



The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

June Meeting

Ascension Lutheran Church
720 S Germantown Rd

Thursday, June 14, 2018

5:30 p.m. Executive Board

7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting

Program: One of our local members and longtime birder David Spicer will present our program about his trip last spring to Magee Marsh. Magee Marsh is in northern Ohio by Lake Erie. It is one of the best places (if not *the* best) to get great close-up looks at over 30 species of warblers (and other birds) as they stop to fuel up before flying over the Great Lakes to nest in Canada.



Rose Breasted Grosbeak, Signal Mountain yard. Photo by Gary Lanham

Thanks to Cedric Zimmer's team for giving the presentation on Tree Swallow research at our May meeting.

FIELD TRIPS

Hinch Mountain, June 2nd

Led by Harold Birch (423-903-1665) and Danny Gaddy (423-316-5647). Meet at 7:00 A.M. at the Soddy-Daisy Walmart, Harrison Lane exit from Hwy. 27 N. We will meet up with Roi & Debbie Shannon to bird one of the highest locations on the Cumberland Plateau. Expect to see nesting birds not common at lower elevations. Bring a lunch, snacks, and drinks. Dress for the weather, which could be cooler on the mountain. If time permits we will return through Sequatchie Valley to see Scissor-tailed flycatchers, Grasshopper sparrows, and Dickcissels.

Watch your email for announcements of additional field trips.

Pixie Lanham: planham@epbfi.com



Warbling Vireo, Chickamauga National Military Park, Catoosa County. Photo by Gary Lanham

Editors Corner

Bits and Pieces

This morning I read a section of John James Audubon's *Ornithological Biography* devoted to Wild Turkeys. Though he was known to shoot birds and pose them for paintings, apparently, he also spent considerable time observing them in the field. It is interesting that he noted the response of the turkey to the call of the Barred Owl, just as turkey hunters know today.

The current issue of the *Tennessee Conservationist* has an article on nesting Saw-whet Owls in the Smoky Mountains, written by Stephen Lyn Bales of Ijams Nature Center. He observed them on a trip there, but his article also gives some history of prior observers by Dr. Fred Alsop who researched them under the direction of Dr. Jim Tanner of the University of Tennessee.

He also mentions Arthur Stupka, first naturalist at Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Stupka also received a mention in Edwin Way Teale's book *North with the Spring*. In the chapter "Vertical Migration," Teale described how conditions at the tops of southern mountains replicate conditions in the far north. In a later chapter he described the changing weather and natural history of an ascent up Mount Washington in New Hampshire. Given this factor, it is not surprising that the Saw-whet Owl, a bird of the boreal forest, also makes a home on top of Tennessee Mountains. I found this article enjoyable, and I have also enjoyed Mr. Bales books, *Ghost Birds* and *Natural Histories*.

I personally have observed Saw-whet Owls in Ohio and Kentucky, but not here in Tennessee. An article published in *Franklinia*, the since-renamed newsletter of the National Association

for Interpretation, Southeast Region, describes my encounter with one at Land Between the Lakes in 1989.

More information about these birds appears on the web site of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology at https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern_Saw-whet_Owl/overview



Kentucky Warbler, Reflection Riding Arboretum & Nature Center.
Photo by Gary Lanham

Notes from the Field

May 13
Hamilton County, TN
I saw my first Common Nighthawk flying around this morning in Hixson.
David Aborn

May 13
This morning several birders saw an Olive-sided Flycatcher. It perched on the dead tree just downhill from Craven's house on Lookout Mountain. This tree has been a dependable place to locate the OSFL for several spring migrations now. We just have to be there on the right day.
Tommie Rogers

May 11
The White-faced Ibis has returned to the Brainerd Levee this afternoon. It was feeding behind the Boyd Buchanan

School. First found on Saturday May 5th by Augustus Mealar and Walter Hoyt. Bruce Dralle

May 11

Today was the first day for 154 straight days that we did not have a Pine Siskin in our yard on Signal Mountain. We had our first Pine Siskin for the winter of 2017-18 visit our yard last December 8th. We saw or heard Pine Siskins in our yard every day after that until today. Pixie and Gary Lanham

May 8

Banding at Greenway Farm resulted in 1 uncommon capture and 1 new species captured out there. I caught a Magnolia Warbler, only the 7th spring Magnolia I have caught there (out of 450 total). The new species was definitely a surprise: a Lincoln's Sparrow! David Aborn

May 7

Banding at Greenway Farm this morning only netted 1 cardinal, but there were certainly lots of migrants around:

Chimney Swift = 2

Northern Rough-winged Swallow = 2

Tree Swallow = 2

Barn Swallow = 4

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher = 3

Great Crested Flycatcher = 1

Eastern Wood-Pewee = 2

White-eyed Vireo = 2

Yellow-throated Vireo = 2

Red-eyed Vireo = 5

Tennessee Warbler = 2

Hooded Warbler = 1

American Redstart (FOS) = 3

Blackpoll Warbler = 1

Black-throated-green Warbler = 2

Scarlet Tanager = 1

Blue Grosbeak = 1

Indigo Bunting = 5

When I got to campus, I found a window casualty Magnolia Warbler (Unofficial FOS).

David Aborn

May 6

I went to Brainerd Levee this morning to try to find the White-faced Ibis, but I did not find it. There was a male Blue-winged Teal, 3 Solitary Sandpipers, and 14 Least Sandpipers. When I got to campus, I found a new window casualty species; Black-billed Cuckoo.

David Aborn

May 5

White faced Ibis spotted at Brainerd Levee Hamilton County
A E Mealer

May 4

While making my rounds on the UTC campus this morning looking for window casualties, I found a dead female Hooded Warbler with a band on it (I also found an unbanded Swainson's Thrush). I checked my records and it was not one of my bands, so I submitted a report to the Bird Banding Lab. According to their records, it was banded as a second year female on April 9, 2016...in Middlesex, Belize!!! Wow! David Aborn

April 30

While I was having breakfast at 7 A.M. this morning at my home in Birchwood (Hamilton County), I looked out the window toward some bird feeders filled with sunflower seeds. I was quite surprised to see 8 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks feeding there. This is twice the highest number of this species I've seen at one time before. Later in the morning and early afternoon, I saw a number of other notable species. Some of their identities and locations follow.
Indigo Buntings (home)
Blue Grosbeaks (home)
Wood Ducks (Blythe Ferry Lane – Meigs County)
Great Crested Flycatchers (home, and Cherokee Removal Memorial Park - Meigs County)

Eastern Kingbirds (Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge -Meigs Co., and Dayton Airport area - Rhea Co.)
 Cedar Waxwings, several (Blythe's Ferry – Meigs Co.)
 Blue-winged Teal (HWR)
 Greater White-fronted Goose, with a significantly larger Canada Goose (HWR)
 Prothonotary Warblers 2 or more (FOY, – TWRA Cottonport WMA, Rhea Co.)
 Northern Parula (FOY, – TWRA Cottonport WMA, Rhea Co.)
 Palm Warblers (FOY, Dayton Airport area - Rhea Co.)
 Pine Siskin (FOY, home)
 Charles Murray

Apr 28

I heard a FOY Yellow-breasted Chat calling near my home in Birchwood (Hamilton County) this morning. Several Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are still present feeding on sunflower seed and mixed bird feed around my home.
 Charles Murray

Apr 27

A birding trip to Chickamauga NMP netted 59 species, including Warbling, Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, White-eyed, and Red-eyed Vireos, as well as 13 warblers, including Swainson's Warbler. Adding in birds seen on Mag Williams and Cloud Springs Roads, we had a total of 72 species for the day.
 Pixie and Gary Lanham

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Excerpt from a Press Release from American Bird Conservancy

WASHINGTON (May 24, 2018) A coalition of national environmental groups, including American Bird Conservancy, Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation, and the Natural Resources Defense Council, today filed

litigation, *National Audubon Society v. Department of the Interior*, in the Southern District of New York challenging the current Administration's move to eliminate longstanding protections for waterfowl, raptors, and songbirds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).

Editor's Note: May 12th was Migratory Bird Day, celebrating the 100th birthday of the MBTA.



Acadian Flycatcher on nest, Reflection Riding A&NC. Photo by Gary Lanham

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
chattanoogatos@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.