



The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

Mays Meeting

The May 24 meeting will take place at Reflection Riding with a chance for Birding on the trails. We would like to hear your thought on future programs at monthly meetings.

Board of Directors 5:30

Members 6:00

Thanks To Corey Hagen for leading a bird walk on the Reflection Riding Trails for our April Meeting.

Field Trips

Submitted by Gary Brumvoll
gbrunvoll@epbfi.com

May 1st- Kevin Calhoon
Chattanooga Migration Count. This is an important bird census and part of a national effort.

Please contact Kevin for areas to be covered.

kac@tnaqua.org is the contact email.

May 22: 9-10:30 AM

Crabtree Farms

100 E. 30th St.

Chattanooga

Barbara Johnson is the leaders for this trip. Crabtree Farms has excellent bird habitat at a site developed for local food production.

<https://crabtreefarms.org/>

May 21-23

Birds and Butterflies of the Great Smoky Mountains

The event is being scheduled as a WEATHER PERMITTING only event. This means that should the forecast predict rain in the Great Smoky Mountains this event will be cancelled. Please check the calendar on our CTOS website, <http://chattanooga.org/calendar-of-events/> on the Thursday evening before the event to confirm that this event is still taking place. As an alternative, you can contact Jeffrey directly at schaarschmidt@yahoo.com or 423.265.1313.

Who: Organizer, Jeffrey Schaarschmidt. This program is open to anyone who wishes to participate.

What: Birding and Butterflying weekend in the Great Smoky Mountains.

Where: The Great Smoky Mountains.

When: May 21, 2020 at Noon until May 23, 2020 at Noon.

Why: To enjoy all that nature and the Great Smoky Mountains has to offer.

* Please note: May temperatures range between 39 and 57 degrees on Clingman's Dome, and between 61 and 80 degrees in Cades Cove. So, it is suggested that you pack a jacket.

Event details: weather permitting!

Please feel free to participate in as many or as few events as you wish. However, it may be impossible to contact and meet up with the group once they are out birding or butterflying, as mobile phone service in the park is extremely limited.

Friday: Jeffrey will be leaving to go to the Great Smoky Mountains for a weekend of birding and butterflying. He will be leaving Chattanooga on Friday at noon. Participants can either meet up with Jeffrey in the parking lot of the REI store near Hamilton Place Mall, located at 2507 Lifestyle Way, Chattanooga, TN 37421, or meet him in the Great Smoky Mountains park. Friday will be primarily devoted to butterflying in the Great Smoky Mountains, with a focus on finding Silvery Blues and other species that are difficult to find elsewhere in east Tennessee.

Participants should be sure to pack snacks and water, as we will be eating a late dinner in Gatlinburg, most likely at the Smoky Mountain Brewery, which serves pizza, burgers, chicken, steaks, and an assortment of adult beverages. After dinner we will be switching to birding mode with the hopes of locating **Saw Whet Owls and other owls** in the Tennessee portion of the park. Following this, participants will retire for the night at a campsite or hotel of their choice.

Saturday: Full day of birding! Participants will meet about 7:00 a.m. in the Newfound Gap parking lot. We will have two morning targets, specifically **Grouse and Red Crossbills**. The goal will be to check out a few areas where the species have been most often observed.

Following this will go up towards the top of Clingman's Dome to search for Least Flycatchers, Ravens, Black-capped Chickadees, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Blue-headed Vireos and any other species. We will take a lunch break and then head out to bird in Cades Cove. After a late dinner, we will again attempt to locate Saw Whet Owls and other owls. Following this, participants will retire for the night at a campsite or hotel of their choice. It is suggested that all participants pack snacks and water.

Sunday: This day's schedule will vary depending on whether we were able to locate **Grouse and Red Crossbills** on Saturday. If we missed *either* species, we will meet for another attempt about 7:00 a.m., and then transition to butterflying for the remainder of the day. If we were successful for BOTH species on Saturday, we will meet at 9:00 am, at a place to be determined, and will devote the entire day to butterflying in the park. It is suggested that all participants pack snacks and water.

Editor's Corner

I just ordered Scott Wiedensaul's new book, *A World on the Wing*. It promises to be an excellent resource and an enjoyable read.

In [this interview](#) with National Public Radio, he discusses his personal history growing up in the Pennsylvania mountains and visiting Hawk Mountain to see the hawk migration. Reviews and further information about the book appear on Mr. Wiedensaul's [website](#).

Bill Hilton continues to produce his "This Week at Hilton Pond" blog with reports from the natural world on his web page, [The Piedmont Naturalist](#). He is licensed to band hummingbirds and has, since 1982 tacked them. Reports are available a [Project Hummingbird](#).

Sightings

March 28
Our FOS Ruby-throated Hummingbird showed up at 3:10 pm today. It's a beautiful male.
Marty Paige. Cleveland, SW Bradley County.

March 28
I got my first [Ruby-throated Hummingbird] today also. Hamilton county
Tim Jeffers

March 28
I heard my first Northern Parula and Black-and-white Warbler yesterday (27 March) on the UTC campus.
David Aborn

March 31
I put up two hummingbird feeders about 3:30 P.M. today in Birchwood (Hamilton County). About 7:30 P.M. I observed a male Ruby-throated Hummingbird on one of the feeders. The earliest I noted one in the previous ten years was on April 4.

Charles Murray
Birchwood, TN

April 4
At Greenway Farm this morning I heard my first Yellow-throated Vireo of the spring. I also saw a couple of White-eyed Vireos and heard a Black-throated-green Warbler singing.
David Aborn



Bird watching at the Tennessee River Gardens.

April 18
While walking my dog at Greenway Farm this morning, I heard several new migrants for the year; Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Yellow Warbler. There were also the migrants that have been around for a few weeks; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Great Crested Flycatcher, Hooded warbler.
David Aborn

April 29
Hamilton County, TN

I caught 2 first-of-season thrushes while banding a Greenway Farm this morning; 2 Veerys and a Gray-cheeked Thrush. I also caught a Wood Thrush and 2 White-eyed Vireos. Given the Birdcast and radar images from a couple of days ago, I was expecting a lot of activity yesterday and today, but it was quiet. Other migrants I saw or heard were: Ruby-throated Hummingbird Indigo Bunting Great Crested Flycatcher Red-eyed Vireo Blue-gray Gnatcatcher House Wren Common Yellowthroat Prairie Warbler Rose-breasted Grosbeak David Aborn

March 17

By now, hearing about the Evening Grosbeaks in Tennessee might be old news for most folks, but what shocked me this morning after being out of state for a week, is that they are still here. A small gathering soon grew to a total of 39 birds in my cherry trees around noon today.

These birds have been surprisingly predictable. So much so, I was able to set up a GoPro camera on a tripod next to a feeder and capture some 4k footage of their antics and feeding action. Here is the video you might find amusing. Watch in 4K if your internet speeds will support.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-GwIm-0jMk&t=22s>

Jeff Bailey
Chuckey, TN



Watching birds at the Tennessee River Gardens.

Join CTOS:

Membership Dues Individual: \$28
Student \$15 Family: \$32
Sustaining: \$40 Lifetime: \$460
(Lifetime members must pay \$10 local dues each year.)

NEW: Join or renew your membership online!
ChattanoogaTOS.org

Select membership level, click “Add to Cart”, and you will be taken to the Secure PayPal site where you can pay by credit card or PayPal account

All dues, donations, gifts, and bequests are tax deductible under Sec. 501 (c)(3), the Internal Revenue Code.

Need to pay by check? Make your check out to “TOS” and send to:
Fran Hiestand, CTOS Treasurer
8935 N. Hickory Valley Rd
Chattanooga, TN 37416 Please include an email address.