



MEMPHIS CHAPTER NEWS

TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

<http://birdmemphis.org>

May 2020

From the President

Dear MTOS,

Because of the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the May MTOS meeting has been cancelled. I hope that all of you are doing well and staying safe and healthy. Spring migration is now in full swing. While walking the dog, I have seen or heard swallows, swifts, warblers, and vireos. I wish all of you an enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you again in the fall.

Best wishes,

Michael Collins



Remembering Chapter Member

Lila Beth Burke

MTOS member Lila Beth Burke died on April 14, 2020. Lila Beth was born in 1936 in Wynne, Arkansas and was a University of Arkansas graduate. She was the Executive Director of the YWCA in Memphis until her retirement in 1996; under her watch many programs such as an abused women's shelter and after-school child care began. Lila Beth joined MTOS in 1999. In addition to birdwatching, Lila Beth enjoyed travel, gardening and was a volunteer for many groups, including Friends for Life and MIFA's Meals on Wheels. A private burial was held in Arkansas.

I will deeply miss seeing Lila Beth's smiling face. Following our meeting site relocation to Germantown, I mainly saw her at St. John's Methodist Church in midtown Memphis. I loved talking with Lila Beth, whether it was about birds, politics, or how much we both appreciated the back deck of the Bhan Thai restaurant on Peabody, on a live music night when the weather was just right. I loved Lila Beth. She was my kinda people.

-Barbara Pyles, Treasurer

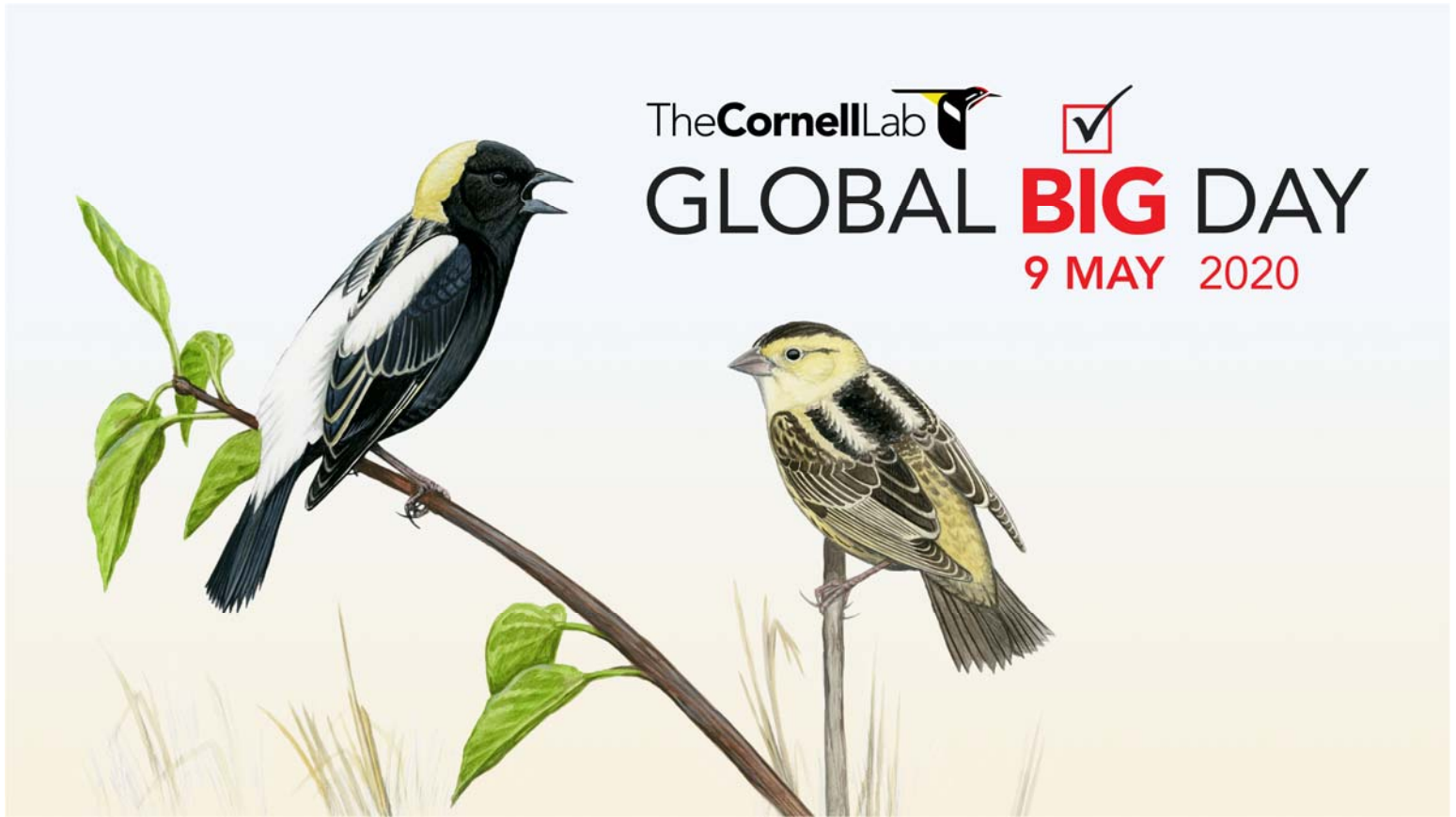
ANOTHER UNUSUAL "BIRD" AT SHELBY FARMS

Saw this guy swimming back and forth in the little pond by the small parking area at the top of the hill at the end of the one-way road in Shelby Farms Park. 4-17-2020.

-Chad Brown



Tom & Barbara Harmon had a Summer Tanager at their mealworm feeder. Barbara sent a picture and a video. <https://bit.ly/summertanager>



How to participate

- **Get an eBird account:** eBird is a worldwide bird checklist program used by millions of birders. It's what allows us to compile everyone's sightings into a single massive Global Big Day list—while at the same time collecting the data to help scientists better understand birds. **Sign up here.** <https://secure.birds.cornell.edu/casso/account/create> It's 100% free from start to finish.
- **Watch birds on 9 May:** It's that simple. You don't need to be a bird expert or go out all day long, even 10 minutes in your backyard counts. Global Big Day runs from midnight to midnight in your local time zone. You can report what you find from anywhere in the world.
- **Enter what you see and hear in eBird:** You can enter your sightings **via our website** <https://support.ebird.org/en/support/solutions/articles/48000957911-enter-sightings-on-the-ebird-website> or download the **free eBird Mobile app**, <https://support.ebird.org/en/support/solutions/articles/48000957940-enter-sightings-with-ebird-mobile> which makes adding what you see even easier. You can enter and submit lists while out birding, and the app tracks how far you've walked so you can focus on enjoying the birds. While you're downloading free apps, try out the Cornell Lab's **Merlin Bird ID** <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/> app for help with identification. Please enter sightings before 13 May to be included in our initial results announcement.
- **Watch the sightings roll in:** During the day, follow along with sightings from more than 170 countries in real-time on our **Global Big Day page** <https://ebird.org/globalbigday>.



SUBMISSIONS WELCOME

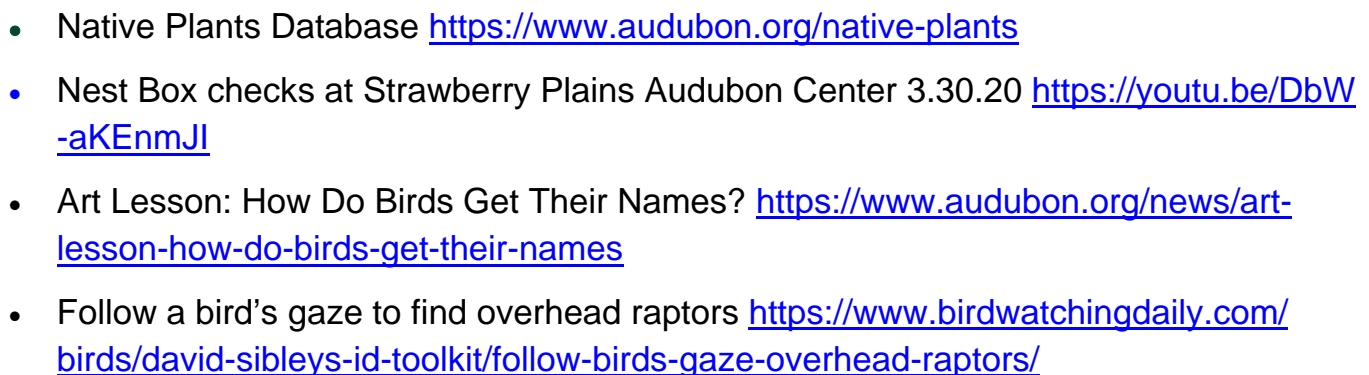
Submissions of any of the following are desired:

- **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



Articles of Interest

- Native Plants Database <https://www.audubon.org/native-plants>
 - Nest Box checks at Strawberry Plains Audubon Center 3.30.20 <https://youtu.be/DbW-aKEnmJI>
 - Art Lesson: How Do Birds Get Their Names? <https://www.audubon.org/news/art-lesson-how-do-birds-get-their-names>
 - Follow a bird's gaze to find overhead raptors <https://www.birdwatchingdaily.com/birds/david-sibleys-id-toolkit/follow-birds-gaze-overhead-raptors/>
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TOS Membership Information

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	\$23
Other Student	\$ 5
Lifetime	\$450 one time +\$18 yearly

Please send dues to: Barbara Pyles
518 Forest Hill-Irene Rd. South
Cordova, TN 38018-4832
(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 Cliff 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

- *February 28 for the April Newsletter
- *June 30 for the August Newsletter
- *October 31 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

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

Upcoming Field Trip Information

All field trips are canceled.

Treasurer's Report

Barbara Pyles notes that the balance in the treasury as of April 21, 2020 is \$15,487.26

There are no new members to report.

Email, Phone, or Address Changes?

Members, now would be a great time to email Barbara brbpyles@gmail.com any contact changes you have, including landlines that you no longer use.

2020 Dues are Due

I encourage members to mail in their 2020 dues to my address

518 Forest Hill-Irene Rd. South
Cordova, TN 38018-4832

Dues levels are also shown. Please make checks payable to MTOS.

If you are not sure if you have paid, feel free to email or text me at brbpyles@gmail.com, (901) 570-1009.

Thanks, Barbara Pyles



During this pandemic "shutdown" I have discovered there are still two outdoor activities I can enjoy. Actually there is a third, but yard work is not way up there on my enjoyment scale. The other two are birding and bicycling. The bicycling is usually accomplished on the Germantown Greenway and around Hyde Lake in Shelby Farms which makes about a 20 mile round trip. Bicycling is not very conducive to bird observation so the birding is done as a separate activity, usually at Shelby Farms Park. My first two pictures, however, were taken on a trail in Oxford, MS that leads to William Faulkner's home, "Rowan Oak." This Hermit Thrush was very cooperative, posing for several pictures while we discussed whether it fit the description of one of the other thrushes more closely than the Hermit. (I was with Betty and David Blaylock "six feet away") (4/10/2020)

The third picture is of an equally cooperative first of the season Northern Rough-winged Swallow at Hyde Lake in Shelby Farms Park. (4/1/2020)

-Chad Brown