



The Chattanooga Chat

CHATTANOOGA CHAPTER OF THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



Cedar Waxwing Photo by David Goldsmith

FEBRUARY MEETING

February 12, 2026, 7:00-8:30pm

Ascension Lutheran Church

720 S. Germantown Road

Our Guest Speaker is David Stone
"43 Years Of Birding The Honors Course"

David Stone will give our monthly program on his 43 years of bird observations at The Honors Golf Course in Ooltewah. David will cover what got him started birding there, the orphaned birds he raised, and the USGA award the course received in 1991 for preservation of habitat for birds. He will show close-up photos of birds and their nests, and will discuss his thoughts on the changes in birds he has seen at the course over the years.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'm glad to see that these cold days haven't stymied our intrepid CTOS members from seeking out some great finds recently. The Iceland gull (Thayer's), an American bittern, a red-throated loon, a greater scaup, a gray catbird and, of course, the ever-present rufous hummingbird have all been a delight to see and hear about during these frigid days. Thanks, everyone, for sharing!

As you may know, Ann Glass, our faithful and skilled newsletter editor, will soon be moving to Boston to be closer to her daughter. We've been so fortunate to have Ann managing our news and updates, and I know I speak for all of us in CTOS in expressing our thanks to her for her great work. Fortune is still on our side, however, as Austin Young has agreed to take over for Ann. You may remember that Austin presented at our last meeting. Austin is the Research and Stewardship Coordinator for The Tennessee River Gorge Trust. Thank you, Austin!

To improve communications with our members regarding field trips, updates, and news from the state organization, we'll also be looking for a volunteer to handle this important role in our club. It's not a time-consuming task but very necessary. Let me know if you have an interest in helping us out.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our February 12 meeting. David Stone, our past president and long-time member, will be giving the presentation.

OJ Morgan



Northern Flicker photo by OJ Morgan

CBC results for December 20

Twenty-nine participants found at staggering total of 119 species on the Chattanooga CBC on Saturday December 20!! This is the highest total I can find in the 45 years that Audubon CBC data entry portal shows for CHA CBC. Usually, 100 or more species is a good year. I will list the species of special interest including three species that are new for the count.

Great Cormorant - first for CHA CBC and of course first state record found on November 21/ 25.

Franklin's Gull - first for CHA CBC

Common Gallinule - first for CHA CBC

Green Heron- second record for count

Rare on Count:

American Bittern

Ross's Goose

White-winged Scoter

Common Merganser

Pacific Loon

Sora

Dunlin

Rufous Hummingbird

White-eyed Vireo

Gray Catbird

Common Yellowthroat

Thank you for all of your help with this record setting count!!

Kevin Calhoon - Count compiler



Carolina Wren Photo by David Goldsmith

February Speaker

Our February speaker is David Stone. David was the superintendent at the Honors golf course for 34 years and has continued birding there for the last 9 years since his retirement. He has been an active CTOS member since the late 1990's, serving as president, as program chairman for several years and currently, as the club's treasurer. David continues to lead one of CTOS's most popular birding field trips to the course several times a year, birding by golf cart! Join us to see what changes in bird species and numbers he has seen over the years, along with close up photos of orphaned birds he has raised.



Carolina Chickadee photo by David Goldsmith

Dear Friends and Fellow Birders,

We are delighted to announce that Austin Young of the Tennessee River Gorge Trust has graciously agreed to assume the role of editor for the Chattanooga Chat. With Austin's background as a scientist and ornithologist, we are confident the newsletter will continue to grow, offering engaging updates and rich information about bird species we all enjoy learning about.

I would also like to extend special thanks to David Goldsmith and OJ Morgan, who have been so generous in sharing their beautiful photographs. OJ's calendars and photos are truly gorgeous, and it has been a real pleasure to explore David's online bird photography—from local and migratory species to images from his and Pat's travels. I have learned so much from studying these stunning photos, especially the wonderful portraits that capture the character of each bird's face.

I have truly enjoyed serving as editor over the past two years and am deeply grateful for the opportunity. Thank you all for your encouragement, contributions, and continued support.

Warm regards and Happy birding,
Ann Glass



Great Crested-flycatcher photo by OJ Morgan