



## MEMPHIS CHAPTER NEWS

TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

<http://birdmemphis.org>

August 2020

### *From the President*

Dear MTOS members,

I hope that you and your families are staying healthy during this pandemic. With new cases continuing to occur locally and across the country, MTOS cannot meet in person. Rest assured, MTOS will meet once conditions allow for a safe gathering. St. George's is not open to outside organizations at the moment, but they will let us know when we can meet there again. We already have some exciting speakers lined up, so once we are able to meet in person, we'll be ready!

Not being able to meet in person presents new challenges for MTOS, and the Executive Committee is open to ideas about how MTOS can continue to function so that we maintain our sense of community and continue to fulfill our mission. At least for the moment, **we will not have virtual meetings**. We do not think that these meetings would be well attended by members, and virtual meetings could alienate members who cannot join by Zoom. At least for now, MTOS will not have regular meetings until we can meet in person, either at St. George's or, if necessary, somewhere else.

Knox Martin will host an **Open House at the Mid-South Raptor Center** on Saturday, August 22, from 6-8 pm. Please bring your own food, chairs, and, if you wish, plates, cutlery, etc. Due to the current coronavirus pandemic, we will not have a potluck as in years past. Tea, water, soft drinks, and some adult beverages will be provided.

In lieu of meetings, MTOS will offer **more field trips** with socially-distanced birding. Thanks to Dick Preston and others who have volunteered to lead trips. Judy Dorsey has generously agreed to work with Cyndi Routledge on the new TOS site, and Judy will maintain the **community calendar for MTOS** (<https://tnbirds.org/events/>). Please check out the community calendar for scheduled events. Along with our regularly scheduled trips, we will use the community calendar to advertise impromptu trips. With Cliff VanNostrand's work, MTOS will continue to use the **newsletter** to reach members. Please send photos and reports of unusual sightings to Cliff for inclusion in the newsletter.

Theresa Graham's and Van Harris's terms as State Directors expired in June. Thank you, Theresa and Van, for your service. Because we were unable to meet in the spring, I have appointed Bob Foehring to fill one of these positions. We are looking for another volunteer. Please let me know if you are interested.

I look forward to meeting again when we can. In the meantime, I hope to see you on a field trip. Fall migration is just around the corner!

Respectfully,

Michael Collins

President, MTOS

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO MTOS MEMBER CATHY JUSTIS**

Congratulations to MTOS member Cathy Justis who recently received the Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Award from The Garden Club of America in recognition of her work providing outstanding environmental education to youth. Cathy was nominated locally by the Memphis Garden Club, a member of The Garden Club of America. Cathy is Director of Education for the Wolf River Conservancy and provides a wide range of programming for K-12 students, families, and community members - all with the objective to provide our community with a better understanding of the Wolf River watershed, its connection to our drinking water, its biodiversity, and its need for protection.

## **NEWLY FLEDGED RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER**

A pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers successfully raised one youngster in a mulberry tree in the midtown Memphis yard of Ed Thomas and Margaret Jefferson. The pair were modifying a pre-existing nest cavity on March 18 when we began safer-at-home status. The large fledgling woodpecker emerged on June 3. It was surprising to see the adult woodpeckers disappear into the cavity each time they brought food. The baby bird



did not start to look out of the hole until roughly 1 week before fledging. The adults were not present when the youngster fledged. It seemed to have been left on its own. After 3 months of constant Red-bellied Woodpecker activity the birds have disappeared from our yard. Last spring, European Starlings disrupted an attempt by Red-bellied Woodpeckers to nest in the same cavity.

-Margaret Jefferson



# SUBMISSIONS WELCOME

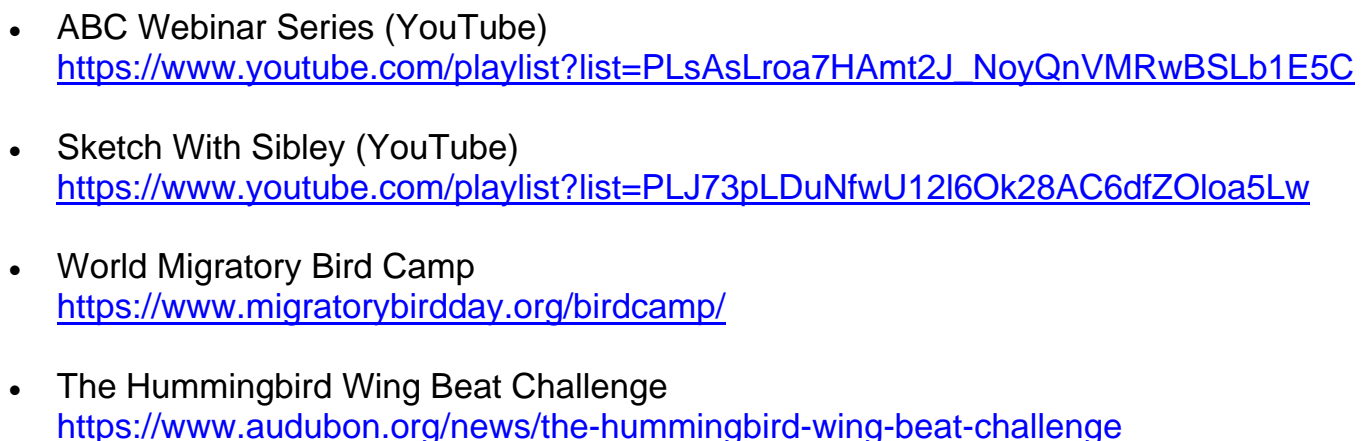
Submissions of any of the following are desired:

- **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)



## Articles of Interest

- ABC Webinar Series (YouTube)  
[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLsAsLroa7HAm2J\\_NoyQnVMRwBSLb1E5C](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLsAsLroa7HAm2J_NoyQnVMRwBSLb1E5C)
  - Sketch With Sibley (YouTube)  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJ73pLDuNfwU12l6Ok28AC6dfZOloa5Lw>
  - World Migratory Bird Camp  
<https://www.migratorybirdday.org/birdcamp/>
  - The Hummingbird Wing Beat Challenge  
<https://www.audubon.org/news/the-hummingbird-wing-beat-challenge>
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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  
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 Cliff 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**

- \*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) 465-4263  
Email: [2graham@bellsouth.net](mailto:2graham@bellsouth.net)

### **Chapter Meeting**

Chapter Meetings are cancelled until further notice.

### **Upcoming Field Trip Information**

See notices on next page.

### **Welcome May & June 2020 Members**

Eric Prenger, Millington  
[ericprenger2011@gmail.com](mailto:ericprenger2011@gmail.com)

Jon Densford, Memphis  
[j2d2@juno.com](mailto:j2d2@juno.com)  
[jdensf@msn.com](mailto:jdensf@msn.com)

Stephanie Smith, Memphis  
[neffie82@yahoo.com](mailto:neffie82@yahoo.com)

Holly Elkins, Memphis  
[HLElkins@gmail.com](mailto:HLElkins@gmail.com)

John and Anne Whirley, Memphis  
[jwhirley@gmail.com](mailto:jwhirley@gmail.com)  
[ARWhirley@gmail.com](mailto:ARWhirley@gmail.com)

David Brogdon, Memphis  
[david.brogdon@comcast.net](mailto:david.brogdon@comcast.net)

### **Treasurer's Report**

The balance in the Treasury as of July 21, 2020 is \$16,713.26. This compares with a balance in the Treasury of \$16,520.42 one year ago (July 24, 2019). Many members have mailed in 2020 dues over the spring and summer months. Thank you, members.

### **New Business**

Treasurer Barbara Pyles requests chapter approval (and a vote on August 22) for spending up to \$300 for printing Directories in September 2020.

## Notice

### Links to Chapter Activities

TOS Memphis Chapter website <http://birdmemphis.org/>

TOS State-wide event calendar <https://tnbirds.org/events/>

### Chapter Birding Field Trips:

August 29 (Saturday): Ensley Bottoms (the pits). T.E. Maxson office parking lot, 2685 Steam Plant Road, at 7:30 AM. Shorebirds. \*See contact below

September 9 (Wednesday): Ensley Bottoms (the pits). T.E. Maxson office parking lot, 2685 Steam Plant Road, at 7:30 AM. Shorebirds. \*See contact below

September 12 (Saturday) Shelby County traditional fall count. Bird anywhere in Shelby County and forward your results to [dickpreston48@gmail.com](mailto:dickpreston48@gmail.com) or 901-837-3360. Dick Preston will meet anyone interested in birding Shelby Forest at the Visitors Center, at 7:30 AM.

September 16 (Wednesday): Shelby Forest. Meet at the Visitors Center at 7:30 AM. \*See contact below

September 19 (Saturday): Fort Pillow and Lower Hatchie NWR. Meet at the Alex Haley rest stop, highway 51, just north of Covington, at 7:30 AM. We will caravan from there. \*See contact below

September 30 (Wednesday) Shelby Forest. Meet at the Visitors Center, at 7:30 AM. \*See contact below

\* August and September field trips will be led by Dick Preston ([dickpreston48@gmail.com](mailto:dickpreston48@gmail.com) or 901-837-3360)

### Other Events:

The **Mid-South Raptor Center Open House** is scheduled for Saturday, August 22, from 6-8 pm. Please bring your own food, chairs, and, if you wish, plates, cutlery, etc. Due to the current coronavirus pandemic we will not have a potluck as in years past. Tea, water, soft drinks, and some adult beverages will be provided, but feel free to bring your own drinks if you have a favorite!

Please wear masks. With plenty of room outside on the grounds, it will be easy to practice social distancing.

Please enter at the east end of Smythe Farm Road off Germantown Parkway, as the gate at the west end will be closed.

\*\* PLEASE RSVP to Knox Martin at [knoxmartin2@aol.com](mailto:knoxmartin2@aol.com) or (901) 685-8827. \*\*



## A DAY AT WAPANOCCA NWR



Mississippi Kite



Prothonotary Warbler



Black-billed Cuckoo



Black-billed Cuckoo



Dickcissel

Betty & David Blaylock, Sue Ferguson and I spent Wednesday at Wapanocca on 5/20/2020. On a day that started out with gray skies and slightly cool temperatures we travelled the usual route stopping at many places to see what the refuge would produce for us. Much vocalization going on most of the time and some we actually could identify. Many of our summer residents were there including Mississippi Kites, Summer Tanagers, Wood Ducks, Great Egrets, Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos, Great Crested Flycatchers, White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos, Barn Swallows, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, and an ample supply of Indigo Buntings. We were blessed with a number of sightings of the cuckoos in various locations. A few pictures I managed are attached.

—Chad Brown



# Photos by Van Harris



Spotted Sandpiper



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron



Swainson's Thrush



Barred Owl



Chipping Sparrow



Palm Warbler



Prothonotary Warbler