



AUGUST 2025

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The Chattanooga Chat

CHATTANOOGA CHAPTER OF THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Indigo Bunting Photo by OJ Morgan

NO AUGUST MEETING

Our next regular meeting will be

September 11, 7pm

Ascension Lutheran Church

720 S. Germantown Road

Our September speaker is Luke Thompson,
with birding tales from Peru.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we move into August, I'm betting most of you are beginning to yearn for the cool months of fall and those wonderful migrating birds traveling through our region. For us birders, those months always give us an opportunity to replenish our passion for our avian friends.

Our first meeting of the year will be on September 11, at our usual meeting place, the Ascension Lutheran Church at 720 Germantown Circle. One project we'll be launching this year is a Birding 101 class that we'll offer to new members with little birding experience as well as to the public. Already, several organizations in town have expressed an interest in us offering the class. We see it as a way not only to further our mission of educating folks about birding, but we also see it as a great way to attract new members to CTOS.

If you think you might be interested in serving as an instructor, look for announcements about training sessions that we'll offer in the fall. As always, we look forward to seeing everyone in September. We're already lining up great programs and field trips! Until then, stay cool!

OJ Morgan



Scarlet Tanager photo by OJ Morgan

Summer Tanagers at David Stone's suet feeder.

Since May of this year, through at least July 23, a pair of Summer Tanagers (male and female) have been seen eating off suet at David's house. Most birders David has spoken to have never seen tanagers eat from a suet feeder. Clyde Blum said he has seen them by his suet but has never seen them eating. All the pictures below were taken from May 25 through July 13. David shot the photos from the windows in the house so they are blurred.



Summer Tanagers at David
Stone's suet feeders

Photos taken by David through
the windows of his house.





Summer Tanagers at David
Stone's suet feeders

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the windows of his house.

CTOS Fall Speakers

We are looking forward to some great speakers for our fall meetings! Please mark your calendars.

September 11: Luke Thompson: "Birding Northern Peru on Public Transit"

Luke, is a recent Baylor School grad and will attend Sewanee: The University of the South this Fall. He began birding at age six, and carried his interest into countless hours of observation, research, habitat restoration, and work as a birding guide in Panama. About this talk, he says:

"For 6 weeks, I explored the Northern Peruvian birding route by public transport, using buses, vans, boats, tuktuks, my feet, and everything in between to find birds in the lush green forests of the Amazon all the way to the cactus laden dry western slopes of the Andes. From the absurd beauty of Marvelous Spatuletail to the struggle for the endemic Atuen Antpitta, I was lucky enough to experience the magic of one of the best birding routes in the world for under \$1,000 and one broken pair of binoculars."

October 9: Marie Landis: "Birding Big Bend: Bird and Bird-Adjacent Tales From The End of the Road, West Texas"

Hear the good, the bad, and the ugly of birding in one of the lower 48's most rugged and remote national parks. Highlights will include daily and once-in-a-lifetime adventures from birding in Big Bend, travel and survival tips, and just enough geology and geography to explain what makes this patch of Chihuahuan Desert such a special place.

Marie Landis

Marie is a professional cartographer and recreational birder who recently returned to her hometown of Chattanooga after two decades of chasing seasonal resource management and environmental education gigs out west. She spent 8 years living, working, and birding the expanses of far west Texas within Big Bend National Park. She has a Master of Natural Resources from Oregon State University and a healthy fear of sunstroke.

CTOS Hats at the September Meeting

We are proud to announce that our club now has “swag.” We have ball caps with our logo on them and we have stickers, too. The hats are \$25 each for members and we’ll have them at the September meeting, along with the stickers.

