

# The Chattanooga Chat

The newsletter of the Chattanooga Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society





The Chattanooga Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

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THE CHATTANOOGA CHAT

The Chattanooga Chat is published monthly by the Chattanooga Chapter for the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

Field Trip Report - Battlefield Birding

Five birders attended the Battlefield Birding field trip, on April 12th, led by Danny Gaddy.

After meeting at the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center, the group headed out to their first location where they observed 12 species of bird as the light started to fade.

As the light was fading the group moved to another location where they were able to hear the target birds. Specifically, the group was able to hear an Eastern Whip-poor-will and three Chuck-will's-widows calling.

The eBird checks lists



Participants from R to L: Jeffrey Schaarschmidt, Sharon Klein, Gary Brunvoll, Anita Gaddy, and field trip leader Danny Gaddy.

can be found here:

First location - <https://ebird.org/checklist/S106904470>

Second location - <https://ebird.org/checklist/S106908319>

Thanks to Danny Gaddy for leading this fieldtrip.

Chapter Program

We will be hosting a program on Bluebirds on May 12, at 6:30 p.m. The program will be held following the chapter meeting at Audubon Acres' Walker Hall.

The presentation will be made by Lisa Lemza who is the co-president of the Tri-State Bluebird Society.

Topics will include nesting habitats for Bluebirds and eight other cavity nesting birds with similar requirements.

Discussions will also include loss of habitat and forage sources, and how they can be addressed.

The Tri-State Bluebird Society was founded a year ago and is a chapter of the non-profit Tennessee Bluebird Society.

Field Trip Report - Reflection Riding Birding



Chattanooga Nature Center and Reflection Riding fieldtrip participants.

A small group of birders braved the cold to attend the Chattanooga Nature Center and Reflection Riding field trip lead by Jeffrey Schaarschmidt.

In total 41 species were observed, including

and early Black-throated Green.

The full eBird checklist can be found here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S106080812>

Thanks to Jeffrey Schaarschmidt for leading this fieldtrip.

ON THE COVER: American Woodcock, photographed by and used with permission of Jeffrey Schaarschmidt.

## Field Trip Report - Tennessee River Gardens

Several birders attended the Tennessee River Gardens field trip held on April 23, 2022, led by Clyde Blum.

In total 65 species of bird were seen by the group, which included 11 warbler species. The best birds of the fieldtrip were a Blackpoll Warbler and a Sedge Wren.

The full eBird checklist can be found here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S107791526>

Thanks to Clyde Blum for leading this fieldtrip.



*Photo: Cathy Lockowitz checks an Osprey nest for eggs, during the Tennessee River Gardens fieldtrip.*

### TNRare Bird Reports

Seven **Glossy Ibis** were reported at the Sod Farm in **Coffee County** on April 26.

A **Lark Sparrow** was reported in pond 5 at Cross Creek NWA in **Steward County**, on April 25.

A **Bronzed Cowbird** was reported in **Shelby County** on April 22.

A **Glossy Ibis** was photographed in a small pond in **Coffee County**, on April 22.

A **Marbled Godwit** was located in Pool 5 at Duck River Unit in **Humphreys County**, April 16. The observer also had a flyover **Neotropic Cormorant** at the same location.

An **Anhinga** was observed, flying over Fuller Road, in **Gibson County** on April 12.

A **Black-Headed Grosbeak** was observed and photographed in Red Bank, in **Hamilton County**, on April 10.

An **Cinnamon Teal** was observed at Duck River Unit, in **Humphrey's County**, on April 8.

An **Upland Sandpiper** was observed in **Hamilton County**, on April 5.

A **White-winged Scoter** was observed in **Hamilton County**, on April 5.

An **Swainson's Hawk** was observed at Duck River Unit, in **Humphrey's County**, on April 2.

## Bird Flu Infections On Rise: 8 Cases Reported In TN

Bird flu infections have expanded to three additional states since we published our last newsletter. There are currently 30 states that have confirmed cases of bird flu, including 8 cases in Tennessee.

Songbirds are not generally affected by the bird flu, according to the USDA. Most of the outbreaks nationwide are in farm raised populations of chickens and turkeys, but there has been increasing in the number of waterfowl and bald eagles.

Bird flu has been blamed for the deaths of Bald Eagles in 14 states.

Experts have suggested that people remove their bird feeders in areas where bird flu has been detected. Many infected birds shed the flu through feces and respiratory secretions, and it usually survives in cool, damp environments.

## Birding and Beers

Birding is fun. So is socializing over a few beers. Throw in a couple thousand Chimney Swifts flying in to a chimney to roost for the night, and you have a near perfect event. To this end the club is hosting two Chimney Swift Roost Watch Parties that will combine both events.

Participants will meet at a local establishment to socialize over a few beers, and then proceed to a local Chimney Swift roosting site to watch the Chimney Swifts. See below for details.

### Urban Stack - Chimney Swift Roost Watch Party

Wednesday, May 11, 7:00-9:00 PM

Urban Stack, 12 W 13th St, Chattanooga 37402

Join us to watch the amazing phenomenon of migrating swifts gathering at dusk to funnel into a tall chimney downtown for their nightly communal roost.

Meet at **Urban Stack's** outdoor patio to have a bite, a drink, and a chat about Chimney Swifts' unique habits and urban habitat, and CTOS's effort to help them. At 8:15 we'll walk around the corner to watch the birds gather and go to roost. **Canceled** in the event of rain.

**Please note that we will be standing on a sidewalk for up to 35 minutes.** Bring binoculars if you have them; a limited number of loaner binoculars will be available.

**Limit 25 participants. Sign up by May 9** so that we can give a count to Urban Stack. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4eabad2ba7fe3-birds> Or email Barbara at [chimneyswifts423@gmail.com](mailto:chimneyswifts423@gmail.com)

You have the option to meet us at 8:20 at the chimney site, 1433 Williams Street (no RSVP required).



### Universal Joint - Chimney Swift Roost Watch Party

Thursday, May 19, 7:00-9:00 PM

Universal Joint, 532 Lookout Street Chattanooga, 37403

Join us to watch the amazing phenomenon of migrating swifts gathering at dusk to funnel into a tall chimney downtown for their nightly communal roost.

Meet at **Universal Joint** to have a bite, a drink, and a chat about Chimney Swifts' unique habits and urban habitat, and CTOS's effort to help them. At 8:20 we'll walk two minutes to Phillips Park to watch the birds gather and go to roost in the Soldiers and Sailors Auditorium chimney. **Canceled** in the event of rain.

**Bring a blanket or chair if you like: we'll be watching up to 35 minutes.** Bring binoculars if you have them; a limited number of loaner binoculars will be available.

**Limit 25 participants. Sign up by May 12** so that we can give a count to Universal Joint.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4EABAD2BA7FE3-birds1>

Or email Barbara at [chimneyswifts423@gmail.com](mailto:chimneyswifts423@gmail.com)

You have the option to meet us at 8:25 at Phillips Park, 700 Georgia Ave (no RSVP required).

## Do you want to lead a fieldtrip?

The Club is looking for members to lead field trips. If you would like to lead a field trip in the upcoming months, please contact our VP of Field Trips, Gary Brumvoll, at [gbrunvoll@epbf.com](mailto:gbrunvoll@epbf.com). Gary will make sure your event is added to our online calendar and is promoted in the newsletter.

# April Events

Our full events calendar can be found on our website:

[www.ChattanoogaTOS.org](http://www.ChattanoogaTOS.org)

**May 1: Birding at the Cravens House - 8:00-11:00 a.m.**

Meet fieldtrip host Kelvin Calhoun at the Cravens House, Cravens Terrace, Chattanooga, TN 37409. We will be looking for migrating warblers and other birds.

**May 11: Birding & Beer - Urban Stack - Chimney Swift Roost Watch Party, 7:00-9:00 p.m.** See page 4 for details.

**May 12: Chapter Meeting and Program, 6:15 p.m.**

The meeting will be held in the events building at Audubon Acres, located at Audubon Acres, 900 N Sanctuary Rd, Chattanooga, TN 37421. The presentation will be made by Lisa Lemza who is the co-president of the Tri-State Bluebird Society. For additional program details, please see Page 2, *Chapter Program*.

**May 14: Crabtree Farms Spring Bird-watching Walk, 8:30-10:30 am**

1000 E 30th St, Chattanooga, TN 37407 CTOS members will help you find and identify resident and migrating birds on a walk around the farm. Beginners and all ages are welcome! Sturdy shoes, long pants and bug spray are recommended. Bring binoculars if you have them; a limited number of loaner binoculars will be available. Call Barbara Johnson with questions: 410-703-4664

**May 19: Birding & Beer - Universal Joint - Chimney Swift Roost Watch Party, 7:00-9:00 p.m.** See page 4 for details.

# Chattanooga Chapter of Tennessee Ornithological Society

## Membership Form

You can also join online on our website: <http://chattanoogatos.org/joining-or-renewing-as-a-member/>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please ensure letters and numbers are unambiguous; use upper case letters if necessary)

Mobile phone number: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

### Annual Dues:

Individual Membership: \$28.00

Family Membership: \$32.00

Student Membership: \$15.00

State Sustaining Membership: \$40.00

State Life Membership: \$460.00 (local dues of \$10.00 still payable each year)

**FYI:** \$10.00 of your dues is retained at the local chapter, and the rest goes to the state organization. The extra contribution in the State Sustaining Membership goes to the state, but you may also designate an additional contribution for either the local chapter or the state organization. All dues, donations, gifts, and bequests are tax deductible under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

You can send a check for dues at the address below. *Make checks payable to "TOS".*

Fran Hiestand, CTOS Treasurer  
8935 N. Hickory Valley Road  
Chattanooga, TN 37416