



MAY 2025

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The Chattanooga Chat

CHATTANOOGA CHAPTER OF THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Lesser Yellowlegs

Photo by OJ Morgan

MAY MEETING

May 8, 2025 at 7pm

Audubon Acres

900 N Sanctuary Road

Chattanooga, 37421

Please note the change in location for this meeting.

Our speaker this month is Jim Stewart, executive director of the Chattanooga Audubon Society. This 130 acre Nature Sanctuary is bisected by the South Chickamauga Creek and contains a rich diversity of plant, animal, and bird life. Audubon Acres has the Avian Jewels Egg Collection as well as collections from the Robert Sparks Waller library.

This is our last regular meeting until September and we hope you can join us.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The rains came heavily this past weekend, but that didn't deter us from hosting members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society in this year's spring meeting. As per usual, the opening reception was Friday evening, this time at the Downtown Courtyard Marriot, and we had great attendance. Saturday morning's field trips met the challenge head on, led by our intrepid leaders Kevin Calhoun and Tim Lenz. Considering the storms, they had sufficient reason to cancel, but they didn't, for which we are extremely grateful. And Saturday evening, our dinner at Puckett's was highlighted by Dr. David Aborn's talk on the changing names of birds. A few more fieldtrips wrapped things up on Sunday morning in better weather, thank goodness.

I can't pass up this opportunity to extend my deep gratitude to those in CTOS who organized the event. Sharon Klein has now been designated the Special Events Coordinator Extraordinaire, and she has the hat to prove it! Barbara Johnson, Ann Glass, David Stone, and Kent Pennington were the star supporting cast, making sure we gave our fellow Tennessee birders a good experience in Chattanooga. As with any volunteer organization, what we accomplish depends on the good will and dedication of our members. I greatly appreciate your work!

Next fall, the TOS state meeting will be in Elizabethton, tentatively set for Sept. 26-28. Next spring's meeting will be hosted by the Kingsport chapter, the date to be determined.

Happy birding, everyone!

OJ Morgan



Magnolia Warbler

photo by David Goldsmith

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

What: Chickamauga Battlefield birding

When: Tonight, May 6 at 8:15pm

This trip will be led by Danny Gaddy. Let him know if you are interested in joining him to bird for Chuck-Will's -Widow, Whippoorwills, Nighthawks, owls, and other night birds. Email gaddyd51@gmail.com or text 423-316-5647 to let him know you are going.

What: Migration Count

When: Saturday, May 10 at 7:30M. Kent Pennington will be counting at Enterprise South. If you would like to join him, contact him at kentpenn1175@gmail.com.

What: Hotspot birding

When: Saturday, May 17 at 8:00am Contact Kent at kentpenn1175@gmail.com for more details.

What: Honors Golf Course Birding

When: Tuesday, May 27 at 5:00pm OR Monday, June 9 at 5:00pm

Join David Stone and bird The Honors Course in Ooltewah by golf cart. Expect to see Red-headed Woodpeckers, Bald Eagle, Meadow Lark plus many of our spring and summer birds like Tree Swallows, Orchid Oriole, perhaps a couple of warbler species. Each date is limited to 10 people. Email David at rockyturf@epbfi.com to reserve a spot.



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher with nest

Photo by OJ Morgan

Bird Counts from Duck River

Friday, April 18 2025 1:05pm, Tennessee NWR-Duck River Unit- Refuge Rd Wildlife Loop, 4 hours, 2 miles

14 Canada Goose
2 Wood Duck
21 Blue-winged Teal
1 Northern Shoveler
2 Mourning Dove
2 American Coot
2 Killdeer
12 Wilson's Snipe
1 Spotted Sandpiper
41 Lesser Yellowlegs
1 Greater Yellowlegs
1 Caspian Tern
100 Double-crested Cormorant
1 Little Blue Heron
12 Snowy Egret
Western Cattle-Egret
1 Green Heron
17 Great Egret
7 Great Blue Heron
10 Black Vulture
15 Turkey Vulture
4 Osprey
5 Bald Eagle
1 Barred Owl
1 Red-bellied Woodpecker
3 Downy Woodpecker
1 Pileated Woodpecker
1 Eastern Wood-Pewee
1 Eastern Phoebe
6 White-eyed Vireo
1 Warbling Vireo
1 Red-eyed Vireo
2 Blue Jay
3 American Crow
5 Carolina Chickadee
2 Tufted Titmouse
2 Northern Rough-winged Swallow
1 Barn Swallow
1 White-breasted Nuthatch
6 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
4 Carolina Wren
1 Brown Thrasher
1 Northern Mockingbird
2 Eastern Bluebird
2 American Goldfinch
5 White-throated Sparrow

2 Savannah Sparrow
2 Swamp Sparrow
2 Eastern Towhee
2 Eastern Meadowlark
2 Orchard Oriole
14 Red-winged Blackbird
7 Brown-headed Cowbird
1 Common Grackle
1 Louisiana Waterthrush
1 Northern Waterthrush
4 Prothonotary Warbler
2 Common Yellowthroat
5 Northern Parula
2 Yellow Warbler
1 Yellow-rumped Warbler
1 Prairie Warbler
6 Northern Cardinal
3 Blue Grosbeak
1 Indigo Bunting

In addition to these birds already listed, the following day these species were seen:

1 Gadwall
1 Mallard
2 Wild Turkey
5 Rock Pigeon
6 Chimney Swift
1 Pied-billed Grebe
1 Anhinga
1 Belted Kingfisher
2 Eastern Kingbird
1 Blue-headed Vireo
1 Fish Crow
1 Tree Swallow
1 Marsh Wren
6 European Starlings
1 Gray Catbird
1 Wood Thrush
3 American Robin
3 Chipping Sparrow
5 White-crowned Sparrow
1 Yellow-breasted Chat
1 Palm Warbler
2 Pine Warbler
3 Yellow-throated Warbler
1 Summer Tanager
4 Pectoral Sandpiper
2 Yellow-throated Vireo

Crabtree Farms

written by Barbara Johnson

On Saturday, April 12, Crabtree Farms welcomed CTOS back for the 6th time, to bird the property during migration. 25 people showed up on a chilly, breezy but sunny morning. Three groups formed, led by CTOS field trip chair Kent Pennington, Kent DuBois, and Tim Lenz. Each group covered the farm, but went in different directions so as not to have a crowd in one area.

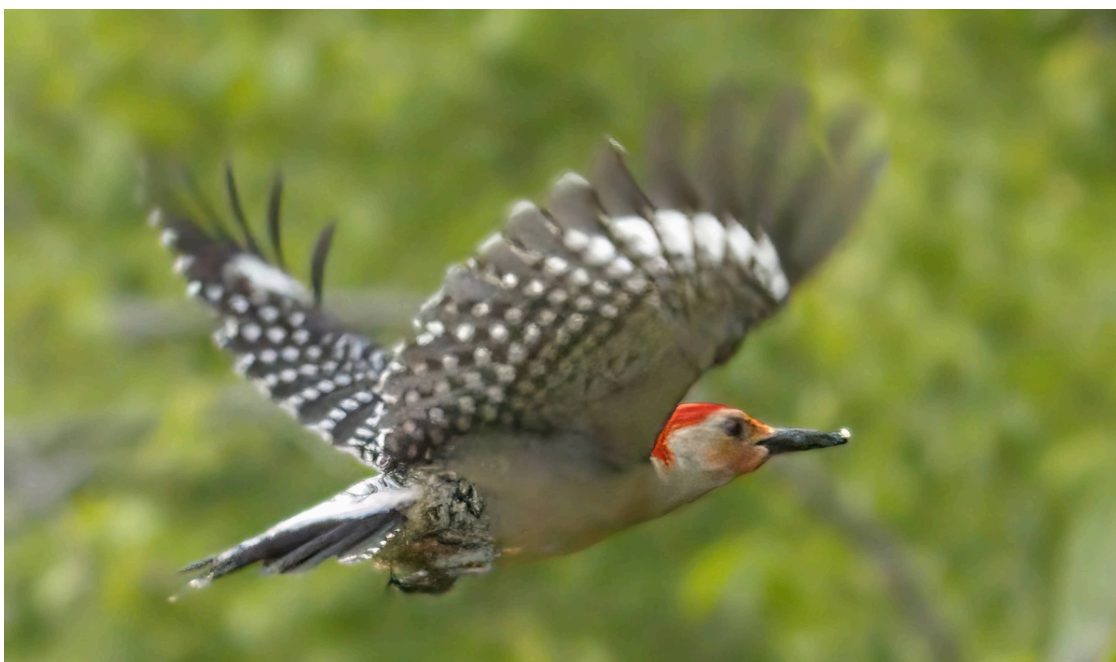
The farm covers 22 acres, with 4 to 5 acres under active cultivation, and additional space used for community gardens, educational programs, and green spaces. The farm is bordered to the west by mature woods along Chattanooga Creek, one of the largest undeveloped wooded areas of the city.

The farm sells produce there and at the Wednesday Chattanooga Farmers' Market. Crabtree Farms has an annual Spring plant sale and festival featuring vendors, music and food trucks. The Annual 100 Dinner & Auction is their signature fundraising event, featuring a multi-course meal prepared by leading local chefs using ingredients sourced within 100 miles of the farm, served under the trees at beautifully decorated long tables. This year's event, which typically sells out, is scheduled for Saturday, June 14.

At this year's bird walk, seven birders, including the leaders, were CTOS members. The remainder came via Crabtree Farms' outreach. As usual, Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center provided Vortex loaner binoculars, always a revelation for the novice birders who bring those tiny toy-like binos with strings for straps!

Among the three leaders, over 45 species were seen and/or heard, including northern parula, hooded warbler, palm warbler, prairie warbler, and an orange-crowned warbler which seemed determined to make sure nobody would forget its call. A flock of 25 cedar waxwings gave a great show, and a most cooperative indigo bunting delighted everyone, experts and novices, by posing and glowing in the sun. A broad-winged hawk, first seen perching in the edge of the woods, later took flight and circled low, giving a rare long look at a bird usually so high in the sky. American goldfinch was the most plentiful bird, with 30 individuals counted.

Watch for the next bird walk at Crabtree Farms during Fall migration.



Red-bellied Woodpecker photo by David Goldsmith



Great Egret at Duck River NWR

Photo by OJ Morgan



CTOS members at Duck River NWR

photo by OJ Morgan