

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

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1	Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec				
150	Caspian Tern				24			18			22						
151	Royal Tern							26							7/26/2008		
152	Common Tern			7	24					1							
153	Forster's Tern		17										25				
154	Least Tern				25					25							
155	Black Tern				13						14						
156	Rock Pigeon																
157	Eurasian Collared Dove																
158	White-winged Dove			27						20							
159	Mourning Dove																
160	Common Ground-Dove	13				2			9	25							
161	Black-billed Cuckoo			11	22				3	27					9/3/1998		
162	Yellow-billed Cuckoo				2							2	23				
163	Barn Owl																
164	Eastern Screech-Owl																
165	Great Horned Owl																
166	Barred Owl																
167	Long-eared Owl																
168	Short-eared Owl				17						12						
169	Northern Saw-whet Owl			2								1			03/01/1936 1st in SC		
170	Common Nighthawk			11	19												
171	Chuck-wills-widow				2				28	9					9/9/2008		
172	Whip-poor-will									23		25					
173	Chimney Swift			6											3/6/2016 downtown		
174	Ruby-throated Hummingbird										27						
175	Calliope Hummingbird	2													01/02/2021 banded		
176	Broad-billed Hummingbird							13							1st state record		
177	Rufous Hummingbird		28								4	8					
178	Selasphorus sp.																
179	Belted Kingfisher																
180	Red-headed Woodpecker																
181	Red-bellied Woodpecker																
182	Yellow-bellied Woodpecker						7		25								
183	Downy Woodpecker																
184	Hairy Woodpecker																
185	Northern Flicker																
186	"Red-shafted" Flicker	1											27		1959/1960		
187	Pileated Woodpecker																
188	American Kestrel																
189	Merlin					15				15					5/15/2012		
190	Peregrine Falcon					14											
191	Prairie Falcon																
192	Monk Parakeet																
193	Olive-sided Flycatcher				21			8		1							
194	Eastern Wood-Pewee			11							28						
195	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				20	23			19	4							
196	Acadian Flycatcher				11						25				9/25/1998		
197	Alder Flycatcher					3				18					5/3/2008		
198	Willow Flycatcher					3					4-13				Oct-98		
199	Least Flycatcher				24	28		2		7							
200	Eastern Phoebe																
201	Say's Phoebe		9	8									22				
202	Vermillion Flycatcher										17		1				
203	Ash-throated Flycatcher																
204	Great Crested Flycatcher		14	27						24	16				2/14/2022 Norman Soskel		
205	Western Kingbird				17							1					
206	Eastern Kingbird			27						27							
207	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher				3					30		1			4/3/2022 Cliff VanNostrand		
208	Loggerhead Shrike														Very difficult to find		
209	White-eyed Vireo			21													
210	Bell's Vireo																
211	Yellow-throated Vireo			19							23						
212	Blue-headed Vireo		3			18			31			30					
213	Warbling Vireo				31					18	4						
214	Philadelphia Vireo			31		24			25	18	14				10/14/2021 SFSP		
215	Red-eyed Vireo			24	5							3					
216	Blue Jay																
217	American Crow																
218	Fish Crow																
219	Horned Lark																
220	Purple Martin		1									27					
221	Tree Swallow			13		19		11							3/13/1998		
222	Northern Rough-winged Swallow			6											3/6/2021		
223	Bank Swallow				8							26					

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1	Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec				
224	Cliff Swallow			21								1					
225	Barn Swallow		8									28	19				
226	Carolina Chickadee																
227	Tufted Titmouse																
228	Red-breasted Nuthatch					11				9							
229	White-breasted Nuthatch																
230	Brown-headed Nuthatch			23											mid-Jan - 23 March 2021		
231	Brown Creeper					30	10			8					5/10/2016		
232	Rock Wren												23		12/23/1956		
233	Carolina Wren																
234	Bewick's Wren	Once considered as an uncommon visitor and nesting species															
235	House Wren					9		22	17						First nest record 2021		
236	Winter Wren					27					2						
237	Sedge Wren			14		9			8								
238	Marsh Wren				22	13			21								
239	Golden-crowned Kinglet					24					18				4/24/1994		
240	Ruby-crowned Kinglet					12					17						
241	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				17						29						
242	Eastern Bluebird																
243	Veery					20	21				4						
244	Gray-cheeked Thrush					12	31			9			13				
245	Swainson's Thrush							1		19	2		2				
246	Hermit Thrush									9							
247	Wood Thrush	1			2								10	1			
248	American Robin																
249	Gray Catbird				10								CBC		3/10/2004		
250	Northern Mockingbird																
251	Brown Thrasher																
252	European Starling																
253	American Pipit					1			29			10			Ensley 7/29/17 DDP,Rob Harbin		
254	Sprague's Pipit					23											
255	Cedar Waxwing						8			27							
256	Lapland Longspur				19												
257	Chestnut-collard Longspur												14		JRW.Pits 2012		
258	Snow Bunting			11									27		2/11/1979 SF		
259	Smith's Longspur					16											
260	Ovenbird				31	3		4			17	6	18				
261	Worm-eating Warbler					27							25				
262	Louisiana Waterthrush				13						13						
263	Northern Waterthrush					17	21				29	6	6				
264	Blue-winged Warbler				27		12			28			25		14	5/12/2001	7/28/2004
265	Golden-winged Warbler					12	20			20		29	5				
266	"Brewster's Warbler"					19						23					
267	"Lawrence's Warbler"					14	27										
268	Black-and-white Warbler					21			24	17			11	1		20	
269	Prothonotary Warbler					31						26	19				
270	Worm-eating Warbler					27							25				
271	Swainson's Warbler					3					31	24					
272	Tennessee Warbler					4		25	4		19			27			
273	Orange-crowned Warbler		24	10		28		12				11		8			
274	Nashville Warbler					1		15			21			18			
275	Connecticut Warbler					23	19					15			5/19/2017		
276	Mourning Warbler					15	31				19		27	25			
277	Kentucky Warbler					25						30					
278	Common Yellowthroat					27							21				
279	Hooded Warbler					22							26				
280	American Redstart					6							21				
281	Cape May Warbler		3				22	19			20	24		2			
282	Cerulean Warbler					3						30					
283	Northern Parula				1								25				
284	Magnolia Warbler					10			24		7				10		
285	Bay-breasted Warbler					24	24				31	12		7			
286	Blackburnian Warbler					3		28			28	8		23			
287	Yellow Warbler					9								27			
288	Chestnut-sided Warbler					16	27		7			1		27			
289	Blackpoll Warbler					14	22										
290	Black-thr. Blue Warbler									24			4				
291	Palm Warbler					1		23									
292	Pine Warbler																
293	Yellow-rumped Warbler						17					24					
294	Yellow-throated Warbler					19							24				
295	Prairie Warbler					9		18		3					Rob Harbin 7.3.2014		
296	Black-throated Green Warbler					19		25			3		24		Chickasaw Basin Wolf		
297	Canada Warbler					22					11		28				

	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					
298	Wilson's Warbler				22	26			19			5			11/5/2015			
299	Yellow-breasted Chat	26			14					29	13		12					
300	Green-tailed Towhee												25					
301	Spotted Towhee														banded in 1953			
302	Eastern Towhee																	
303	Bachman's Sparrow			Not reported since the 1950's														
304	American Tree Sparrow											16			11/16/? Ron Harbin			
305	Chipping Sparrow																	
306	Clay-colored Sparrow										8				10/8-11/2020			
307	Field Sparrow																	
308	Vesper Sparrow	27	1		28													
309	Lark Sparrow							28							7/28/2020			
310	Savannah Sparrow					23				9								
311	Grasshopper Sparrow								17									
312	Henslow's Sparrow			27	24								3					
313	LeConte's Sparrow				1	8						6			5/8/1996			
314	Nelson's Sparrow				8	16				22		13						
315	Fox Sparrow					27						18						
316	Song Sparrow																	
317	Lincoln's Sparrow									22					9/22/1996			
318	Swamp Sparrow					16				28								
319	White-throated Sparrow						4			15								
320	Harris' Sparrow					3						30						
321	White-crowned Sparrow					17					4							
322	Dark-eyed Junco					10	30			21					6/30/2020 Norman Soskel			
323	Summer Tanager		2									17		5	2/2/1978see Migrant			
324	Scarlet Tanager			9	nest		3	15	6		28							
325	Western Tanager					6												
326	Northern Cardinal																	
327	Rose-breasted Grosbeak				15	22			30			16	17					
328	Black-headed Grosbeak																	
329	Blue Grosbeak			24	13					20								
330	Lazuli Bunting				29	3									1996/2000			
331	Indigo Bunting		22									5						
332	Painted Bunting				11			18			15	2			???ebird			
333	Dickcissel	27			14				29			3						
334	Bobolink				17	29			15			18						
335	Red-winged Blackbird																	
336	Eastern Meadowlark																	
337	Western Meadowlark					24	nested 1951				15							
338	Yellow-headed Blackbird														12/15/2011 JRW			
339	Rusty Blackbird				19	16						11						
340	Brewer's Blackbird				15							27						
341	Common Grackle																	
342	Shiny Cowbird							6-Jan							7/6-10/1995			
343	Bronzed Cowbird											30			11/30/2017			
344	Brown-headed Blackbird																	
345	Orchard Oriole				4			26							11/8/?ebird not confirmed			
346	Baltimore Oriole			18	5					13	4							
347	Purple Finch					7												
348	Common Redpoll.feeder.2022		3-Feb										21-22		feeder.Collierville.2017			
349	House Finch																	
350	Red Crossbill							nested										
351	White-winged Crossbill												26		12/26/1954; 1st state			
352	Pine Siskin					22	6					10						
353	American Goldfinch																	
354	Evening Grosbeak					9						17						
355	House Sparrow																	
356															common			
357															fairly common			
358															uncommon			
359															rare			
360															occasional			
361															accidental			