



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

The Chattanooga Greenway Saga

How did Chattanooga determine that a greenway would be a good idea? Who was involved in creating the first local greenway? Who were the players in continuing the forward movement for a greenway system? Sandy Kurtz was there! She will share the inside story and bring you up to speed on what's happening now.

Sandy has long been active in the environmental education field while dealing with environmental issues at local, state, and Federal levels. She was one of the founders of the Tennessee Environmental Education Association in 1974 and went on to establish the first educational programs at the Chattanooga Nature Center and at the TVA Energy Center Museum. She has trained countless volunteers and teachers, written environmental education curriculum for schools, and planned and facilitated numerous environmental conferences and meetings.

Currently she works on sustainability and climate change issues through Urban Century Institute, South Chickamauga Creek Greenway Alliance, TN Interfaith Power & Light, Sierra Club, and Chattanooga's Citizen Action Plan Committee.

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