



The Chattanooga Chat

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A Newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter
Tennessee Ornithological Society

Monthly Meetings are on hiatus for the immediate future. We expect to resume field trips in February.

Our chapter conducted three **Christmas Bird Counts** again this year. Results will be forthcoming in the February issue.

Your board of directors is discussing projects to improve and protect bird habitats at selected locations in our area. Watch for further developments and opportunities for your input in future issues.

Dues are now due

Our membership dues are now due. The statewide organization will not allow us to keep members on the role without sending their portion of the dues.

Individual: dues are \$28 and student dues are Student \$15. A family can join for \$32. All dues, donations, gifts, and bequests are tax deductible under Sec. 501 (c)(3), the Internal Revenue Code. To **Join or renew your membership online, please visit:**

ChattanoogaTOS.org and select membership level. Click “Add to Cart,” and you will be taken to the **Secure PayPal site where you can pay**

by credit card or PayPal account

If you must pay by check, make your check out to “TOS”, and send to Fran Hiestand, CTOS Treasurer, 8935 N. Hickory Valley Rd Chattanooga, TN 37416. If you are a new member, please include your address, phone number, and an email address.

Editor’s Notes

The 2021 Sandhill Crane Festival at Birchwood is Cancelled. There is no word as to whether the viewing platform at Hiwassee Refuge will be open. Your editor will certainly miss his annual pilgrimage to Birchwood.

The Soddy Mountain Hawk Count had a busy year. I recently spoke to Bill Haley, former editor of the *Chattanooga Chat* about his twenty-seven years (so far) of counting the hawks from Soddy Mountain. He and his volunteers are careful to count only migrating hawks and leave resident birds off the count. This year, he was present for at least part of each of the 66 days (341.5 hours) counting hawks, including 14 species in 2021.

Volunteer Cynthia Wilkerson records the daily and end of season totals for the Soddy Mountain Hawk Watch Blog

<https://soddymountainhawkwatch.blogspot.com/> through each fall and spring. Jimmy Wilkerson records the numbers in the Hawk Migration Association's data base. <https://www.hawkcount.org/>. You can find results from any of the many participating hawk watches in that data base.

2021 Bird Totals for the Soddy Mountain Hawk Watch

Black Vulture 29
Turkey Vulture 1102
Bald Eagle 63
Golden Eagle 1
Osprey 8
Northern Harrier 35
Sharp-shinned Hawk 289
Coopers Hawk 47
Broad Winged Hawk 4467
Red-shouldered Hawk 12
Red-tiled Hawk 266
American Kestrel 11
Merlin 13
Peregrine Falcon 8

Bill says that he can use more volunteers next fall.

Barry Lopez, author of the National Book award winning *Arctic Dreams* died on Christmas day, 2020. Lopez was 75 years old and had spent large portions of his life traveling the seven continents in the company of researchers and indigenous persons. In addition to the National Book award, he had won a Guggenheim Fellowship and the John Burroughs Medal for nature writing from the John Burroughs Natural History Society. He spent 30 years on his final book, *Horizon*, in which he documented his travels. He published

several other books while working on *Horizon*.

Here is a quotation from his essay "Landscape and narrative:" Published in *Crossing Open Ground*, a collection of essays.

The power of narrative to nurture and heal, to repair a spirit in disarray, rests on two things: the skillful innovation of unimpeachable sources and a listener's knowledge that no hypocrisy or subterfuge is involved. This last simple fact is to me one of the most imposing aspects of the Holocene history of man.

Most of his books address nature, and each of them is a great read.
Ray Zimmerman, Editor

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