



Tennessee Ornithological Society Memphis Chapter

<http://birdmemphis.org>

November 2022

OCTOBER PROGRAM



Chapter member Allen Sparks presented a program about Sanibel Island, Florida, and his experiences photographing birds there. Allen and his wife Dawn visited the island four times between 2013 and 2021. The trips fell between February and April. Allen showed a selection of his favorite bird photos from those trips. The island is 13 by 4 miles, has no traffic lights, and has height restrictions on buildings. Dawn was attracted to the island for the opportunity to find shells on the beach, and the bird photography

available for Allen at J.N. "Ding" Darling NWR has kept them coming back. Sanibel Island is a subtropical barrier island and part of the largest undeveloped mangrove ecosystem in the US. It is famous for spectacular migratory bird populations. Sadly the island and the bridge to the island were heavily damaged recently by Hurricane Ian. The bridge has already re-opened to limited traffic but it will be some time before services are restored and businesses rebuilt. The wildlife refuge is closed at this time.

Allen divided his presentation into sections showing birds photographed on the beach, along Pond Apple Trail, and from points along Wildlife Drive at the refuge. From the beach Allen was able to photograph birds such as Ruddy Turnstone, Black-bellied Plover, Sanderling, Sandwich Tern, Osprey, and Brown Pelican. Feeding behavior and surf bubbles swirling around shorebird feet enliven these images. The Pond Apple Trail passes through wetlands, tropical hardwood forest, and wastewater retention ponds. It has a variety of bird life and is a good area to see some non-bird animals such as coyote, alligator, dragonflies, iguana, and Brown Anole lizards. Allen

especially enjoys capturing interesting bird behavior, birds in flight, and birds with their reflections on water. He rises early to take advantage of the morning light. Allen recommended driving the 4 mile Wildlife Drive and pulling off where birds of interest are active. Low tide is the best time to see wading birds feeding. He wades into the water with his camera supported on a monopod and stands waiting for an opportunity to photograph a bird of interest. He was able to capture images of fish jumping out of the water next to herons and cormorants and birds tossing fish and crabs into the air to facilitate swallowing them. He showed a favorite picture of a cormorant with a small fish clasped in its bill. The eye of the fish and eye of the bird were both visible. One of his goals was to get images of a Reddish Egret performing its feeding “dance” to attract fish. Reddish Egrets prefer salt water. There are only about 1500 breeding pairs of Reddish Egret in the US, and Ding Darling is a good place to see them. Allen was even able to photograph the white morph of the Reddish Egret. Another goal was to photograph Anhinga in flight. He noted that to capture the contrast of the white feathers visible in flight against the darker Anhinga feathers he had to use his camera in manual exposure mode and that he is now using a mirrorless camera that has eye tracking to help keep the bird in focus. Some other species he photographed included Pileated Woodpecker, Snowy Egret, Great Egret, Little Blue Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, White Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, and Tricolored Heron. Allen has a Flickr site where you can see some of his favorite photos. Copy and paste (don’t click) the following link into your browser. <https://www.flickr.com/people/asparks306/>

Allen also talked a bit about the damage caused by Hurricane Ian, ways in which birds survive hurricanes, and conservation challenges such as the red tides of 2018 & 2019 that killed birds and fish at the refuge.

-Margaret Jefferson

FISH of SANCAP www.fishofsancap.org

CROW - Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife, Inc. <https://www.facebook.com/CROWClinic/>



Little Blue Heron

Photo by: Cliff VanNostrand

CHAPTER MEETING

St. George's Episcopal
Church

**2425 South Germantown Rd.
Germantown, TN**

**Wednesday,
November 16, 2022**

7:00 pm

**Meetings are held in the
Parish Hall**

..... Field Trip Reports

Sept. 28 Shelby Forest

40 species and 10 observers

Oct. 1 Shelby Forest

Seven observers enjoyed a nice show of Black-throated Green, Magnolia, Hooded, Black-and-white and N. Parula Warblers feeding on a swarm of flying insects at picnic shelter number 1. This was followed by sightings of numerous N. Rough-winged Swallows, N. Flickers, Red-headed Woodpeckers and Gray Catbirds at Poplar Tree Lake and levee.

Oct. 5 Shelby Forest

39 species and 7 observers. Notable were a large number of Bay-breasted Warblers

Oct. 9 Wapanocca

52 species, 8 observers. Notable were good numbers of warblers and high numbers of Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Tree Swallow. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S120335943>

..... Unusual Sightings

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher adult male near the women's prison at Shelby Farms

Clay Colored Sparrow and Black-crowned Night-Heron at the Gardener Rd marsh at Shelby Farms Park

A Great Horned Owl with bone cancer was picked up by Martha Waldron at Shelby Farms Park.



Photo by Cliff VanNostrand

W.C. JOHNSON PARK FIELD TRIP 10/22/22



Under the sunrise smile of the Cheshire Cat, on loan from "Alice in Wonderland," 25 observers ventured forth on the boardwalk trail at W.C. Johnson Park in Collierville, Tennessee at 7:30AM on a mostly sunny, 60-degree Saturday. A slight breeze sprung up soon which may have hindered the birding a bit. Our

group included some of the newer members and some returning members after the long COVID absence. The boardwalk was not crowded with walkers and joggers today as it usually is on the weekend. This was good as we were a sizeable group.

The birds were pretty scarce between the bridge and the river that anchors both ends of the boardwalk. The anchors did, however, supply a number of the species we



saw. It just took patience. A couple of surprises include a House Wren and 2 Winter Wrens. Three Golden-crowned Kinglets made an appearance along with a Swainson's Thrush. A White-breasted Nuthatch and two Brown Creepers were seen as were four Yellow-rump Warblers and two White-throated Sparrows. A trailing four or five members caught sight of a Red-shouldered Hawk as it landed in the woods near the trail allowing for good views of it as it searched for a meal. We finished and called the card by 10:00AM. 30 species.



-Text and pictures by Chad Brown

MTOS WAPANOCCA OUTING

The birds were active at the bridge near the headquarters. Eight observers spent more time there than usual trying to catch all the birds that were flitting from one tree/bush to another. From there we moved on to the overlook at the lake. A few Pintails flew by, a large number of Tree Swallows and a some Rough-winged perched on the vegetation or zoomed over the water. A few Great Egrets perched in trees on the far shore. One of the two Bald Eagles seen that day performed a long fly away in full view. Also a few frogs were on the surrounding vegetation. (picture attached)



The last stop was the end of the road where we normally walk the levee, but it was overgrown, so we walked the road a bit with some success. 52 species were recorded with high numbers of some.

After calling the card, Dick Preston led us to a nearby location where he predicted we would see a pair of Barn Owls roosting for the day. True to his word we saw the best view I have ever had of Barn Owls. (picture attached) We also had views of an early cotton harvest by the roadside.



-Pictures and text by Chad Brown



TOS fall meeting:

Dick Preston reported that the Kingsport Chapter did a great job of hosting the TOS fall meeting, with excellent food, paper session and speaker, and that several decisions were made. The annual meeting will be hosted by the Nashville Chapter on the last weekend in April at a Chapter member's family farm. The TOS board voted to start giving chapters that serve as host for the annual meeting \$2500 to defray costs for the meeting, and to give the chapter hosting the fall meeting \$500. Michael Collins agreed to serve as TOS president for another two years. Since TWRA is no longer printing bird field cards, the board voted to spend \$300-500 to print field cards. The new cards will have the TOS logo and be arranged in the taxonomic order used by eBird.

-Margaret Jefferson

- March 2023 Banquet - Member Input Opportunity is Now

Do you favor a Pot Luck-style banquet for March 2023? Or do you favor MTOS having the March event catered (except dessert)?

"Pot Luck" formula: MTOS provides pulled pork BBQ and buns. Members bring side items of their choice or a dessert. Pre-2020, MTOS followed this formula and charged \$5-\$6/per person for BBQ.



OR...

Catered meal: MTOS secures a caterer (soon). Menu TBA. Members (who wish to) will bring desserts. Catered meal cost goal: \$15 - \$20/per person.

Email brbpyles@gmail.com by November 16 with your vote. This is a November meeting agenda item.

Delta Wind Birds MOTUS Tower

Dick Preston reported that he observed the netting and tagging of shorebirds at a farm in Indianola, MS that Delta Wind Birds has been helping to manage for shorebird habitat. He reported that several shorebird species were netted while he was there, and that only the larger shorebirds were tagged. Dick assured us that our contributions for tags were providing important data, as a goal of the research is to determine how long individual birds of various species feed in the managed area. So far 4 species (Killdeer, Pectoral Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, and Long-billed Dowitcher) have been tagged. One Pectoral Sandpiper tagged on September 23 was still present three weeks later. <https://www.facebook.com/delta.wind.birds/>

-Margaret Jefferson

Successes in shorebird capture and radio-tagging

Delta Wind Birds provides habitat for migratory shorebirds across the Delta, and will be doing so at a dozen sites this fall/winter. We regularly count the birds visiting these sites (recently, this is being done by Emma Counce, a University of Mississippi graduate student), but because we don't know how long particular birds stay at our sites, we only have a rough estimate of how many individual birds we are actually helping. To begin addressing this gap in our knowledge, we've begun a program of capturing and radio-tagging shorebirds, using a nearby MOTUS tower (erected by Hal Mitchell) to detect the signals. On September 23rd, we had our first successful shorebird capture session on a farm site near Indianola, trapping 12 shorebirds and affixing 5 radio tags (4 Pectoral Sandpipers and 1 Killdeer), banding 21 additional birds, and providing training for several students. As our efforts intensify (with tagging sessions planned roughly monthly September through January), we hope to deploy at least 120 tags during the next two fall and winter seasons. To enjoy some beautiful photos from our recent field session (as well as a few from our cold, muddy "dry" run in January), please visit our Flickr album here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/114592599@N08/albums/72177720301580555>

-Jason Hoeksema

You can support DWB every time you make a purchase through Amazon Smile. If you make your purchase through smile.amazon.com, and choose *Delta Wind Birds* as the beneficiary, we receive 0.5% of the sale price.

UPCOMING EVENTS

November & December 2022

Wednesday, November 16, 7:00pm

Chapter Meeting
St. George's Episcopal Church
2425 South Germantown Rd. Germantown, TN

Saturday, November 19, 8:00am

Shelby Farms / Agricenter Field Trip
Field Trip Leader: Cliff VanNostrand
birdinginthe901@gmail.com

Saturday, November 26, 8:00am

T.O. Fuller State Park Field Trip (Visitor Center)
<https://goo.gl/maps/JF9xp5K7RvZV9ZfF6>
Field Trip Leader: Jim Varner
jamescvarner@gmail.com

Friday, December 16, 7:30am

Fayette County CBC
Field Trip Leaders: Kate Gooch / Cliff VanNostrand
Kate: goochpb@att.net
Cliff: birdinginthe901@gmail.com

Wednesday, December 21, 7:00pm

Chapter Meeting
St. George's Episcopal Church
2425 South Germantown Rd. Germantown, TN

Saturday, December 17, 7:30am

Sardis CBC
Field Trip Leaders: Jason Hoeksema & Dick Preston
Dick: dickpreston48@gmail.com

Sunday, December 18, 7:30am

Memphis CBC
Field Trip Leader: Margaret Jefferson
mjefferson100@hotmail.com

Tuesday, December 27, 7:30am

Arkabutla CBC
Field Trip Leader: Van Harris
shelbyforester1223@gmail.com

Saturday, December 31, 7:30am

Wapanocca NWR & Meeman-Shelby Forest CBC
Field Trip Leader: Dick Preston / Van Harris
Dick: dickpreston48@gmail.com
Van: shelbyforester1223@gmail.com

*CBC = Christmas Bird Count

SUBMISSIONS WELCOME

Submissions of any of the following are desired:

- Birding Events
- Stories about birds or birders
- Birding Tips
- Poetry, quotes, sketches, or photos
- Photo of birds or people at events or field trips.

**Deadline is the 22nd of each month,
Email submissions to mtosnewsletter@gmail.com**

A LA CARTE

- Great Horned Owl and Raccoon
<https://youtu.be/VJYRZGwNjxU> and <https://youtu.be/oA4ca5cOjQ8>
(HT: Judy Dorsey)
- State of the World's Birds Report 2022
<https://www.birdlife.org/papers-reports/state-of-the-worlds-birds-2022/>
(HT: Judy Dorsey)
- Project Snow Storm: The annual movements of Snowy Owls
<https://www.projectsnowstorm.org/>
- A Beginner's Guide to eBird
<https://www.audubon.org/news/a-beginners-guide-ebird>
- The 11 Best Birding Apps in 2022! (iPhone & Android)
<https://birdwatchinghq.com/birdingapps/>
- QUIZ: What kind of parrot are you?
<https://becausebirds.com/quiz-what-kind-of-parrot-are-you/entries/7331/>



HUMMINGBIRD SIGHTING BETWEEN November 1 and March 15

If you do get a hummingbird, Please contact
Cyndi Routledge - routledges@bellsouth.net

Please consider leaving
out your feeder out year-
round. Keep it clean,
maintained and
easily viewed

Since November 1990,
300 hummingbirds of 7 different
species have been captured, banded
and released here in Tennessee as
part of a winter banding
research program.

TOS Membership Information

Members may join online
at www.birdmemphis.org or by mail.

Benefits include monthly programs, field trips, quarterly journals, and state and chapter newsletters.

Categories and dues are:

Individual	\$36
Family	\$40
Sustaining	\$55
College Student	\$15
Other Student	\$ 5
Lifetime	\$450 one time +\$18 yearly

Dues payable by PayPal
at www.birdmemphis.org or by check, made out to MTOS.

Please send dues to: Barbara Pyles
8488 East Askersund Cove
Cordova, TN 38018
(901) 570-1009
E-mail brbpyles@gmail.com

Newsletter Delivery Options

To reduce printing and mailing costs, a digital version, which is usually expanded with photos and occasional articles, is provided. Notify Margaret Jefferson, mjefferson100@hotmail.com. If you have no internet access, a printed version can be mailed.

Chapter Newsletter Submissions

Email submissions to Deon VanNostrand
mtosnewsletter@gmail.com

Deadline for submissions to the Newsletter is the 22nd of the month.

Field Cards

Please mail or e-mail your field cards and notable sightings to Dick Preston.
dickpreston48@gmail.com

Tennessee Warbler Deadlines

- *March 15 for the April Newsletter
- *July 15 for the August Newsletter
- *December 15 for the December Newsletter

Forward contributions to:
Theresa Graham, Editor
P.O. Box 366 Oakland, TN 38060
(901) 489-0795
Email: 2graham@bellsouth.net

Chapter Meeting

November 16, 2022. 7:00pm

St. George's Episcopal Church,
2425 South Germantown Rd. Germantown, TN
Phone 901-754-7282

Program

David Hill, MTOS

In Sharp Focus—Birding Over the Past 66 years

Hospitality

Refreshments will be provided by Gregg Elliott
and Sarita & Deepak Joshi

Upcoming Field Trip Information

November 19: Shelby Farms

November 26: TO Fuller SP

Thank you to all who contributed to this month's newsletter.

For our next issue, we would like to feature some photos
of birds in flight.

Please send your submissions to mtosnewsletter@gmail.com.

Returning Members

Alisa Firehock afirehock@comcast.net

New Members

Sophie Dismukes shoe.dismukes@gmail.com
Shelby Green shelbyreneegreen@yahoo.com
Bruce Firehock afirehock@comcast.net
Skylar Lowery skymlowe@ut.utm.edu
Gabby Lebeau gabbylebeau@gmail.com
Brenda Woodruff woodruffbrenda@hotmail.com
Sheena Payne & Alexander Finley
sheena.payne@gmail.com afinley26@gmail.com

Treasurer and Membership Report

Barbara Pyles reported a balance in the treasury as of October 22, 2022 of \$14,670.38. MTOS welcomed many new members over the past month, including college students Sophie Dismukes, Shelby Green, and Skylar Lowery.



Turkey Vulture



Buff-bellied Hummingbird



Eastern Phoebe



Ring-billed Gull

PHOTOS BY:

DEBRA KIENZLE

PHOTOS BY TOM KIENZLE



Reddish Egret



Great Egret



White Ibis



Solitary Sandpiper



Wilson's Plover

Photos by Van Harris



Common Nighthawk



Little Blue Heron



Solitary Sandpiper

Photos by:
Margaret Jefferson



Gray Catbird

