

Seasonal Occurrences of Shelby County, Tennessee Birds

This publication provides reasonable estimates of arrival and departure dates of transients, seasonal residents and visitors, a record of occasional and accidental sightings and the presence of year-round residents.

The information is a culmination of over twelve thousand field cards and notes collected for Shelby County since 1929. The original publication in 1982 was supported by the tireless efforts and encouragement of the late Ben B. Coffey, Jr. whose records provided the basis for this publication and the start of the Memphis Chapter of TOS. Revisions were in 1987 and 1998. This publication extends the reporting time into 2022 in an ongoing attempt to sustain a correct and timely record of sightings in Shelby County. It would not have been possible without the continued work and support of the members of the Memphis chapter who have contributed countless hours of work, but most importantly kept records of their sightings. The color graphing shows the expectation of sighting a species within Shelby County. An attempt is made to indicate current possibility of sighting a species though historical records may show greater density. The population densities of birds and chances of seeing them are divided into six categories listed below. Dates of arrivals or departures within a given month are provided. If no date is shown the species may appear at any time in that month. An observation prior to the printed arrival date or subsequent to the printed departure date would be an early or late record and should be reported to MTOS.

Common – seen every day in proper habitat

Fairly common – seen every day in proper habitat

Uncommon – may be seen but infrequent or unpredictable numbers

Rare – seen now and then though could be expected every year

Very Rare – very few seen and not every year; single sighting

Accidental – sighting outside of normal range

Good Birding,
Martha Waldron

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	O	P	Q	R
1	Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec		Comment		
2	Brown Booby									9					9/9/2018 Mark Greene		
3	Black-bellied Whistling Duck																
4	Fulvous Whistling Duck				8						6						
5	Greater White-fronted Goose				8	24					5						
6	Snow Goose					15					2				5/15/1998		
7	Ross's Goose				21												
8	Brant				28												
9	Cackling Goose			22									26				
10	Canada Goose																
11	Mute Swan																
12	Trumpeter Swan	6													11/30/1820; 6/2001 dead		
13	Tundra Swan	14	19												1820 J.J. Audubon		
14	Wood Duck																
15	Gadwall			21			10			22							
16	Eurasian Wigeon	18													1/18/2009		
17	American Wigeon				20					19							
18	American Black Duck			23					30	1	7				8/30/21 DDP		
19	Mallard																
20	Mottled Duck																
21	Blue-winged Teal																
22	Cinnamon Teal									29					8/29/1994		
23	Northern Shoveler										20						
24	Northern Pintail				3					23							
25	Garganey				5-Jan					3					1976/1994		
26	Green-winged Teal																
27	Canvasback				8			19-20				1					
28	Redhead				10	28						26			5/28/? VBR		
29	Ring-necked Duck					29					13						
30	Greater Scaup				8										4/8/2000		
31	Lesser Scaup						25		15		3						
32	Surf Scoter	21															
33	White-winged Scoter			3													
34	Black Scoter			4							16						
35	Long-tailed Duck			28								15					
36	Bufflehead				26												
37	Common Goldeneye																
38	Hooded Merganser					21											
39	Common Merganser																
40	Red-breasted Merganser				10												
41	Ruddy Duck																
42	Wild Turkey																
43	Northern Bobwhite																
44	Common Loon				8						5						
45	Pied-billed Grebe																
46	Horned Grebe				12							22					
47	Red-necked Grebe														2/7/2007; 11/14/2008		
48	Eared Grebe																
49	Western Grebe				2										5/2/1999		
50	Clarke's Grebe											5			11/5/2004		
51	American White Pelican	16	19										14		Shelby Farams +others		
52	Brown Pelican				12	16						2			5/16/1936 1st state		
53	Neotropic Cormorant																
54	Double-crested Cormorant				5	6											
55	Anhinga			21								10					
56	American Bittern		4		7			25	11	20		13			11/13/2013 Jay Walko		
57	Least Bittern				30					10							
58	Great Blue Heron																
59	Great Egret			6							29		17				
60	Snowy Egret				1							1			4/1/2012		
61	Little Blue Heron				23						17			26			
62	Tricolored Heron					15											
63	Reddish Egret					12									5/12/2017		
64	Cattle Egret			6							21				Mud Lake		
65	Green Heron			21							29		18				
66	Black-crowned Night-Heron			6		9									6/9/1998		
67	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron			7							29						
68	White Ibis							14									
69	Glossy Ibis				13				24			6			Pullium photo		
70	White-faced Ibis				19	3			25						5/3/2013 JRW		
71	Great Shearwater							17							2019 Hurricane Barry		
72	Roseate Spoonbill														2007/2008 SFSP		
73	Wood Stork							14					20		11/20/1963		
74	Black Vulture																
75	Turkey Vulture																
76	Osprey			26								5	3		nest bldg 4/1/?		

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1	Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec		Comment		
77	Mississippi Kite		28									23	3		11/3/2000	Germantown	
78	Bald Eagle																
79	Northern Harrier					13			2								
80	Sharp-shinned Hawk				27	31				20							
81	Cooper's Hawk																
82	Northern Goshawk																
83	Red-shouldered Hawk																
84	Broad-winged Hawk	7			23							22	10	18	1/7/1991		
85	Swainson's Hawk					25	3										
86	Red-tailed Hawk																
87	Rough-legged Hawk		20						26		13						
88	Golden Eagle														1/30/2013	SFSP SNM	
89	Yellow Rail									22					9/22/1990		
90	King Rail			24						1					nest 1952		
91	Virginia Rail				10				31		5	17	11				
92	Sora			12					21			28	18		3/12/2000		
93	Purple Gallinule			16		29									3/16/1936	BBC	
94	Common Gallinule 3/19/1956			19				18			5			14	12/14/2021	Ron Hoff,DA	
95	American Coot																
96	Limpkin				17										fractured back 4/17/2021	died	
97	Sandhill Crane																
98	Black-bellied Plover								6			25					
99	American Golden-plover		27			9				6					2/27/1997		
100	Wilson's Plover				17										4/17/1988		
101	Semiplumated Plover		6		11	27							16		3/6/1978		
102	Piping Plover			24													
103	Killdeer																
104	Black-necked Stilt			15		16				19	17				3/15/2012	Jay Walko	
105	American Avocet																
106	Greater Yellowlegs			2		18			3				23				
107	Lesser Yellowlegs		6	2									21		2/6/1994		
108	Solitary Sandpiper		11	19		27		5				25			2/11/2017	VBR	
109	Willet				13	5											
110	Spotted Sandpiper		9		26		26	24	7			26	27	29			
111	Upland Sandpiper			12		2		21	10			27		13			
112	Whimbrel							8			7						
113	Long-billed Curlew										27				9/27/1993		
114	Hudsonian Godwit				10							20			4/10/2017;10/20/2019	VBR	
115	Marbled Godwit				12	1						5			4/12/2019;10/20/2019	VBR	
116	Ruddy Turnstone										21	13					
117	Red Knot								6			18					
118	Sanderling	3															
119	Semipalmated Sandpiper				6	29		16					18				
120	Western Sandpiper	1		26	16			23					23				
121	Red-necked Stint								8			21			1993/1994		
122	Least Sandpiper													22			
123	White-rumped Sandpiper				14								1				
124	Baird's Sandpiper			12									25				
125	Pectoral Sandpiper			9			22	7					23	4			
126	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper									9					9/9/2004		
127	Purple Sandpiper											30			11/30/1976		
128	Dunlin			24								26	21				
129	Stilt Sandpiper			10					3		26	29	15				
130	Buff-breasted Sandpiper					26							17				
131	Ruff				19	14				21			25				
132	Short-billed Dowitcher			27	6	18		4	3			25					
133	Long-billed Dowitcher			25		19			16								
134	Wilson's Snipe					8			17		11						
135	American Woodcock																
136	Wilson's Phalarope			24	16			24	9		9		24				
137	Red-necked Phalarope								14	22					8/14/1993	9/22/1993	
138	Red Phalarope								19			27			10/27/2007		
139	Pomarine Jaeger											23			10/23/2005		
140	Jaeger sp.									23							
141	Laughing Gull	19		11			25		17	25	29		23				
142	Franklin's Gull	9	5		19	2		30		15	8		3				
143	Bonaparte's Gull											11	21				
144	Ring-billed Gull					15		16		11							
145	Herring Gull					3			24								
146	Glaucous Gull		5										25		1988/2008		
147	Sabine's Gull									3		21			1988/2009		
148	Black-legged Kittiwake												8-Jan		12/8-9/2008		
149	Caspian Tern				24			18				22					
150	Royal Tern							26							7/26/2008		
151	Common Tern				7	24					1						
152	Forster's Tern		17										25				

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1	Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec		Comment			
229	Brown-headed Nuthatch			23											mid-Jan - 23 March 2021			
230	Brown Creeper				30	10				8					5/10/2016			
231	Rock Wren												23		12/23/1956			
232	Carolina Wren																	
233	Bewick's Wren	Once considered as an uncommon visitor and nesting species																
234	House Wren				9			22	17						First nest record 2021			
235	Winter Wren				27						2							
236	Sedge Wren			14	9				8									
237	Marsh Wren				22	13			21									
238	Golden-crowned Kinglet				24					18					4/24/1994			
239	Ruby-crowned Kinglet					12				17								
240	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			17						29								
241	Eastern Bluebird																	
242	Veery				20	21				4								
243	Gray-cheeked Thrush				12	31				9			13					
244	Swainson's Thrush						1		19	2		2						
245	Hermit Thrush									9								
246	Wood Thrush	1			2								10	1				
247	American Robin																	
248	Gray Catbird			10										CBC	3/10/2004			
249	Northern Mockingbird																	
250	Brown Thrasher																	
251	European Starling																	
252	American Pipit					1		29			10				Ensley 7/29/17 DDP, Rob Harbin			
253	Sprague's Pipit				23													
254	Cedar Waxwing						8		27									
255	Lapland Longspur			19														
256	Chestnut-collared Longspur												14		JRW.Pits 2012			
257	Snow Bunting		11										27		2/11/1979 SF			
258	Smith's Longspur				16													
259	Ovenbird			31	3		4		17	6	18							
260	Worm-eating Warbler			27								25						
261	Louisiana Waterthrush			13						13								
262	Northern Waterthrush				17	21			29	6	6							
263	Blue-winged Warbler			27		12		28			25			14	5/12/2001 7/28/2004			
264	Golden-winged Warbler				12	20			20	29	5							
265	"Brewster's Warbler"				19					23								
266	"Lawrence's Warbler"				14	27												
267	Black-and-white Warbler				21		24	17			11	1	20					
268	Prothonotary Warbler				31					26	19							
269	Worm-eating Warbler				27						25							
270	Swainson's Warbler				3				31	24					4/3/2017 SFSP			
271	Tennessee Warbler				4	25	4		19			27						
272	Orange-crowned Warbler	24	10	28		12				11		8						
273	Nashville Warbler				1	15			21			18						
274	Connecticut Warbler				23	19					15				5/19/2017			
275	Mourning Warbler				15	31			19		27	25						
276	Kentucky Warbler			25						30								
277	Common Yellowthroat				27							21						
278	Hooded Warbler				22							26						
279	American Redstart				6							21						
280	Cape May Warbler	3			22	19			20	24		2						
281	Cerulean Warbler				3						30							
282	Northern Parula			1								25						
283	Magnolia Warbler				10		24	7					10					
284	Bay-breasted Warbler				24	24			31	12		7						
285	Blackburnian Warbler				3	28			28	8		23						
286	Yellow Warbler				9							27						
287	Chestnut-sided Warbler				16	27		7		1		27						
288	Blackpoll Warbler				14	22												
289	Black-thr. Blue Warbler								24			4						
290	Palm Warbler				1	23												
291	Pine Warbler																	
292	Yellow-rumped Warbler					17				24								
293	Yellow-throated Warbler				19							24						
294	Prairie Warbler				9	18		3							Rob Harbin 7.3.2014			
295	Black-throated Green Warbler				19	25			3			24			Chickasaw Basin Wolf			
296	Canada Warbler				22				11		28							
297	Wilson's Warbler				22	26			19			5			11/5/2015			
298	Yellow-breasted Chat	26			14					29	13		12					
299	Green-tailed Towhee												25					
300	Spotted Towhee														banded in 1953			
301	Eastern Towhee																	
302	Bachman's Sparrow			Not reported since the 1950's														
303	American Tree Sparrow												16		11/16/? Ron Harbin			

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1	Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec		Comment		
304	Chipping Sparrow																
305	Clay-colored Sparrow										8				10/8-11/2020		
306	Field Sparrow																
307	Vesper Sparrow	27	1		28												
308	Lark Sparrow							28							7/28/2020		
309	Savannah Sparrow					23				9							
310	Grasshopper Sparrow								17								
311	Henslow's Sparrow			27	24								3				
312	LeConte's Sparrow				1	8						6			5/8/1996		
313	Nelson's Sparrow				8	16				22		13					
314	Fox Sparrow					27					18						
315	Song Sparrow																
316	Lincoln's Sparrow									22					9/22/1996		
317	Swamp Sparrow					16				28							
318	White-throated Sparrow						4			15							
319	Harris' Sparrow					3					30						
320	White-crowned Sparrow					17				4							
321	Dark-eyed Junco					10	30			21					6/30/2020 Norman Soskel		
322	Summer Tanager		2								17		5		2/2/1978see Migrant		
323	Scarlet Tanager			9	nest	3		15	6	28							
324	Western Tanager				6												
325	Northern Cardinal																
326	Rose-breasted Grosbeak				15	22			30			16	17				
327	Black-headed Grosbeak																
328	Blue Grosbeak			24	13					20							
329	Lazuli Bunting				29	3									1996/2000		
330	Indigo Bunting		22									5					
331	Painted Bunting				11			18			15	2			??ebird		
332	Dickcissel	27			14				29			3					
333	Bobolink				17	29			15		18						
334	Red-winged Blackbird																
335	Eastern Meadowlark																
336	Western Meadowlark					24	nested 1951				15						
337	Yellow-headed Blackbird														12/15/2011 JRW		
338	Rusty Blackbird				19	16					11						
339	Brewer's Blackbird				15							27					
340	Common Grackle																
341	Shiny Cowbird							6-Jan							7/6-10/1995		
342	Bronzed Cowbird											30			11/30/2017		
343	Brown-headed Blackbird																
344	Orchard Oriole				4			26							11/8/?ebird not confirmed		
345	Baltimore Oriole			18	5					13	4						
346	Purple Finch					7											
347	Common Redpoll.feeder.2022		3-Feb											21-22	feeder.Collierville.2017		
348	House Finch																
349	Red Crossbill							nested									
350	White-winged Crossbill												26		12/26/1954; 1st state		
351	Pine Siskin					22	6				10						
352	American Goldfinch																
353	Evening Grosbeak					9					17						
354	House Sparrow																
355															common		
356															fairly common		
357															uncommon		
358															rare		
359															occasional		
360															accidental		