



# *The Chattanooga Chat*

CHATTANOOGA CHAPTER OF THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Photographer Donna Bourdon Photo from Instagram

## **MARCH MEETING**

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

### **“Going To A Bird Party”**

Photographer Donna Bourdon 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**

I know nature has a way of teasing us into thinking spring is close at hand with trees beginning to bud and daffodils sprouting up in hopefulness. That still shouldn't slow us down in getting outside to make the most of the glorious sunshine we've had the last few days. I hope everyone has been enjoying this as much as I.

Just this morning I was at Chester Frost Park, enjoying the many red-headed woodpeckers preparing for spring as well. I couldn't help but think how fortunate we are to have so many wonderful places in the Chattanooga area to pursue our birding interests. Rivers, streams, marshlands, forests, fields, parks (both urban and rural), mountains, and wildlife management areas all provide an amazing palette of accessible opportunities for birding as well as places in which birds can thrive. Not only can we enjoy these places, but we need to protect them as well. That's what our club is all about.

During the first weekend of May, we will have the chance to share these treasures with other birders when we host the spring meeting of the Tennessee Ornithological Society. Registration for the event will open in a couple of weeks, and I want to encourage everyone to sign up. On the evening of May 3, we'll hold our annual TOS dinner at Puckett's, downtown next to the Medal of Honor Museum. Dr. David Aborn will serve as our keynote speaker. The host hotel will be the downtown Courtyard by Marriott. Additionally, of course, the weekend will offer many field trips led by our own favorite birding experts.

Again, I want to encourage everyone to take part in sharing all that Chattanooga has to offer our fellow birders from around the state.

OJ Morgan

## **NICKAJACK CHRISTMAS COUNT**

This year the Nickajack Lake CBC was held on Saturday December 21, 2024. The total count species number was 80.

The highlights were a Red-throated Loon and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The Red-throated Loon was a first count record, and the Rose-breasted Grosbeak was a second count record.

Bruce Dralle  
Count Compiler

## FEBRUARY'S MEETING

Sandra Kurtz gave our February program, "The Chattanooga Greenway Saga". Sandy works on sustainability and climate change issues through Urban Century Institute, South Chickamauga Creek Greenway Alliance (SCCGA), and has been a lifelong area environmental educator and environmental advocate. Sandy discussed the development of our greenways, especially the SCCGA, which many of us enjoy for birding.

Sandy brought us up to date on the Urban Century Institute's plans to improve habitat at the Old Bird's Mill Sanctuary, an 8-acre woods and wetland property along South Chickamauga Creek near the Brainerd Road Walmart. CTOS made a donation to the project, which will include restoring native grassland species to the sanctuary's open areas. We encourage you to watch this video about the Sanctuary, and consider making your own contribution to funding this valuable effort.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9MDSbYcAjmM&t=39s>



CTOS president OJ Morgan and February speaker Sandy Kurtz

**\*\*\*\*\*UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS\*\*\*\*\***

**When:** March 8 at 9:00am and March 9 at 3pm

**Where:** Honors Course, RSVP to David

David Stone and Clyde Blum will be leading two birding field trips to The Honors Course in Ooltewah in March. One will be Saturday, March 8 from 9:00 AM - Noon. The other will be Sunday, March 9 from 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM. March weather is highly unpredictable. In case of cold temperatures, rain or storms, Saturday, March 15 and/or Sunday, March 16 will be used as alternate dates if one of both the first dates look like they will be bad. Of course that decision can not be made until a couple of days out. **Contact David Stone at [rockyturf@epbfi.com](mailto:rockyturf@epbfi.com) to reserve a spot.** We will be using three 6-seater golf carts so the limit to 18 people each date.

**When:** March 22; 8:30am

**Where:** Amnicola March

This trip will be led by Danny Gaddy. More details to follow.

**When:** April 5 and April 12

**Where:** Crabtree Farms

These trips will be led by Andrew and Rachel Burgess, Barbara Johnson ,and Danny Gaddy. More details to follow!



Rose-breasted Grosbeak Photo by David Goldsmith

**Every January we renew our dues to CTOS.**

Please go to <https://chattanooga.org/> to pay online with PayPal,  
or send a check payable to CTOS to

David Stone, PO Box 330, Ooltewah, TN 37363

Thank you!

## SIM'S SOD FARM FIELD TRIP

On February 22, CTOS hosted a field trip to Sim's Sod Farm led by Brian Bullard. It was a beautiful day and we had 17 participants. Some of the highlights included Hooded Mergansers, White-crowned Sparrow, Gray Catbird, Fox Sparrow, and a great look at a Wilson's Snipe.

We counted 50 species that day! Thanks to Kent Pennington for arranging this trip!



Wilson's Snipe photo from Shutterstock