



# The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter

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## President's Note

My fellow CTOS Members,

The CTOS Board recently had a discussion regarding monthly meetings and field trips in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. We decided that for the health and well-being of our members, it is best to follow the recommendations put forth by the Centers for Disease Control and suspend gatherings for the next few weeks. Therefore, we have cancelled the March and April monthly meetings and all scheduled field trips. I know this is disappointing, as we had good programs and trips lined up. Rest assured, as soon as the COVID-19 threat subsides we will resume our activities, and hopefully the speakers will be able to present at another date.

While these are stressful times, we will get through them. We are in the beginnings of spring migration, and some birds are in the early stages of breeding (several pairs of Ospreys are back on their nests, Tree Swallows and bluebirds are checking out next boxes), so we can take comfort knowing that the rhythms of life go on. While we need to practice social distancing, being outside is not prohibited (even in cities with a “shelter in place order”, as long as you keep at least 6 feet from other people. Most of us in the group get peace and enjoyment from looking at, listening to, and being around birds, so going birding can help our mental and emotional well-being. If you want/need to stay home, watch birds at your feeders. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology posted bird-related resources on their web site to help people during this time, including links to nest cams and feeder cams, games, quizzes, and other activities (<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/how-to-make-these-next-few-weeks-a-little-easier-courtesy-of-birds/>).

Stay well, wash your hands, and we will hopefully back on schedule in May!

David Aborn, President



*Magnificent Frigatebird Panama City, Panama  
(Left) Tropical Kingbird, Gamboa, Panama  
(Below) Photographs by Hugh Barger*

## Chapter News

The Chattanooga Chapter now has a Gmail box—[chatbirders@gmail.com](mailto:chatbirders@gmail.com). Several of you will have just gotten emails from it. I'll share the password later. This email account will give members the opportunity to share information.

The chatbirders email includes a link to the new chapter google calendar. For those of you who didn't get the email, find our calendar at <https://calendar.google.com/calendar?cid=Y2hhdHRiaXJkZXJzQGdtYWlsLmNvbQ>

Please visit the calendar and cruise around to check the upcoming meetings, walks, etc. Let me know if you find problems. Jeff is seeing to the overhaul of the chapter website. I established the email box and the calendar to facilitate Jeff's work. These, in conjunction with Jeff's website, should satisfy the mandate to improve communication and the access to club information.

The Daughters of the American Revolution are scheduled to present Ken with a lifetime achievement award at a luncheon in Franklin on April 24.

Jim Greenway

### What have you seen?

March 19

The way things are going on planet Earth these day, it was very nice to hear the song of the First of the Season Black-and-white Warbler at Point Park.

With the Coronavirus here to stay for awhile, it's getting tougher to bird the Park. I am practicing the six foot social distancing.

So, if I see you in the field and walk away from you, don't take it personally.

Stay healthy birders.

Bruce Dalle

March 18

Today a female Purple Finch visited my yard. Yesterday a Pine Siskin visited. It has probably been present for the past month, but I don't see it daily. Birds are moving north quickly.

Tommie Rogers



## Nesting Falcon at Tennessee River Gorge Trust

TRGT's avian research staff came across some very exciting news on one of our properties. We are thrilled to confirm a breeding pair of Peregrine Falcons at the site!

This is very big news for our area. The Peregrine Falcon was listed as federally endangered under the Endangered Species Act in 1970, but later delisted in 1999 as population numbers improved nationwide. However, the Peregrine Falcon remains on Tennessee's State Endangered Species List and is a closely monitored species. To see them returning to our area is a testament to the collective efforts of all conservation organizations in our state. - Excerpted from a message from the TRGT mailing list.

## Editor's Corner

This is from an old Newsletter that Ken Dubke passed on to me. It was simply titled "Newsletter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society: Volume 6, Number 2, September 1984." It appears to be a predecessor of the *Tennessee Warbler*.

### Peregrines Returned to Smoky Mountains.

On July 4, 1984, 4 four-week old peregrine falcons were moved to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The hacking site is near Greenbriar Pinnacle which is isolated and at an elevation which is above that used by great horned owls. The hacking of these birds is a cumulative effort by the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, the Tennessee Ornithological Society, and Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology which supplied the nestlings. Two volunteers, Bob Shumate and Rick Knight, will remain near the falcons until the birds learn to fly. It is hoped that at maturity, the birds will return to the Smokys to nest, where there has not been a successful nest since 1942.

*Great Blue Heron, Tennessee Riverpark, Chickamauga Dam - Photograph by Maria Derrick.*

## What Have You Seen?

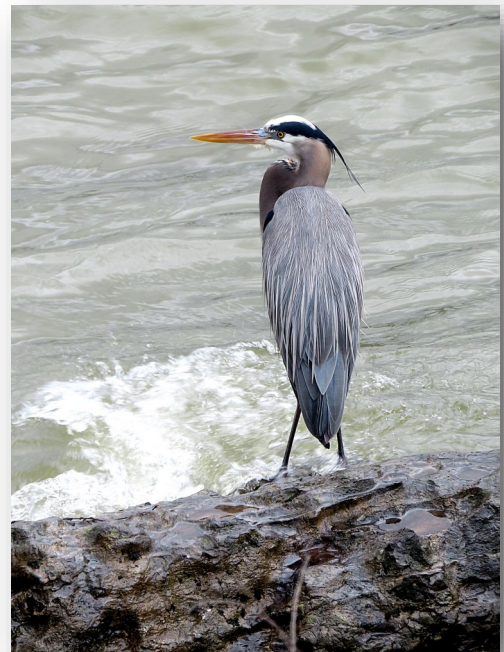
March 9

This afternoon a Greater Yellowlegs flew in from the South and dropped in at Amnicola Marsh. With the water level so low there should be more shorebirds arriving.

February 27

This afternoon there were two male Blue-winged Teal seen with the Green-winged Teal behind the school. Also, the Lesser Yellowlegs is still being seen at the Brainerd Levee.

Both sightings by Bruce Dralle



## Join Chattanooga TOS

### Membership Dues

Individual: \$28

Student \$15

Family: \$32

Sustaining: \$40

Lifetime: \$460 (Lifetime members must pay \$10 local dues each year.)

Send checks payable to "TOS" to:

Gary Lanham,

TOS Treasurer

21 Cool Springs Road

Signal Mountain, TN  
37377

chattanooga-  
tos@outlook.com

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

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

February 29

American White Pelicans were on the move North today. This morning around 1010 there were thirty-one American White Pelicans flying over Raccoon Mountain. They drifted slowly to the Northwest against a strong head wind.. At 1510 forty-eight American White Pelicans were soaring over Amnicola Marsh. They circled a few times before moving to the North.

Bruce Dralle

*Mockingbird with berries  
Tennessee RiverPark and  
Red-Tailed Hawk at Brain-  
erd Levee Photographs by  
Maria Derrick.*

The Tennessee Warbler is now available here:

[https://  
tnbirds.org/2020/03/15/the-  
tennessee-warbler-april-  
2020/](https://tnbirds.org/2020/03/15/the-tennessee-warbler-april-2020/)

The link resides on the updated statewide TOS web page.

Look for an important message from the Statewide President, our own local chapter member Danny Gaddy, about the future of bird conservation, There is also information about the statewide Spring and Fall Meetings. Watch the tn-bird mailing list for updates about the meetings.

