



The Chattanooga Chat

February 2023

The Chattanooga Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

Ray Zimmerman, Editor

(423) 718-9393 chatbirders@gmail.com

2023 Programs

Some topics are still tentative, but here is a list of the scheduled speakers for the first half of 2023.

Meetings are at 7:00 PM
Ascension Lutheran Church
729 S. Germantown Road,
East Ridge, Tennessee 37412

February 9 - Dr. David DesRochers, Biology Professor at Dalton State College, will focus his talk on the current state of birds of Hawaii, with a little historical perspective, and provide equal coverage across different bird groups in Hawaii.

March 9 - Mel Vandergriff
Birding McGee Marsh & Surrounding Area

April 13- Luke Thompson
Birding at Baylor School or Shorebirds at Baylor

May 11 - Andrew Meador
Birding & Biomimicry

June 8 - Eliot Berz
TBA Possibly Kingfishers



A Great Blue Heron at Coolidge Park
Photo by Ray Zimmerman

Field Trips

Barbara Johnson will lead a bird walk at Coolidge Park on Saturday, March 11, at 8:30 AM. Look for details in the March edition of the Chattanooga, Chat.

Danny Gaddy will offer his “Birds and Battles” walks at Chickamauga Battlefield beginning in March.

He will also offer an evening program on Chuck-will’s-widow and other nightjars.

Barbara Johnson announced that the field trip at Crabtree Farms will return in April.

The evening Chimney Swift Watch will return as well.

Members volunteer with young Birders.

Clyde Blum and David Stone lead a group of McCallie students and teachers, including CTOS member Dave Porfiri and Stevie Ray Dallimore, on Friday afternoon, Jan. 6, birding The Honors Course.



Green Heron at the Marsh at Curtain Pole Road.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Whether you are a CTOS member (past or current) or have not yet joined the club, please know that we need you to build our chapter back to our pre-pandemic activity level. We sorely need volunteers to fill some crucial roles vacated during the club's hiatus!

So, you're new to the club, or not especially active? We need you anyway! You won't be flying blind. For the open positions listed, members who have served in those roles will mentor and support you as you learn the ropes. None of these positions is hugely time-consuming, but all are important and rewarding. Serving the CTOS Board is a great way to get to know and work with outgoing people who share your interests in birds, conservation, and community service.

Board meetings occur monthly, one hour before the general meetings (second Thursdays), Sept- June. The Board votes on and conducts the club's business. Please be able to commit to at least one full year of service.

PRESIDENT

Presides over CTOS Board meetings and over monthly meetings open to the public. Coordinates and communicates with the Board and membership regarding club business, meetings, initiatives, outreach, and other functions. Promotes the chapter and fields questions from those within and outside the membership.

VICE-PRESIDENT FOR PROGRAMS

Schedules and arranges monthly meeting programs; coordinates with presenters, fields suggestions for topics, and endeavors to create an entertaining and varied slate of programs. Ensures that AV equipment is available and set up. Note that CTOS has monthly programs in place through June 2023. Volunteer soon, and take advantage of a generous training period!

TREASURER/MEMBERSHIP

Our treasurer has given her retirement notice and will guide you to fill her role. The Treasurer balances the chapter's account, makes payments as needed, processes membership dues, keeps the membership list current, sends out dues notices, and makes a monthly report to the Board.

SECRETARY

Keeps notes of the board and monthly meetings and activities and makes these available to the chapter.

STATE DIRECTORS

The directors attend a spring (annual business) and a fall meeting (both meetings frequently have excellent speakers relevant

to birds and birding) to conduct TOS business at the state level as voting members on the TOS board. Each chapter has a number of directors based on membership. Danny & Anita have served for many years. Feel free to contact us for specific information. This position also provides a chance to provide input on important TOS issues and to have a vote regarding money spent at the state level as well as the selection of officers at the state level. Finally, it provides an excellent opportunity for directors to join others from across to state to bird key birding locations with knowledgeable local birders.

NON-BOARD VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TOO!

Field trip leaders: Do you have a favorite birding spot you'd like to share? All are welcome to propose and lead bird walks. You don't need to be an expert-- other birders will be along to help! Just be willing to schedule a trip and coordinate with the Vice-president for Field Trips.

Refreshment providers for monthly meetings: Whether you'd like to supply snacks and drinks yourself or coordinate with a few others, we'd love your help in making our meetings even more enjoyable! Please let the President know if you plan to bring refreshments.

Monthly meeting door greeters: Welcome meeting attendees as they arrive, offer name tags and mailing list sign-up sheet,

Monthly meeting room setup and cleanup: Help place chairs and tables and /or put the room back into shape at closing.

From the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
Responding to the Alarm Calls of Nature:
2022 Annual Report

The decline of bird populations is like a hospital alarm blaring, urging us to tend to the declining health of our natural world. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is answering the call. From developing technology, to expanding capacity for on-the-ground conservation work, to making the joy of birds and the natural world accessible to anyone, we're working tirelessly to bring birds back. Check out the [highlights](#) from our work in 2022 or read the [full report](#).



Sandhill Cranes at Hiwassee Refuge

You can read Ray Zimmerman's article on the Sandhill Crane Migration in the Hellbender Press of Knoxville. <https://hellbenderpress.org/news/sandhills-fly-in>

Dues are due.

You can now renew your membership online.

<https://chattanooga.org/joining-or-renewing-as-a-member/>

You can also send a check to
Fran Hiestand CTOS Treasurer 8935 N.
Hickory Valley Road Chattanooga, TN
37416

Individual memberships are \$28.

Family memberships are \$32.

Student memberships are \$15.