



The Chattanooga Chat

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October 2018: Vol. 42, No 12

A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

October Meeting

Ascension Lutheran Church

720 S Germantown Rd

Thursday, October 11

5:30 p.m. Executive Board

7:00 p.m. Monthly Meeting

Program: For our October 11 meeting, O. J. Morgan will present a program on his birding trip last year to South Africa. O.J. is Headmaster of The Bright School. Some of you may not know O.J., but he joined our chapter of TOS about three years ago, has become an active birder, and encourages bird awareness and observing at his school.



Eastern Bluebird, yard bird
Photograph by Gary Lanham

Thanks

Thanks to David Aborn for presenting an illustrated talk on birds of Argentina and bird banding in Argentina at our September meeting.

Field Trips

Sunday, October 7th, 8:30-11:00 AM:

Honors Golf Course, birding with David Stone and Clyde Blum.

Monday, October 15th, 9:00 – noon:

Honors Golf Course, birding with David Stone and Clyde Blum.

Please contact David Stone at rockyturf@epbfi.com. You can attend the bird outings more than once, if there is space available. When you contact David, he will reply with instructions on how to enter the golf course and where to meet.

Saturday, October 13th, 8:00 – noon:

Greenway Farm, bird banding led by David Aborn.

Get a close look at some of our Fall migrants and resident birds along the North Chickamauga Creek. Meet in the parking lot near the maintenance shed.

Questions?? contact Pixie Lanham at planham@epbfi.com



Hummingbird photos by Jim Fontenot



Editors Corner

I am pleased to present another guest article.

Spark Bird by Dawn Greenway

Do you remember the bird that ignited your love of bird watching? Most birders can recall a specific “spark bird” that led them to a life that includes binoculars, field guides and bird feeders.

Unlike most kids today, I enjoyed playing outside in my childhood even though I wasn't truly aware of birds in the wild. We had parakeets as pets and I always enjoyed bird shows that we saw at family vacation destinations. My parents weren't particularly into exploring nature, but we did watch nature shows together on television.

One day, several decades later, I was entranced by a small brown bird with a very large voice that seemed mismatched to its tiny body. I was sitting on my deck when across my field of vision flew this little creature into my hanging plant! It disappeared then reappeared within seconds and flew off again, only to return with something in its beak. It was building a nest – how thrilling!

For weeks, I watched from my deck, transfixed as not one but two Carolina Wrens (as I learned they were called) built the nest and then fed the nestlings until they fledged. Inspired, I made “peanut- butter-

birdseed- pine- cone-feeders” with my daughters and they gave me my first bird house as a Mother's Day present.

Eight years later and birding is a way of life for me and my husband, Jim. I can be in mid-conversation with someone and if I hear that “tea-kettle, tea-kettle, tea-kettle” call of my Carolina Wren friend, I can't help but smile. Birds remind us that we are surrounded by beauty.

What was YOUR spark bird?



The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World

By Andrea Wulf

Reviewed by Ray Zimmerman

When Alexander von Humboldt left Cuba for his home in Prussia, after five years of travels up the Orinoco River, across the Andes, and back by way of a transect through Mexico, he took with him 40 trunks of rocks, minerals, taxidermied birds, dried mammal skins, pressed plants etc. Analysis of the plants he entrusted to his travelling companion, a Frenchman named Bonpland.

On route to Europe, he stopped in Philadelphia and sent a message to then president Thomas Jefferson, telling him that he could report valuable information on the new nation's neighbors to the south. Jefferson was as much interested in the specimens as the Political Economy of Cuba (which became the title of one of von Humboldt's books).

Though modern nature enthusiasts have traded butterfly nets and guns for cameras and binoculars, collections were important research instruments in those times. Von Humboldt spent years analyzing the collections and generously donated specimens to museums, universities and other scientists.

His drawings were important to the success of his books, particularly *Kosmos*, a massive effort to describe all human learning and achievement which incorporated writings of other scholars and stretched to five large volumes.

The author credits von Humboldt with originating the contemporary view of nature with its numerous dynamic connections and replacing an earlier static view of the world. She describes how he influenced numerous significant persons, including Henry David Thoreau, Charles Darwin, George Perkins Marsh, John Muir, and Theodore Roosevelt.

This is a well-researched and well written narrative. It explains the source of our current view of nature and the origin of a multitude of scientific and conservationist ideas afoot in our culture today.

What Have You Seen?

September 9

Charlie Muise reported banding a Clay-colored Sparrow at the Whigg Meadow Bird Banding Station (Monroe County, Tennessee) Cherokee National Forest on September 7.

David Vogt

On Monday, September 10 I saw a hooded warbler around 1:30 p.m. on the Collegedale Greenway. It was in the narrow band of brush/trees that separates the Greenway from Wolftever Creek elementary school.
Maria Derrick

September 13

I Just returned from Whigg Meadow, Cherokee National Forest. Two Saw-whet

Owls were lured into a net by an audio lure and banded the evening of September 11. A 3rd owl was netted this morning after daylight. A 4th owl was banded at this site earlier this week for a total of 4 (all hatching year birds). A hatching year Mourning Warbler was banded this morning.
Over all, capture Rates have been modest.
David Vogt

September 3

I observed both a Canada Warbler and a Black-&-White Warbler on my property in Birchwood this morning. A Prothonotary Warbler came to Blythe's Ferry in Meigs County, and a Pine Warbler to my yard at Birchwood. Several White-eyed Vireos were active on my property and in Meigs County. Their size and behavior is often warbler-like, and I have to be patient to get a good enough look at them to eliminate them as additional warbler species.

Charles Murray



Warbling Vireo by Hugh Barger

August 31

After a productive day banding on Monday (8/27), Wednesday (8/29) was slow (1 Kentucky Warbler and 3 cardinals). Today was better:

Hooded Warbler = 2

Kentucky Warbler = 1

Ovenbird = 1

Downy Woodpecker = 2

Northern Cardinal = 1

Carolina Wren = 1

David Aborn

August 30

This morning I heard a Red-breasted Nuthatch calling from the Point Park picnic area. I lost the bird along the West Brow and couldn't relocate it.

It's my earliest Fall sighting of this species for the Park. There was an earlier Fall sighting for Hamilton County on August 25, 1968.

Bruce Dralle

August 27

The first day of the 17th year of migration banding at Greenway Farm got off to a good start.

Hooded Warbler = 4 (2 HY males, 2 HY females)

Carolina Wren = 2

Canada Warbler = 1 (HY female)

Kentucky Warbler = 1 (AHY male)

VEERY = 1 (my copy of the annotated check list is still packed in a box, so I am not sure if this is an early record)

Northern Cardinal = 1

Song sparrow = 1

David Aborn

25 August 2018

Hamilton County, TN

I received a report from the Bird Banding Lab that one of the Tree Swallows I banded was found dead in Rocky Springs, AL. I banded the bird as a nestling at Chickamauga Dam in 2016, and it was recovered on July 10. The bird could have been migrating, but July 10 is a couple of weeks earlier than usual for the Chattanooga swallows, so I suspect it was breeding in the area. If so that means the bird dispersed 68 km!

David Aborn

August 23

This morning I saw a male Hooded Warbler on the property of The Honors Course in

Ooltewah. This is the first time I have ever seen one in August in living here 36 years.
David Stone

August 21

Yesterday, I noted a couple of Northern Flickers at my home in Birchwood (Hamilton County). I hadn't seen this species for several weeks before yesterday's sighting. This morning I observed a FOY Tennessee Warbler near Blythe's Ferry in Birchwood (Meigs County). It took a red berry of some sort into its beak, but then discarded it.

Charles Murray

August 2

Four Ruddy Turnstones visited the Tree Farm in Polk County. These were my first state record. 02 August 2018 at 0930.

Also, I observed my first county records for Snowy Egret and Little Blue Heron.

Rick Houlk

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