



# The Chattanooga Chat

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June 2020: Vol. 44, No 8

A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter  
Tennessee Ornithological Society

## The June Meeting is Cancelled

No field trips planned at this time

## The June Issue

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Sightings Reports

**Photographs** by Hugh Barger

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Chestnut-sided Warbler.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

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Bay-breasted Warbler

## Election of Officers

In the May 2020 edition of The Chat, President David Aborn urged CTOS members to step up to fill a CTOS Executive Board position.



After June, all the positions will be vacant. If the positions go unfilled, then the Chapter will remain idle until people are willing to serve. If you are interested in serving, please contact David-aborn@utc.edu . Current board members will be willing to answer questions and help ease the transition.

All officers attend the monthly board meeting, which occurs from 5:30 – 7:00 on the day of the members' meeting. During this time, the room is set up, each officer reports on their area of responsibility and new business is discussed and voted upon. At the end of the meeting, officers return the room to its original state. Communication among the officers outside of the meeting generally occurs via email.

Monthly, all officers communicate activities in their program areas to editor Ray Zimmerman for inclusion in The Chattanooga Chat.



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### **Officers: Continued**

Following is a description of five offices and the responsibilities of officers holding them.

#### **President** (currently David Aborn):

Serves as the point-of-contact for inquiries from TOS and other agencies (TWRA, for example) Leads Executive Board monthly meeting

Presides over monthly member meeting.

#### **Vice-President-Programs** (currently Dawn Greenway):

Makes arrangements for program speakers for the monthly member meeting. Some programs beyond June have already been scheduled. The incumbent will provide this information and a contact list of other possible program speakers. Responsible for club- owned data show projector (must bring and set up at meetings)

Must bring personally owned laptop to member meetings for program presentation. Sends monthly email reminders to membership regarding upcoming meetings, field trips and other club activities.

**Vice-President Field Trips** (currently Jim Greenway as back-up): Makes arrangements for field trip leaders and logistics (what/where/when etc.)

**Secretary** (currently Jim Greenway):: Prepares and submits minutes from Executive Board meetings. The minutes capture the “report outs” from the officers and any old and new business. Upon request, minutes are available for any of the members to review

The incumbent also took on the role of managing the CTOS Facebook page by creating Facebook events for member meetings and field trips.

#### **Treasurer** (currently Gary Lanham):

Responsible for overseeing the financial accounting of the club including signature authority on bank account(s)

Receives/processes membership dues, remits dues to TOS, pays club expenses (church rental, for example)

Maintains member spreadsheet with contact information and dues status

Serves as proof-reader for The Chattanooga Chat and distributes it via email monthly.

**Editors Note:** The Newsletter Editor is a volunteer position. I have served in this role for several years, but will not continue beyond the end of the current calendar year.

## Staying Connected

Check out our new web page. [Chattanooga Chapter Web Page](#) and our statewide web page [Tennessee Ornithological Society Web Site](#):

Jeff Scharschmidt has made upgrades to our [Facebook page](#).

**The Fall Meeting** is scheduled October 16—18 at the Cedars of Lebanon State Park. For full information see [The Tennessee Warbler](#), now available online.

The [Chattanooga Audubon Society](#) is offering a Photography Contest, bird photographs welcome. Submitted photographs must be created within 40 miles of Maclellan Island. <https://>

The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology offers online classes from beginning to advanced through their [Birding Academy](#). They also include [bird cams](#) as well as identification tips and life histories through their [All About Birds](#) web site. They offer a nature journaling activity with a strong emphasis in sketching and have now introduced a bird photography course.

The International Crane Foundation offers an online resource with [nine activities](#) for learning to see cranes through the eyes of an artist.

BBC Earth has posted the top five [David Attenborough](#) moments on YouTube, along with several other full videos and out takes of Attenborough's work.

The National Audubon Society has an online version of John James Audubon's [Birds of America](#) with both reproductions of the paintings and full text. This is a fabulous opportunity for those of us who don't happen to own a copy of the print edition.

For those who prefer a good book, your editor recommends *The Fiery Gizzard* by Mary Patten Priestly. This unique book blends history and natural history to tell the story of the Fiery Gizzard. Priestly also edits The Plant Press, newsletter of the Sewanee Herbarium, so the emphasis on native plants and botanical rarities is not surprising.

### **Statement from The American Birding Association**

regarding the recent incident in Central Park:

“The American Birding Association is saddened by the situation documented by Christian Cooper in the Central Park ramble on May 25, 2020. We believe that all birders should be able to participate in their hobby free of harassment and bigotry, and we acknowledge that this is frequently not the case for birders of color.

We urge all birders to learn from this – to defend fellow birders when they can and to call out bigotry when they see it. Inclusion and equity are core ABA values; fear and intimidation should never be part of birding culture. Access to outdoor spaces without fear must be a right for all who seek to enjoy and protect wild birds.

For another perspective on this same topic see J. Drew Lanham's article in [Orion Magazine](#) . Dr. Lanham spoke at UTC last year. Orion also carried his article on the [Carolina Parakeet](#).

## 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 Chat delivery and bird walk information.

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

## What Have You Seen?

May 7 While checking Tree Swallow boxes this morning, I saw a Common Loon at the Chickamauga Marina. There is also a Redhead in a pond at the intersection of Bonny oaks Dr. and Hwy 153. - David Aborn

May 5 - There was a Spotted Sandpiper along the river bank at Rivermont Park this morning. - David Aborn

May 4 - I stumbled across two different nests this week. The Wood Thrush was aroused by my presence. I wasn't sure why until I looked just above my head and saw the nest. Both species have used plastic shopping bags to weave into their nests. Also of interest, the Blue-headed Vireo sitting on the nest sings while brooding.

Something else I have noted is that a pair Louisiana Waterthrushes which were banded and studied along the creek on Raccoon Mountain have been reluctant to sing last spring and this spring. The waterthrushes have nested at that site for years. When birds are disturbed by humans, it definitely changes their behaviors. Knowing this makes me want to hide all my checklists from local banders who look at email reports to determine where certain species are likely nesting. -Tommie Rogers-

May 1—Around five o'clock this afternoon I found a Black-billed Cuckoo along Shingle Road. The bird was perching low in a small oak tree. The Cuckoo appeared to be resting and remained in place for fifteen minutes. It's a state and county bird for me. - Bruce Dralle

April 30 Yellow-breasted Chat – Two were heard in different locations at Yuchi Refuge. I heard one on the Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge in Meigs County, and one was heard on my property in Birchwood (Hamilton County). Palm Warbler – 2 were seen from the overlook at the Cherokee Removal Memorial Park in Meigs County. Solitary Sandpiper – 1 was seen at Yuchi Refuge, but a few other shorebirds flew before I could get a good look at them. All of these were in wet areas near the Tennessee River. Blue Grosbeak – One was noted at Yuchi Refuge not far from the gazebo. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks – This spectacular species was present for the 13th consecutive day on my property in Birchwood.- Charles Murray