive at the Discovery Center on time.

### **Sightings**

Please send your sightings to Ray Zimmerman, [znaturaliust@gmail.com](mailto:znaturaliust@gmail.com)

Due to formatting problems with messages received through my yahoo account, I am now using Gmail for TOS correspondence.

Hugh Barger Reports these sightings:  
April 4 - Pied billed Grebes, Blue Winged Teal, Northern Shovelers, Rudy Duck, Canada Geese, Great Blue Herons; Brainerd Levee

April 5 – FOS Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Home (Meadow Stream Subdivision, Ooltewah)

April 12 – Hairy Woodpecker, Brown Headed Nuthatch, White-throated Sparrow: Home

April 21 – Palm Warbler, White Crowned Sparrow, Barn Swallow, Red Bellied Woodpecker, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: Home

April 26 – Great Egret, Eastern Kingbird, Canada Geese, Blue-winged Teal, American Coots, Indigo Bunting: Brainerd Levee

April 26 – Summer Tanager, Eastern Phoebe: Enterprise South Park

April 30 – Yellow Warbler, Eastern Kingbirds, Orchard Oriole, Northern Rough-winged Swallows, Brown Headed Nuthatch, Northern Flicker, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers: Home  
Bluebirds fledged 5 young from a nest box at my home.

May 5  
Yellow Breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Kingbird, Orchard Oriole, Pair of Yellow-Billed Cuckoos (mating).  
Hugh Barger

April 30  
Chickamauga Dam  
8 Willets  
Kevin Calhoon, Dan Jacobson

May 1  
Two White Pelicans on the Tennessee  
River, at the foot of Lookout Mountain,  
Ted Caldwell

May 3  
Nickajack Dam, Marion County  
Adult Laughing Gull  
3 Red Breasted Mergansers  
Lesser Scaup – Kevin Calhoon

May 6  
Standifer Gap Marsh  
Purple Gallinule, Common Moorhen  
Tim Jeffers

The tn-bird list included several other  
reports of the Gallinule and Moorhen.

May 8  
Standifer Gap Marsh  
Common Moorhen, Leucistic Cardinal  
Tim Jeffers

May 15  
Woods Reservoir, Little Elder Island  
Cattle Egret, Great Egret, Snowy Egret,  
Great Blue Heron, Little Blue Heron,  
Black Crowned Night Heron, Double  
Crested Cormorant.  
Dicksissel in a field on drive home  
Tim Jeffers

May 20  
(5/20/11) I saw and photographed at  
9:00 AM and at 4:30 PM a lone Gadwall  
at the pond in Camp Jordan, East Ridge,  
Hamilton County. It was along the edge  
of the pond with a group of Canada  
Geese, and allowed fairly close approach  
by car. I don't know whether the duck is  
injured or not - it was able to fly a short  
distance. - Tim Jeffers

## **Nest box Project by Riverwalk Bird Club**

The Number of Tree Swallows fledged from  
the boxes has increased dramatically each  
year.

2007 – 63  
2008 – 97  
2009 – 189  
2010 – 217  
Total Fledged 766

Harold Sharp reported that the members are  
constructing more boxes to keep up with the  
demand for nesting space. It seems the  
demand will continue to increase so long as  
the club continues to place more nest boxes.

May 15  
A check of the bird boxes yielded the  
following first round results:

Chickamauga Dam  
24 boxes, 10 Bluebirds, 5 Tree Swallows  
Chattanooga State  
9 Boxes, 15 Bluebirds, 9 Tree Swallows  
5 Titmice  
Riverport  
10 Boxes 30 Tree Swallows, 1 Very Large  
Snake  
Amnicola Electric  
12 Boxes, 20 Bluebirds, 5 Tree Swallows  
McKamey  
10 boxes, 5 Bluebirds, 10 Tree Swallows, 25  
Titmice, 10 Chickadees

## **Nomination of Officers**

Clyde Blum has agreed to serve as  
president. David Stone is willing to stay  
on the board as vice-president and  
program chairman. Vicky Leather has  
agreed to serve on the board as  
Secretary. Dee Parker has served a long  
time and would like to take a break. Starr  
Klein has agreed to be field trip  
chairman. Cathy bLcokwitz will remain  
Treasurer. If anyone else wants to be  
nominated from the floor we encourage  
it.

## **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

**Your Chattanooga Chapter, TOS**  
**Meeting your needs**  
**For quality birding since 1915**

**Chattanooga TOS Website:**

[www.chattanooga.org](http://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.

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