

# Tennessee Ornithological Society Memphis Chapter

<http://birdmemphis.org>

November 2024

## OCTOBER PROGRAM

Chapter member Sarita Joshi presented a program Birding Uttarakhand/Rajasthan India 11.27- 12.05 2022. Sarita said that she birded as a child in India but had not birded in the US until she and husband Deepak joined the Memphis Chapter of TOS in 2020. She thanked the chapter for reigniting and expanding her skill and interest in birding. Sarita and Deepak are skilled photographers and she showed



photos of the scenery, wild animals such as tigers and Asian elephants, as well as many colorful birds. From Delhi, they traveled by car to Jim Corbett National Park in the foothills of the Himalayas. This park was established in 1936 and is famous for the large number of tigers found in the park and for its rich biodiversity. Sarita and Deepak stayed at the Serenity Corbett resort and took a jeep safari in the park. They were rewarded with exceptional views and photos of Asian elephants, tigers, spotted and sambar deer and a Changeable Hawk Eagle. Sarita expressed concern about the large number of safari jeeps with loud passengers that seemed to have no respect for the wildlife. She also cautioned that the monkeys at the resort would take anything they wanted from you. From there they traveled to Pangot in the mountains. Along the way Sarita photographed birds such as the Black-crested Bulbul, Rufous Sibia, Brown Wood-Owl and the very large Crested Kingfisher. They stayed at the Mountain Quail Lodge at 6500 ft. The nights were cold, the roads were scary, and her driver was 9 years old. Two bird species seen there were Koklass Pheasant and Slaty-headed Parakeet. From there they visited the village of Sattal (from Saat Taal or seven lakes) with its breathtaking views of the Himalayas. Sarita said the drive thru Nainital was tricky but

rewarding. She showed a photo of the Himalayan Bulbul from this drive. In this area they stayed in a Hampton Inn-like resort called Damyanti. The resort had commercial blinds for bird photographers. These had water and food to attract birds for photography. Some of the many bird photos she showed from there included a nuthatch, Kalij Pheasant, Rufous Sibia, Indian Scimitar-Babbler and Great Tit. They next traveled to Bharatpur where they stayed at the Ibis House Farm Stay just outside Keoladeo National Park, a UNESCO world heritage site. Sarita especially enjoyed this accommodation and park. She made use of a rickshaw to carry her pack and found the driver knowledgeable and helpful. Here she joined a birding group and met a famous birder considered the “Audubon of India”. Some of the birds seen here included Painted Stork, Wood Owl, Spotted Owlet, Black-headed Ibis, White-throated Kingfisher and Indian Peafowl (peacock). She also saw Nilgai Antelope and Asian Monitor Lizard. Although not visited on this trip, Sarita mentioned that North Karnataka is birding heaven but warned not to go in the monsoon season. Some of the birds from there include Malabar Gray Hornbill, frogmouth, and racket-tailed drongo.

-Margaret Jefferson

## ..... Meeting Highlights .....

Chapter President Liz Hall announced that Sidney Calderon is now in charge of the programs at Lichterman Nature Center. Sidney is new to birding and would like to have some volunteers to help lead birding walks or programs at Lichterman. For more information, please contact Sydney at [Sydney.Calderon@memphistn.gov](mailto:Sydney.Calderon@memphistn.gov).

### Conservation

Several Chapter members expressed concern/hope that the new greywater facility that will be built near Ensley Bottoms will promote rather than hinder the birding that many members enjoy in that area. It was suggested that conservation groups form an advisory committee to engage with planners of that facility to help minimize the loss of wildlife habitat. It was noted that some greywater facilities have built viewing platforms for birders and that this could be recommended. A greywater facility will greatly reduce the use of water from the aquifer for cooling and is a plus for Memphis. Below is a link to an article about the facility. <https://dailymemphian.com/subscriber/article/46845/xai-applies-for-permits-for-greywater-facility>

### Field Trip Notes

**Wapanocca NWR, Oct. 6:** Eight observers split into 2 groups that recorded a total of 46 bird species. Highlights included an Eastern Screech Owl calling in the parking lot, Wood Duck (4), Northern Shoveler (6) Great Egret (6), Bald Eagle (1), Wild Turkey (2), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (6), and Magnolia (6), Bay-breasted (2) Chestnut-sided (1) and Black-throated Green (3) Warblers.

### Notable sightings

Shelby Farms Park: Oct. 13, Henslow’s Sparrow (1); Oct. 15, Nelson’s Sparrow (1), Grasshopper Sparrow (1); Oct. 16, Blue Grosbeak (1), Dickcissel (1)

Ensley Bottoms: Oct.12, Loggerhead Shrike (1); Oct.16, American Avocet (2)

-Margaret Jefferson

## Field Trip Report: 10-26-2024 W.C. Johnson Park, Collierville TN.

The hike, scheduled for 7:30AM, began in subdued light as the sun, if it was up, was obscured by partly cloudy skies. 13 members slowly strolled along the boardwalk with eyes and ears on full alert. We happened to meet Rob Harbin, a previous member and an excellent birder, especially birding by ear, as he was completing his walk on the



trail. He said there wasn't much activity at all, although he did hear a Winter Wren somewhere out there. We continued on towards the river with no luck until Susan Maakestad spotted a couple warblers in a small tree by the boardwalk. After much discussion it was decided that they were Bay-breasted Warblers in fall plumage. Arriving at the river things picked up a little with three Kinglets and a couple other birds.

We left the boardwalk at that point and stepped off onto the Primitive Trail that heads through the woods towards the lake at the west end of the park. From then on we had to make frequent stops to sort out mixed flocks of small birds working in the trees at the more open areas of the forest. Woodpeckers made several appearances including Downy, Red-bellied, Pileated, N. Flicker, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Many of our usual resident birds were seen, Wrens, Jays, Crows, Vultures, Chickadees, Titmouse, Kinglets, an unusual number of Bluebirds (possibly 20), four species of sparrow, and high numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers and Goldfinch.

We had several well-equipped photographers on the hike. Hopefully some great pictures will come from their efforts.

(Text and picture by Chad Brown: trip leader)

# 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](mailto:mtosnewsletter@gmail.com)

## A LA CARTE

- **Weather radar showed a strange blue mass in the eye of Hurricane Helene. What was it?**  
<https://www.vox.com/down-to-earth/374541/hurricane-helene-storm-wind-birds-wildlife>
- **Fancy finches? This extensive field guide is for you.**  
<https://www.audubon.org/es/node/152359>
- **Construction underway for \$10.4 million bird observation deck near Tom Lee Park**  
[https://www.fox13memphis.com/news/construction-underway-for-10-4-million-bird-observation-deck-near-tom-lee-park/article\\_7e80cf62-80c6-11ef-a2cc-d74fe46ef8d3.html](https://www.fox13memphis.com/news/construction-underway-for-10-4-million-bird-observation-deck-near-tom-lee-park/article_7e80cf62-80c6-11ef-a2cc-d74fe46ef8d3.html)
- **Condor rescued as an egg after bird flu killed her mother**  
<https://www.audubon.org/es/node/152444>

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## November/December 2024

### **Saturday, November 9, 7:30am**

Shelby Farms Park

*Field Trip Leader: Cliff VanNostrand*

[birdinginthe901@gmail.com](mailto:birdinginthe901@gmail.com)

Meet at Disk Golf Parking Lot - Pine Lake Drive

### **Sunday, December 15, 7:30am**

Memphis CBC

*Compiler: Anita Vincent*

[avin1129@gmail.com](mailto:avin1129@gmail.com)

### **Wednesday, November 20, 7:00pm**

Chapter Meeting

St. George's Episcopal Church

2425 South Germantown Rd. Germantown, TN

### **Wednesday, December 18, 7:00 pm**

Chapter Meeting

St. George's Episcopal Church

2425 South Germantown Rd.

Germantown, TN

### **Saturday, November 23, 7:30am**

T.O. Fuller SP & Science Center

*Field Trip Leader: Jim Varner*

[jamescvarner@gmail.com](mailto:jamescvarner@gmail.com)

Enter via Mitchell Rd., off Hwy 61.

The Riverport Rd. access is closed.

### **Saturday, December 21, 7:30am**

Fayette County CBC

*Field Trip Leader: Cliff VanNostrand*

[birdinginthe901@gmail.com](mailto:birdinginthe901@gmail.com)

### **Saturday, December 14, 7:30am**

Sardis CBC

*Field Trip Leader: Jason Hoeksema*

[jason.hoeksema@gmail.com](mailto:jason.hoeksema@gmail.com)

### **Sunday, December 22, 7:30am**

Arkabutla CBC

*Field Trip Leader: Hal Mitchell*

[halmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:halmitchell@gmail.com)

### **Saturday, December 28, 7:30am**

Wapanocca/Shelby Forest CBC

*Field Trip Leader:*

*Dick Preston/Cliff VanNostrand*

[dickpreston48@gmail.com](mailto:dickpreston48@gmail.com)

[birdinginthe901@gmail.com](mailto:birdinginthe901@gmail.com)

\*CBC = Christmas Bird Count

<https://tnbirds.org/events/>

# Winter Hummingbirds

- Do you have hummingbirds at your feeder **after** November 1st or **before** March 15th?
- Do you see hummingbirds that are **not** ruby-throated during either migration season?



## What do you do?

1. Try and get a picture!
2. Contact us at:  
[routledges@bellsouth.net](mailto:routledges@bellsouth.net)



- If you are willing, we'll travel to your place and attempt to band the hummingbird.
- It will then become part of our ongoing winter hummingbird research.



**If you have any questions OR need general information please feel free to reach out to us.**



# **MTOS SILENT AUCTION AND HOLIDAY SALE**

**NOVEMBER 20, CHAPTER MEETING  
BROWSING STARTS AT 6:45 PM**

**It's nearly time for holiday shopping and stocking up on birding and nature-related items. This is a recycle-reuse participation opportunity and fund-raiser for MTOS. Come check out items donated by MTOS members for use and enjoyment by others. Bird books of all kinds, artwork, feeders, and miscellaneous good stuff will be on hand. Also, we will have many items for sale for \$5.00 or less.**



**If you need something a bit unusual as a holiday gift, this is your event. Barbara Pyles is Event Coordinator; you can contact her about donations at [brbpyles@gmail.com](mailto:brbpyles@gmail.com).**



# 2024 Christmas Bird Count

December 14 - **Sardis**

December 15 - **Memphis**

December 21 - **Fayette County**

December 22 - **Arkabutla**

December 28 - **Wapanocca/Shelby Forest**

January 4 - **Holly Springs, Mississippi**



### TOS Membership Information

Members may join online at [www.birdmemphis.org](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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  
Email: [2graham@bellsouth.net](mailto:2graham@bellsouth.net)

### Chapter Meeting

**November 20, 2024. 7:00pm**

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

### Program

**David Hill, MTOS**  
*Spring Birding in New Zealand*

### Hospitality

Refreshments will be provided by Judy Dorsey and Gregg Elliott.

### Upcoming Field Trip Information

**November 9**—Shelby Farms/Agricenter

**November 23**—T.O. Fuller SP & Science Center

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

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

Please send your submissions to [mtosnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mtosnewsletter@gmail.com).

### New Members

Ken Briscoe, [purple2penz@yahoo.com](mailto:purple2penz@yahoo.com)  
Kristin N. Moyers, [kristennmoyers@gmail.com](mailto:kristennmoyers@gmail.com)  
Andrew Murray, [Andrewzmurray@gmail.com](mailto:Andrewzmurray@gmail.com)

### Treasurer's Report

As of October 16, 2024 the balance in the Treasury is \$14,401.24.

### New Business

Treasurer Barbara Pyles made a motion to increase the 'no vote-required' spending limit from \$500 to \$750. It was seconded by George Payne. This motion will be voted on at the November 20 chapter meeting. If the motion passes, expense amounts of \$750 or less will not require newsletter publication and chapter vote prior to disbursement. Amounts above \$750 will continue to require publication and chapter vote.

Photos by:  
**Allen Sparks**



Fox Sparrow



Swamp Sparrow



Savannah Sparrow



Dark-eyed Junco

Photos by:  
**Cliff VanNostrand**



White-crowned Sparrow



Field Sparrow



LeConte's Sparrow



Savannah Sparrow



Clay-colored Sparrow



Grasshopper Sparrow

Photos by:  
**Sophie Dismukes**



Chipping Sparrow



LeConte's Sparrow



Henslow's Sparrow



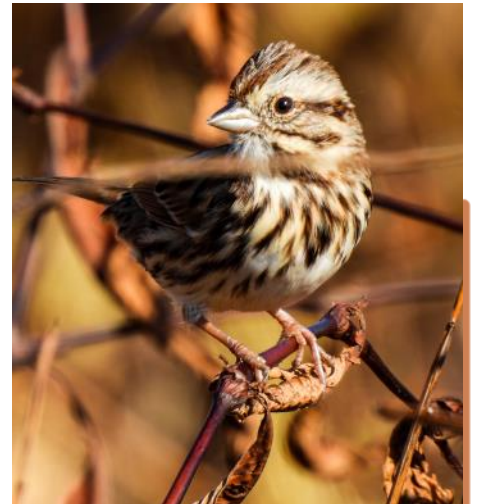
Grasshopper Sparrow



Savannah Sparrow



Dark-eyed Junco



Lincoln's Sparrow

PHOTOS BY:  
**VAN HARRIS**



Rufous-winged Sparrow  
Saguaro National Park



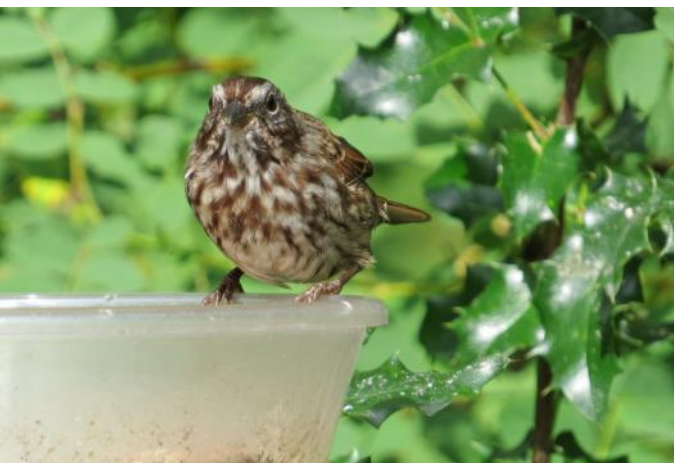
Black-throated Sparrow  
Saguaro National Park



Yellow-eyed Junco  
Mount Lemmon



Golden-crowned Sparrow  
Summit Lake



Song Sparrow (Pacific Northwest)  
Northwest Trek



Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)  
Northwest Trek

# from the camera of:



Ruby-throated Hummingbird



Barred Owl



Cooper's Hawk



White-crowned Sparrow



Orange-crowned Warbler



Great Blue Heron

