

**Tennessee
Ornithological Society
Memphis Chapter**

<http://birdmemphis.org>

March 2024

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

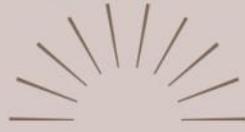
The February program was presented by MTOS member Cathy Justis. Cathy has an M.S. in Aquatic Ecology and is Director of Education for the Wolf River Conservancy. She has over 25 years of experience in environmental education. Cathy provides education programs for K-12 students, leads a variety of nature walks, service projects, and teacher workshops and coordinates the Conservancy's webinar series. She is also involved in developing and managing the Conservancy website and editing its publications.

Cathy gave a broad overview of the Wolf River Conservancy activities. The Conservancy is dedicated to protection and enhancement of the Wolf River and its watershed as a sustainable natural resource. The Conservancy has 10 staff members. Cathy highlighted the activities of Ryan Hall, the Director of Land Conservation, and Findley Frazer, the Greenway Project Coordinator. She noted that the Conservancy has been heavily focused for many years on the Greenway project and that it should be completed in 5 years. The Wolf River Greenway is a protected corridor of greenspace along the Wolf River with a 12 foot wide pathway. The Greenway project is a partnership between the Wolf River Conservancy, Memphis Parks, and Shelby County. When complete it will run from the north end of Mud Island to Collierville. Currently 14 miles of the planned 26-mile corridor are open to the public. The Greenway provides recreational opportunities for bikers, hikers and bird watchers and ties together communities throughout Shelby County.

The Wolf River Conservancy was established in 1985 as a land trust to protect lands along the river as a public natural resource. Land trusts work with landowners and the community to conserve land by accepting donations of land, purchasing land, negotiating private, voluntary conservation agreements on land, and stewarding conserved land through generations to come. Cathy noted that in 2015 the Wolf River Conservancy was accredited by the Land Trust Alliance. This accreditation assures landowners and donors that their contributions will be properly protected. She noted the importance of the Wolf River watershed as a recharge source for the Memphis Sand Aquifer that provides Memphis with some of the best drinking water in the world. Ryan Hall has been evaluating lands along the river that are most critical to the goal of protecting a sustainable water source and natural habitat corridor for plants and wildlife. He has a goal of protecting 30 additional parcels of land by 2030. To date the Conservancy has assisted in protecting over 20,000 acres. The crown jewel of these protected lands is the Ghost River State Natural Area. In 1995, paddlers, conservationists, and nature enthusiasts came together to protect this section of the river that meanders through a swamp of cypress and water tupelo trees. The river serves as a haven for birds, fish, and other wildlife, as well a recreational opportunity for canoers and kayakers.

The Conservancy's educational and recreational programs will help to ensure the long-term success of its mission.

-Margaret Jefferson



March 20, at 6:00 pm

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# MARCH MEETING AND POTLUCK

at St. George's Episcopal Church,

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Our March meeting will feature speakers
Cyndi and Steve Routledge,
preceded by a potluck dinner.

Cost is \$5 per adult, children under 18 no charge.

Please bring food starting at 5:30. We hope to begin
serving at 6 PM. The program will start between
6:45-7:00

RESERVATIONS ARE A MUST.

If you did not sign up at the February meeting, email or call Dick
Preston (dickpreston48@gmail.com or 901-837-3360) to RSVP.

MISSISSIPPI WILDLIFE REFUGE (MWR)

Backyard Wildlife Habitat Workshops



Saturday, 10am-2pm

Animal Shelters

Participants will build a bluebird house and have a chance to win an owl nest box.

Mar

9

2024



Saturday, 10am-2pm

Feeding Wildlife

We will look at providing food for wildlife. Everyone will go home with a selection of native plant seeds and/or seedlings for your garden.

April
20

2024



Saturday, 10am-2pm

Bird Baths

This workshop will cover practical ways to add water to your landscape and you will make your own leaf mold bird bath!

Sept

14

2024

All supplies are included with registration. You can register for 1, 2, or all 3 workshops.

Cost is \$25 for one, \$45 for two and \$60 for all three.

Workshops are held at The ARK Trails, 7001 W Commerce Street, Hernando, MS (a short 40-45 minute drive!).

To register, visit <https://www.mswildliferehab.org/>

SUMMER CAMP

MWR is hosting two summer camps for children ages 8 to 12.

Wildlife Camp (June 24-28)

Each day focuses on a different group of wildlife - mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and insects!

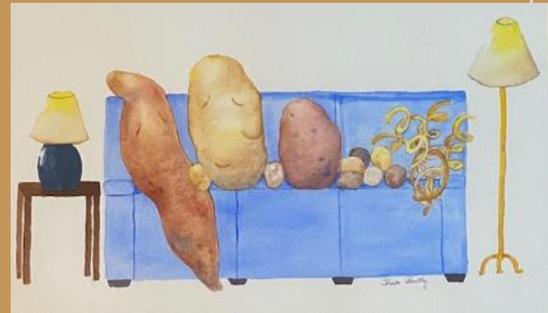
Nature Camp (July 8-12)

We will have guest artists working with different mediums.

For more information and to register your child or grandchild, visit our website at www.mswildliferehab.org/events.

The Art of Sheila Bentley

Twists of Nature



The art in Twists of Nature takes a look at what might be . . . with a dash of whimsy, a sprinkle of humor, and a hint of mystery to answer the question, "What if?"



Memphis Botanic Garden
February 12-March 31, 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS

March/April 2024

Wednesday, March 20, 6:00 pm

Spring Banquet and Potluck
St. George's Episcopal Church
2425 South Germantown Rd.
Germantown, TN

Saturday, March 23, 7:30 am

Shelby Farms
Meet at Disc Golf parking area
Field Trip Leader: Martha Waldron
martha.waldron@gmail.com

Saturday, April 6, 7:30 am

Herb Parsons Lake, Fayette County
Field Trip Leader: Allen Sparks
asparks306@bellsouth.net

Wednesday, April 10, 7:30 am

Meeman-Shelby Forest SP
Meet at Visitors Center
Field Trip Leader: Van Harris/Dick Preston
Dick: dickpreston48@gmail.com
Van: shelbyforester1223@gmail.com

Saturday-Sunday, April 13-14

Delta Wind Birds Spring Weekend at Sky Lake
For more information, click [here](#).

Wednesday, April 17, 7:00 pm

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

Saturday, April 20, 7:30 am

Wall Doxey State Park
Field Trip Leader: Hal Mitchell
halmitchell@gmail.com

MARCH MEETING AND POTLUCK

March meeting and potluck dinner: The chapter will provide BBQ, beans, buns and non-alcoholic beverages. Attendees are requested to bring a side dish suitable to share (suggested at least 6 to 8 portions). This might be salads, veggies, dessert or an item of your choice.

Cost is \$5 per adult, children under 18 no charge. Alcoholic beverages are allowed, if you wish to bring your favorite wine or beer.

Reservations are a must, so we can order sufficient BBQ and beverages.

If you did not sign up at the February meeting, email or call Dick Preston (dickpreston48@gmail.com or 901-837-3360) to RSVP.

Volunteers are needed to help with set up (tables, chairs, table decoration). Set up crew must arrive by 5 PM. Please bring food starting at 5:30. We hope to begin serving at 6 PM. The program will start between 6:45 and 7:00, featuring Cyndi Routledge, founder of Southeastern Avian Research. Cyndi will share her experiences (and photos) in banding over 15,000 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, and more than 300 rare, over-wintering hummingbirds, throughout the mid-south.

Please direct any questions to Dick Preston.

A LA CARTE

- 39 Amazing Birds with 14 Letters
<https://birdfeederhub.com/birds-with-14-letters/>
- How Do Birds Cope With Cold Winter Weather?
<https://www.audubon.org/news/how-do-birds-cope-cold-winter-weather>
- 3 Birds with 2 Letter Names
<https://birdfeederhub.com/birds-with-2-letters/>
- Peter Kaestner Breaks the 10,000 Bird Barrier!
<https://www.aba.org/peter-kaestner-breaks-the-10000-bird-barrier/>
- The New PBS Nature Special Highlights Epic Shorebird Migrations
<https://www.audubon.org/news/new-pbs-nature-special-highlights-epic-shorebird-migrations>
- Do Pileated Woodpeckers Destroy Trees?
<https://birdfeederhub.com/do-pileated-woodpeckers-destroy-trees/>
- Announcing the new Hatchie River Conservancy
<https://www.hatchieriver.org/>
- Wings Over Water 3D, (produced in partnership with Ducks Unlimited) is showing at MoSH
<https://moshmemphis.com/mosh-showtimes/wings-over-water-3d/>



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.

Photos by Todd Winn



Great Egret



Bald Eagle



Red-shouldered Hawk



Bald Eagle



Osprey



Osprey



Bald Eagle



Mourning Dove



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck



Mallard



Barred Owl



Wild Turkey



Summer Tanager

PHOTOS BY
CLIFF VANNOSTRAND

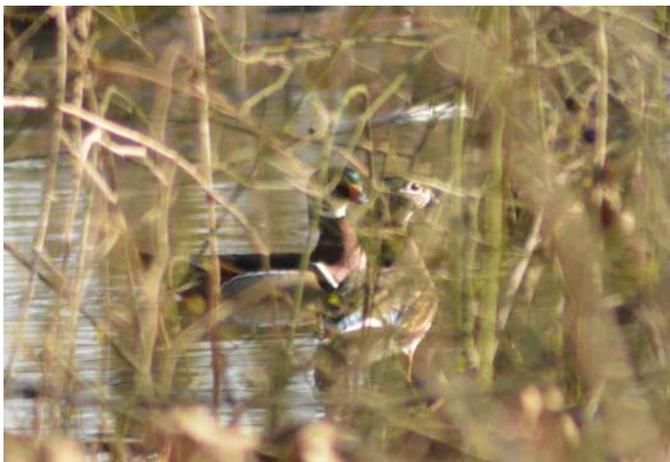
from the desk of:



Dark-eyed Junco



Eastern Bluebird



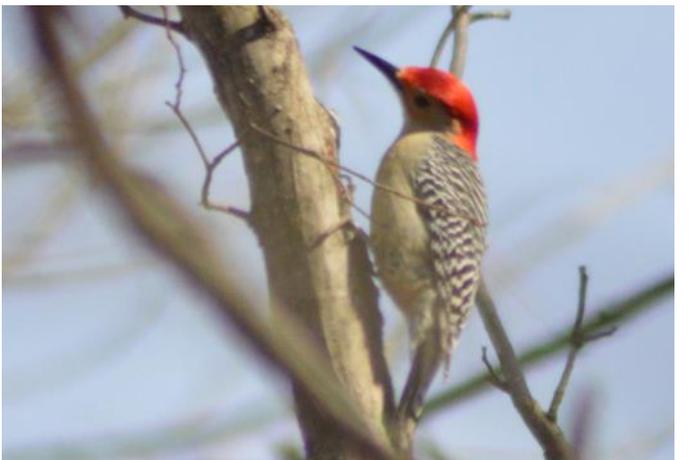
Wood Duck



Brown Creeper



Great Blue Heron



Red-bellied Woodpecker



PHOTOS BY:
APRIL BIZOT



Bald Eagle



Red-tailed Hawk



Bald Eagle



Barred Owl



Bald Eagle



Barred Owl

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	\$10
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
- *November 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

March 20, 2024. 6:00pm

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

Program

Cyndi and Steve Routledge, President, NTOS
All About Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds

Hospitality

Spring banquet and potluck— view potluck announcement, pg 2 & 6.

Upcoming Field Trip Information

March 23: Shelby Farms - Meet at Disc Golf parking area

Thank you to all who contributed to this month's newsletter. For our next issue, we would like to feature some photos of bird bloopers.

Please send your submissions to mtosnewsletter@gmail.com

New Members

Andrew Covington acov263@gmail.com
Karen and Dennis Morris kmazgirl1964@gmail.com
Robyn Orr orr6890@bellsouth.net
Jenna Sanchez jsanchez3005@yahoo.com

Treasurer's Report

As of February 21, 2024 the balance in the Treasury is \$15,800.00. The Annual Financial Statement for 2023 was prepared in January and audited in February. Highlights are as follows:
Revenue: \$5,486.51 in chapter dues, \$1,467.51 in donations, and \$352.00 in Auction receipts. PayPal fees (\$1.29 for Family dues, \$1.21 for Individual dues) account for "odd-looking" revenue subtotals.
Spending: \$3,677.12 on conservation projects led by MTOS or by partner groups, such as the Mid-South Raptor Center, Delta Wind Birds, and Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge. Expenditures also include \$3,052 of chapter dues remitted to TOS.
The ending MTOS balance as of December 31, 2023 was \$14, 648.31.

New Business

At the February 21 chapter meeting, Treasurer Barbara Pyles made a motion, seconded by David Hill, for the chapter to provide a \$600 Honorarium to St. George's Episcopal Church, for furnishing meeting space to MTOS for the 2023-2024 year. This motion will be voted on at the April 17 monthly meeting.

Silent Auction Report

The Silent Auction that is usually held in March will not be held that night. A later date in 2024 is being planned.