

The Chattanooga Chat

CHATTANOOGA CHAPTER OF THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Southern Lapwing (in Panama)

photo credit: OJ Morgan

NO JULY PROGRAM
Please join us July 7 at 4pm, for a
POTLUCK PICNIC AT GREENWAY FARMS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By OJ Morgan

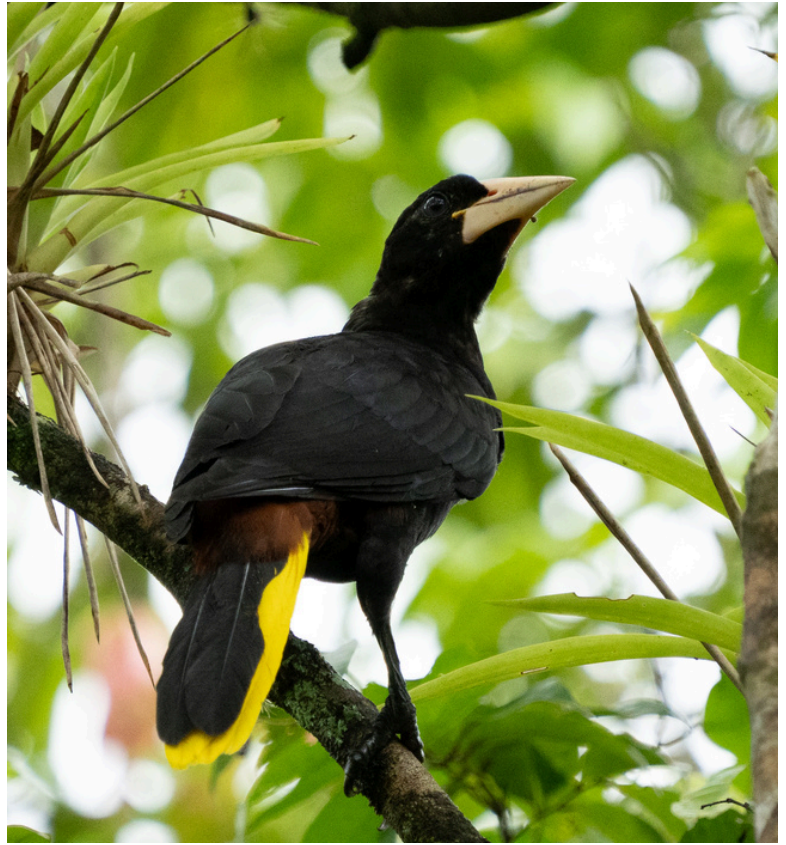
As you know, I have spoken in the past about the importance of CTOS encouraging young people to get involved in the birding world. I see this as not only part of our mission as a club devoted to educating others but also as a way to sustain the club's viability in the future. It's vital that we continue to support young birders every chance we get.

We are already achieving this goal in a variety of ways. As you may remember, a group of us visited East Ridge Elementary School early this year to share our knowledge and passion about birding as well as help them set up some feeders. Also, as a member of TOS, our parent organization, our dues help to fund young researchers in colleges around the state.

Just recently, Susan Schott and I traveled to Panama to join fellow CTOS member Luke Thompson, who guided us through the absolutely beautiful Sante Fe National Park and surrounding areas. Many of you know Luke. He graduated from Baylor School in May and has led many field trips on Baylor's campus, generously sharing with us his vast knowledge and passion for the avian world. He demonstrated that same extensive knowledge and enthusiasm with Susan and me as we traipsed through the countryside, descended steep paths to gorgeous waterfalls, and identified some wonderful birds (60 lifers for me!). But one of the main reasons Susan and I made the trip was to support Luke. He has a brilliant future ahead of him and will make a huge impact on the birding world as he continues to pursue his life's dream. As CTOS members, we can all make a difference in young people's lives through our support, appreciation, and encouragement.

Finally, please join us on July 7th for our potluck picnic at the Greenway Farms Conference Center. We have no big agenda planned other than having a good meal, getting to know one another better, and perhaps taking a walk if the weather allows. Speaking of weather, you'll be glad to know that the Conference Center is air-conditioned! I look forward to seeing all of you on the 7th.

Photos from Panama,
courtesy of OJ Morgan



Above: Crested Orapendula;
Left: Keel-billed Toucan;
Below: Tawny-capped Euphonia

Photo credit: OJ Morgan



JULY FIELD TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES

Potluck Picnic

When: Sunday, July 7, 4pm - 7pm

Where: Greenway Farms, 4960 Gann Store Rd, Hixson, TN 37343

Let's come together in the cool comfort of the conference center, where there are convenient bathrooms nearby. We'll have a wonderful time catching up and enjoying each other's company.

If you'd like to sign up to bring a dish, please visit

<https://www.perfectpotluck.com/meals.php?t=RJTC6389> or get in touch with Ann at annglass5@pm.me. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Standifer Marsh Bird Walk

When: July 28th, 8:00am-11:00am

Leader: Will Otis

of Participants: Unlimited - RSVP to wotis1114@gmail.com

Description: Come bird the biodiverse and protected area at Standifer Marsh. Targets will include Least Bittern, Willow Flycatcher, and Swallows, among many other species.

Black Belt Birding Festival in Alabama

Date: August 2-4

Time: 6:00am on 8/2 to 9:00am 8/4

Leader: David Stone / Alabama Audubon

Description: The fourth annual BLACK BELT BIRDING FESTIVAL in Greensboro, Alabama will take place on August 2-4, 2024. Highlighting the birds, history, and heritage of Alabama's Black Belt region, the festival offers rare opportunity to catch a glimpse of many species of birds in a natural environment. Visit the following website to fill out a waiver and sign up for the trip

<https://alaudubon.org/event/blackbeltfestival2024>

Brainerd Levee Bird Walk

Date: August 11th

Time: 8:00am - 11:00

Leader: Will Otis

of Participants : Unlimited - RSVP to wotis1114@gmail.com

Description: Come prepared with a spotting scope (if you have one) and good walking shoes to find sandpipers and other waterfowl. Organizer will have a spare scope you can use to spot birds in the marsh area. Song birds and other species will be great to view along the trail as well. Meet at the parking lot off Shallowford road near the Circle K gas station. Text or call Will at 423-902-8858 if you need assistance.

HAMILTON COUNTY MIGRATION COUNT BY KEVIN CALHOON

Eighteen participants found 134 species on the Hamilton County Migration Count held on Saturday May 4, 2024. This is a little below the average of 140 species.

Some of the highlights included:

- 1 Least Bittern (Standifer Gap Marsh)
- 1 American bittern (Standifer Gap Marsh)
- 1 American White Pelican
- 1 American Wigeon
- 2 Sora (Standifer Gap Marsh)
- 1 Forster's/Common Tern
- 1 Black-throated Blue warbler
- 30 species of warblers
- 38 Bobolinks

I want to thank everyone who helped with this count!



Blue Grosbeak photo credit: Diane Proffitt

Pictures from a recent trip to the Honors Course
Photo credit: Diane Proffitt



Immature Bluebird



White-breasted Nuthatch

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<https://chattanoogatos.org/joining-or-renewing-as-a-member/>
Individual memberships \$30; Family memberships \$35; Student memberships \$15