

The Chattanooga Chat

CHATTANOOGA CHAPTER OF THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Barred Owl

Photo Credit: David Goldsmith

OCTOBER 12, 2024 PROGRAM

THURSDAY 7PM - 9PM

Ascension Lutheran Church, 720 S Germantown Rd, Chattanooga, TN 37412
Dr. David Aborn's Program: "What's In A Name? Background and Discussion on
the Proposed Changes to North American Bird Names"

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By OJ Morgan

You may remember that last year CTOS members joined members in Knoxville for a field trip at the Seven Islands State Birding Park. Now it's our turn to show them a good time.

Tim Lenz has agreed to lead this trip for members from both clubs on Saturday, October 5. If you have the BirdingApp (<https://birdingapp.com>), you can find the itinerary in this link: <https://birdingapp.com/app/event/30/>. If not, we will meet at the Blue Blazes trail parking lot on Moccasin Bend at 8 am, Saturday, October 5. We will hike the entire 1.5 loop, looking for migrant sparrows and warblers along the way, along with other common resident species.

On our Knoxville trip I enjoyed connecting with the other birders who were very helpful in guiding us through the unfamiliar territory. It certainly opened my eyes to the variety of great birding sites around the state, broadening my horizon a bit for my future birding.

If you are interested, we may possibly meet for dinner on the Friday evening before the trip on Saturday. In any case, please email or text me if you'd like to join the field trip. I'll keep everyone posted about a possible dinner together.

Have a great fall!

OJ Morgan
ojmorgan@gmail.com
423-280-7975



Downy Woodpecker Photo Credit:David Goldsmith

OCTOBER FIELD TRIPS

Bird Banding with Dr. David Aborn

When: Every Tuesday and Thursday, 8am through October

Where: Greenway Farms

UTC professor Dr. David Aborn will be banding birds during migration. Observers can learn about the uses of data collected during banding, watch the process, and get up-close looks at both resident and migrating birds. David's banding station will be by the big tan barn next to the gardens. Everyone is welcome, for any or all of the session.

Blue Blazes Trail with KTOS

When: Saturday, October 5, 8am

Where: Mocassin Bend, Blue Blazes Trailhead parking lot

This trip is led by Tim Lenz, in conjunction with the Knoxville Chapter of TOS. Join us to look for migrant warblers and sparrows. Contact OJ Morgan for more information: ojmorgan@gmail.com

Craven's House Birding

When: Sunday, October 6, 8 am

Where: Cravens Terrace, Lookout Mountain, TN 37350

Trip Leaders: Will Otis and Bryan Otis

Contact Will Otis at 423-902-8858 for more information

Honors Course

When: Monday, October 7 and 14, 4pm-5:30pm

Where: The Honors Course, 9603 Lee Hwy, Ooltewah, TN 37363

This trip is led by David Stone. Please contact David to RSVP; we will be birding the entire course in gold carts and spots are limited. rockyturf@epbfi.com



Gadwall

Photo Credit: David Goldsmith

USING PLAYBACK

When using bird playbacks, you can be an ethical birder by following these guidelines:

- Be considerate: Ask other birders if they object to playback before using it.
- Be aware of local restrictions: Don't use playback if it's prohibited in the area.
- Keep it short: Play short clips of sound (30 seconds or less) and pause to listen for a response.
- Keep it low: Keep the volume low so the bird doesn't seem aggressive.
- Be patient: Birds have excellent hearing and can hear recorded calls from a distance.
- Be aware of sensitive species: Don't use playback near threatened or endangered species, or rare vagrants.
- Be aware of the cumulative effect: Consider the impact of multiple people using playback in the same area.
- Be aware of the context: Consider the rarity and sensitivity of the species, and how many people might benefit from seeing or hearing it.
- Playback response is weakest from non-territorial birds such as migrants.
- Refrain from using playback during nesting season. There is mounting evidence that using calls of predators or a competitor is harmful. The birds may be drawn away from their nests to confront the perceived predator or competitor which distracts the birds from other important parental duties and causes them to burn vital energy reserves, and leave eggs or chicks vulnerable. A recent study found that repeated use of playback resulted in House Wren chicks weighing significantly less due to playback-induced fear.

David Allen Sibley, "The Proper Use of Playback in Birding." 2011, *Sibley Guides*
<https://www.sibleyguides.com/2011/04/the-proper-use-of-playback-in-birding/>

MCDONALD FARM FIELD TRIP REPORT SEPTEMBER 29

40 Canada Goose
6 Wood Duck
6 Blue-winged Teal
14 Rock Pigeon
30 Mourning Dove
8 Killdeer
2 Great Blue Heron
1 Cooper's Hawk
1 Bald Eagle
2 Red-bellied Woodpecker
1 Downy Woodpecker
2 Pileated Woodpecker
1 American Kestrel
! Eastern Wood-Pewee
1 Eastern Phoebe
50 American Crow
25 Fish Crow
1 Tufted Titmouse
5 Carolina Wren
34 European Starling
2 Northern Mockingbird
1 Swainson's Thrush
1 American Robin
1 House Sparrow
2 House Finch
15 Chipping Sparrow
2 Common Grackle
2 Tennessee Warbler
6 Palm Warbler
1 Northern Cardinal
3 Rose-breasted Grosbeak



Swainson's Thrush Photo credit: Shutterstock



Pileated Woodpecker

Photo Credit: David Goldsmith