



The Chattanooga Chat

CHATTANOOGA CHAPTER OF THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Lapland Longspur

Photo from Shutterstock

FEBRUARY MEETING

February 13, 2025 at 7pm
Ascension Lutheran Church
720 S. Germantown Road

“GOING TO A BIRD PARTY”

Photographer Donna Borden will be presenting images of birds from five continents. Some will be common and others will be rarities including a single Mosley’s penguin who found his way to the Falkland Islands and the critically endangered red-crowned cranes of Asia.

Donna will also share tips for bird photography including how to improve your bird portraits, your birds in flight and how to use lighting to increase the dramatic effect.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this message, the winter doldrums have set in with rainy, gray days. Of course, they only make those days of sunshine even more welcome, and I'm not just speaking for us humans. I'm sure many of our birds would welcome a sunny spot at the top of a tree or out on a limb. Spring can't come soon enough!

I want to remind everyone that now is the time to renew your yearly memberships. Much of our work throughout the year depends directly on your dues, for which the club is extremely grateful. Because of your financial commitment to CTOS, we'll be able to continue our outreach to schools and our service to the community. We'll soon be installing an informational sign on the Brainerd Levee, informing passersby of the birds and plants they might see as well as linking them to our organization. Also, this year, we'll be hosting the TOS spring meeting in early May, giving members from around Tennessee the chance to experience the many birding opportunities Chattanooga has to offer. We'll also be considering various grants from students and local organizations regarding conservation and research. And, of course, your generous support will help us engage with other organizations whose work helps to maintain bird habitats and access to interested citizens.

And one last thing, we need new members! Please encourage others you know or meet who express an interest in birds to attend our monthly meetings or join a field trip. We are a wonderful resource for those just getting started in the birding world. The more we can engage folks to join our ranks, the more we can fulfill our mission of educating the public about birds and finding ways to preserve the avian world we love so much.

OJ Morgan

*****UPCOMING FIELD TRIP*****

When: Sunday, February 9 at 8am

Where: McDonald's Farm

This trip is led by Kevin Calhoon. Please join us!

CHATTANOOGA CHRISTMAS COUNT

Twenty-two participants found 101 (nice number, a little above average) species on the Chattanooga Christmas Count on Saturday December 14.

Highlights included:

3 Ross's Geese

Great Egret

Pacific Loon

2 Merlin

Peregrine Falcon

Gray Catbird

Orange-crowned Warbler

Common Yellowthroat

- No Wild Turkeys were reported on count for first time in many years!

Thanks again to everyone who helped with this count!

Kevin Calhoon

Count Compiler

IT'S JANUARY- TIME TO PAY OUR ANNUAL DUES!

Every January we renew our dues to CTOS.

Please go to <https://chattanoogatos.org/> to pay online with PayPal,

or send a check payable to CTOS to

David Stone, PO Box 330, Ooltewah, TN 37363

Thank you!



Hooded Merganser with fish Photo by David Goldsmith

HIWASSEE BIRD COUNTS

Nineteen participants found 96 (about average) species on the Hiwassee CBC held on Wednesday January 1. Highlights included:

- 1 Common Loon – uncommon on this count
- 59 American White Pelican – number lower than last few counts
- 1 Osprey – only fourth time ever on this count
- 50 Bald Eagle – highest number since I have been compiling count (1992)
- 13933 Sandhill Crane – about average
- 2 Whooping Crane – only 6th time on this count
- 52 Least Sandpiper
- 1 Herring Gull – rare in this count
- 1 Merlin
- 1 Orange-crowned Warbler
- 14 Purple Finch

Lowlights:

- No American Woodcock – used to be annual on this count
- No White-crowned Sparrow - used be annual on this count also
- No Pine Warbler – weird
- No Common Grackle – weird

I want to thank everyone who helped with this count!!

Kevin Calhoon
Count Compiler



Mute Swan Photo by David Goldsmith

Black-bellied Whistling Duck
Snow Goose
Ross's Goose
Greater White-fronted Goose
Cackling Goose
Canada Goose
Mute Swan
Trumpeter Swan
Tundra Swan
Wood Duck
Blue-winged Teal
Northern Shoveler
Gadwall
American Wigeon
Mallard
American Black Duck
Northern Pintail
Green-winged Teal
Canvasback
Redhead
Ring-necked Duck
Greater Scaup
Lesser Scaup
Surf Scoter
White-winged Scoter
Black Scoter
Long-tailed Duck
Bufflehead
Common Goldeneye
Hooded Merganser
Red-breasted Merganser
Ruddy Duck
Northern Bobwhite
Ruffed Grouse
Wild Turkey
Pied-billed Grebe
Horned Grebe
Red-necked Grebe
Eared Grebe
Rock Pigeon
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Mourning Dove

Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Black-billed Cuckoo
Common Nighthawk
Chuck-will's-widow
Eastern Whip-poor-will
Chimney Swift
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
King Rail
Virginia Rail
Sora
common Gallinule
American Coot
Sandhill Crane
Whooping Crane
Black-necked Stilt
American Avocet
Black-bellied Plover
American Golden-Plover
Killdeer
Semipalmated Plover
Piping Plover
Upland Sandpiper
Ruddy Turnstone
Stilt Sandpiper
Sanderling
Dunlin
Baird's Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
White-rumped Sandpiper
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Western Sandpiper
Short-billed Dowitcher
Long-billed Dowitcher
American Woodcock
Wilson't Snipe
Spotted Sandpiper
Solitary Sandpiper
Lesser Yellowlegs
Willet
Greater Yellowlegs
Wilson's Phalarope

Bonaparte's Gull
Laughing Gull
Franklin's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Least Tern
Caspian Tern
Black Tern
Common Tern
Forster's Tern
Red-throated Loon
Pacific Loon
Common Loon
Wood Stork
Double-crested Cormorant
Anhinga
American White Pelican
American Bittern
Least Bittern
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Snowy Egret
Little Blue Heron
Tricolored Heron
Cattle Egret
Green Heron
Black-crowned Night-Heron
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
White Ibis
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Osprey
Swallow-tailed Kite
Golden Eagle
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Bald Eagle
Red-shouldered Hawk
Broad-winged Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Rough-legged Hawk
Barn Owl
Eastern Screech Owl
Barred Owl
Short-eared Owl
Northern Saw-whet Owl

Belted Kingfisher
Red-headed Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
American Kestrel
Merlin
Peregrine Falcom
Great Crested Flycatcher
Western Kingbird
Eastern Kingbird
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Acadian Flycatcher
Alder Flycatcher
Willow Flycatcher
Least Flycatcher
Eastern Phoebe
Loggerhead Shrike
White-eyed Vireo
Bell's Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo
Philadelphia Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Fish Crow
Horned Lark
Bank Swallow
Tree Swallow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Purple Martin
Barn Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
House Wren
Winter Wren
Sedge Wren
Marsh Wren
Carolina Wren

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Eastern Bluebird
Veery
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Swainson's Thrush
Hermit Thrush
Wood Thrush
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Brown Thrasher
Northern Mockingbird
European Starling
Cedar Waxwing
House Sparrow
American Pipit
Evening Grosbeak
House Finch
Purple Finch
Red Crossbill
Pine Siskin
American Goldfinch
Lapland Longspur
Grasshopper Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
American Tree Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
White-crested Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow
Eastern Towhee
Yellow-breasted Chat
Eastern Meadowlark
Orchard Oriole
Baltimore Oriole
Red-winged Blackbird
Brown-headed Cowbird
Common Grackle
Ovenbird
Louisiana Waterthrush
Northern Waterthrush
Black-and-White Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler

Common Yellowthroat
Hooded Warbler
American Redstart
Cape May Warbler
Cerulean Warbler
Northern Parula
Magnolia Warbler
Bay-breasted Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Palm Warbler
Pine Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler
Prairie Warbler
Black-throated Green Warbler
Summer Tanager
Scarlet Tanager
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Blue Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Painted Bunting
Dickcissel