



# The Chattanooga Chat

Ray Zimmerman, Editor: [znaturalist@gmail.com](mailto:znaturalist@gmail.com)

(423) 718-9393

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter  
Tennessee Ornithological Society

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## April Meeting

Ascension Lutheran Church  
720 S Germantown Rd  
Thursday, April 12  
5:30 p.m. Executive Board  
7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting  
Program:

Steve Brandon will do our April 12 program. Steve and his wife Patsy have traveled the world, photographing wildlife and speaking at universities, high schools, civic clubs and business meetings about wildlife conservation. Steve's program will be "Wildlife of Antarctica." Steve will speak primarily about penguins but will include information about some of the other 40 species of birds found there. Steve and Patsy split their time between Chattanooga, Tennessee and Amory, Mississippi.

## Thanks

Thanks to Steve and Cyndi Routledge from Clarksville for presenting the March program, "Arizona- From Sky Islands to the Saguaro". The program featured excellent bird photos from their trip to Tucson.

## Field Trips

### Chickamauga National Military Park, April 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>

Meet at the lower parking lot at 8:00 AM for Battlefield History & Birds. Jim Ogden will continue his series of

battlefield history talks and Danny Gaddy will be finding birds for us.

## Reflection Riding Arboretum & Nature Center, April Saturdays

April marks the return of walks at Reflection Riding Arboretum & Nature Center. We will meet every Saturday morning except April 21.

Gather in the parking lot at 7:30 AM and walk the beautiful grounds looking for Spring migrating birds and returning nesters.



Yellow-shafted Northern Flicker  
Yard bird, photo by Gary Lanham

**TOS Spring Meeting and Field Trips, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>**



The Chattanooga Chapter will host the state TOS Meeting, April 20-22, 2018. Birders from across the state will arrive to bird with us at many of our favorite spring sites.

If you would like to go on any field trips, please register and then sign up for the walks on Friday at the reception.

**Friday Evening Reception:**

The Crash Pad, 29 Johnson Street, Chattanooga.

**Saturday Evening Banquet:**

The banquet will be at The Well on Rossville Avenue. Guest speaker Chris Haney PhD will talk on ecosystem management and seabird conservation.

**Field Trips** (currently scheduled, subject to change):

**Saturday:**

Guild Trail, led by Kevin Calhoun

Craven's & Hardy Trail,  
led by Tommie Rogers

Tennessee River Gardens,  
led by Clyde Blum

**Sunday:**

Reflection Riding Arboretum & Nature Center, led by Kevin Calhoun

Others: TBA

Field trip questions?? Contact Pixie planham@epbfi.com or 423-886-4321

**BIRDS of Chattanooga**

The State Meeting is **A Weekend Adventure** presented by The Tennessee Ornithological Society April 20-22, 2018

Discover local hotspots  
Connect with local experts  
Learn identification and feeding tips  
Share your questions and findings  
Compare checklists  
Contribute to citizen science  
Have a voice in environmental issues  
Hike Chattanooga's mountains and waterways  
maybe even...  
Spot a rare bird!  
\$15 weekend registration (\$10 student), banquet \$15

Based at The Crash Pad boutique hostel on the Southside - this event is more experience than meeting- email: [gaddy@catt.com](mailto:gaddy@catt.com)

Come Join us in Chattanooga April 20-22! Spring Migration should provide excellent birding opportunities and Dr. Chris Haney's talk will be both interesting and informative.

Registration and details available at: <http://www.tnbirds.org/Events/Springmtg18.html>



Snow Goose, Blue Goose, and Hybrid Ross's Goose at Camp Jordan,  
Photo by Gary Lanham

## Editors Corner

### Nature Across America

When Edwin Way Teale and his wife Nellie left their Connecticut farm to explore the wider natural world, no small trip would do. They needed the geography of an entire continent. Over twenty years, they made four cross continent trips and published four books. They first drove *North with the Spring* from Florida to New England, documenting the seasonal changes along the way. *Journey into Summer* took them into the great plains, the heartland of America.

*Autumn Across America* began in New England and ended on the west coast. For the final installment of the four-book series, *Wandering Through Winter*, they began with a whale watch in Baja, California and ended in Maine after a diagonal cut across the continent.

Teale had published books before, documenting growing up among the Lake Michigan dunes of Indiana and his purchase and repurposing of a rundown farm in Connecticut. That farm was home to he and his wife Nellie and later became an Audubon sanctuary. None of these achievements would predict his twenty-year project which resulted in these four books, his Pulitzer Prize winning series, *The American Seasons*.

I can't imagine what possessed them to make such a journey and undertake such a project. Perhaps it was the death of their son, David, in World War II. Perhaps it was the need to document what even then was a fast disappearing natural world. I have heard that much of what Teale wrote about is now gone. This is undoubtedly true, and a sad reality it is. Nevertheless, there are a few bright spots. The White (Whooping) Cranes of which he wrote were nearly extinct at the time, with less than 100 remaining. Through concerted recovery

efforts, there are now about 600. The Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon have since recovered from low populations.

The great advantage of older nature books like these is that they provide a baseline for comparison to the current state of the world. Is nature disappearing or recovering? Perhaps some aspects recover as others go away. A look at the past can help us know the present better and even know a bit about the future.

## What Have You Seen

Send your bird sightings to [znaturalist@gmail.com](mailto:znaturalist@gmail.com)

March 18

Yesterday, I saw 8 Least Sandpipers, and one each of Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs at the embayment at Candies Creek WMA that Rick Houck has nicknamed "Stump City." A recheck today revealed none of them still around. Observers hear American Woodcocks at the junction of Wacker Boulevard and Old Lower River Road. David Chaffin

March 18

David Stone saw an adult breeding plumage male Snow Bunting at The Honors Golf Course this evening at 6:45 pm. Pixie Lanham for David Stone

March 6

I saw an Eastern Kingbird on Access Road at the Animal shelter today David Vogt, Hamilton County

On Monday, March 5, I was finally able to confirm a FOY Osprey on the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge in Meigs County at Birchwood. It rested on a nesting platform in the Hiwassee River from the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park overlook. I am pretty sure that I had glimpsed ospreys in two or three other places a few days earlier, but those

birds were either seen for only a few seconds at a time or in very low light.

In late afternoon on March 5, approximately 15 Red-breasted Mergansers were seen from Booker T. Washington State Park in Chattanooga. I rarely ever see this species at the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge. This morning, March 7, I saw 3 female Purple Finches on sunflower feeders at my home in Birchwood (Hamilton County). These were the first Purple Finches of the entire winter for me.

In the winter of 2016-2017, there were several male and female Purple Finches at my feeders for much of the winter. At roost time near dark from the CRMP, I am still seeing from a few dozen to about 100 Sandhill Cranes. They are roosting on sandbars in the Tennessee River (Rhea County) near Hiwassee Island.  
Charles Murray



Pine Warbler; Yard bird by Gary Lanham

### **Chattanooga Audubon to hold Little Owl Festival and 5K Trail Run**

**Contact: Chattanooga Audubon: 423 899- 1499 [LittleOwlFestival@chattaudubon.org](mailto:LittleOwlFestival@chattaudubon.org)**

The Little Owl Festival will take place on May 19, 2018. This year, we are

partnering with Happinest Wildlife Rehabilitation and Rescue, and Chattanooga Wild Trails, so this event will support three organizations. The folks at Happinest are organizing nature activities during the day. Wild Trails will offer a 5 K trail run and walk at 10:00. We will offer our student poster contest with prizes for the winners this year. Join us for these activities as well as music on the stage and food from local providers and crafts by local craft vendors.

### **Signup for the 5K Trail Run**

<https://www.facebook.com/LittleOwlFestival/>

### **Request information on Vendor Opportunities**

[LittleOwlFestival@chattaudubon.org](mailto:LittleOwlFestival@chattaudubon.org)

### **The student Art Contest**

[LittleOwlFestival@chattaudubon.org](mailto:LittleOwlFestival@chattaudubon.org)

### **Music on the stage from 11 am to 6 pm**

### **Join TOS**

Membership dues:

\$28- individual                      \$32- Family  
\$15- student                          \$40- sustaining  
\$460- Life (Life members must pay \$10 local chapter dues each year.)

Send checks payable to "TOS" to:  
Gary Lanham, TOS Treasurer  
21 Cool Springs Road  
Signal Mountain, TN 37377  
[chattanoogaotos@outlook.com](mailto:chattanoogaotos@outlook.com)

If you are a new member, please include your address, phone number, and an email address for Chat delivery and bird walk information.

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