

## 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
1	Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec		
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			

common  
 fairly common  
 uncommon  
 rare  
 occasional  
 accidental

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	O	P
1	Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec		
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 Farms +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



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1	Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec		
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					29		11/20/1963
74	Black Vulture														
75	Turkey Vulture														
76	Osprey			26								5	3		nest bldg 4/1/?
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
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	Semiplamated Plover			6	11	27						16			3/6/1978
102	Piping Plover			24											
103	Killdeer														



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1	Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec		
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;10/20/2019VBR
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

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1	Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec		
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		
153	Least Tern				25					25					
154	Black Tern				13						14				
155	Rock Pigeon														
156	Eurasian Collared Dove														
157	White-winged Dove			27						20					
158	Mourning Dove														
159	Common Ground-Dove	13				2			9		25				
160	Black-billed Cuckoo			11	22				3		27				9/3/1998
161	Yellow-billed Cuckoo				2							2	23		
162	Barn Owl														
163	Eastern Screech-Owl														
164	Great Horned Owl														
165	Barred Owl														
166	Long-eared Owl														
167	Short-eared Owl				17						12				
168	Northern Saw-whet Owl			2									1		03/01/1936 1st in SC
169	Common Nighthawk			11	19										
170	Chuck-wills-widow				2				28	9					9/9/2008
171	Whip-poor-will									23		25			

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1	Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec		
172	Chimney Swift			6											3/6/2016 downtown
173	Ruby-throated Hummingbird										27				
174	Calliope Hummingbird	2													01/02/2021 banded
175	Rufous Hummingbird		28								4		8		
176	Selasphorus sp.														
177	Belted Kingfisher														
178	Red-headed Woodpecker														
179	Red-bellied Woodpecker														
180	Yellow-bellied Woodpecker					7			25						
181	Downy Woodpecker														
182	Hairy Woodpecker														
183	Northern Flicker														
184	"Red-shafted" Flicker	1											27		1959/1960
185	Pileated Woodpecker														
186	American Kestrel														
187	Merlin					15				15					5/15/2012
188	Peregrine Falcon					14									
189	Prairie Falcon														
190	Monk Parakeet				Nested in 1973										
191	Olive-sided Flycatcher				21				8			1			
192	Eastern Wood-Pewee			11								28			
193	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				20	23			19		4				
194	Acadian Flycatcher				11							25			9/25/1998
195	Alder Flycatcher					3				18					5/3/2008
196	Willow Flycatcher					3					4-13				Oct-98
197	Least Flycatcher				24	28			2		7				
198	Eastern Phoebe														
199	Say's Phoebe		9	8									22		
200	Vermillion Flycatcher										17		1		
201	Ash-throated Flycatcher										17				
202	Great Crested Flycatcher		14	27						24	16				2/14/2022 Norman Soskel
203	Western Kingbird				17							1			
204	Eastern Kingbird			27						27					
205	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	5			8						30	1			



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1	Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec		
206	Loggerhead Shrike														Very difficult to find
207	White-eyed Vireo			21											
208	Bell's Vireo														First recorded 1935
209	Yellow-throated Vireo			19							23				
210	Blue-headed Vireo			3	18				31			30			
211	Warbling Vireo			31						18	4				
212	Philadelphia Vireo			31	24				25	18	14				10/14/2021 SFSP
213	Red-eyed Vireo			24	5							3			
214	Blue Jay														
215	American Crow														
216	Fish Crow														
217	Horned Lark														
218	Purple Martin		1									27			
219	Tree Swallow			13	19			11							3/13/1998
220	Northern Rough-winged Swallow			6											3/6/2021
221	Bank Swallow				8						26				
222	Cliff Swallow			21								1			
223	Barn Swallow			8								28	19		
224	Carolina Chickadee														
225	Tufted Titmouse														
226	Red-breasted Nuthatch					11				9					
227	White-breasted Nuthatch														
228	Brown-headed Nuthatch			23											mid-Jan - 23 March 2021
229	Brown Creeper				30	10				8					5/10/2016
230	Rock Wren												23		12/23/1956
231	Carolina Wren														
232	Bewick's Wren	Once considered as an uncommon visitor and nesting species													
233	House Wren					9		22	17						First nest record 2021
234	Winter Wren				27						2				
235	Sedge Wren			14	9			8							
236	Marsh Wren				22	13			21				19		
237	Golden-crowned Kinglet				24					18					4/24/1994
238	Ruby-crowned Kinglet					12				17					
239	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			17						29					





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1	Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec		
240	Eastern Bluebird														
241	Veery				20	21					4				
242	Gray-cheeked Thrush				12	31				9		13			
243	Swainson's Thrush						1		19	2		2			
244	Hermit Thrush									9					
245	Wood Thrush	1			2							10	1		
246	American Robin														
247	Gray Catbird			10										CBC	3/10/2004
248	Northern Mockingbird														
249	Brown Thrasher														
250	European Starling														
251	American Pipit					1		29			10				Ensley 7/29/17 DDP, Rob Harbin
252	Sprague's Pipit				23										
253	Cedar Waxwing						8		27						
254	Lapland Longspur			19											
255	Chestnut-collard Longspur											14			JRW.Pits 2012
256	Snow Bunting		11									27			2/11/1979 SF
257	Smith's Longspur				16										
258	Ovenbird			31	3		4		17	6	18				
259	Worm-eating Warbler			27								25			
260	Louisiana Waterthrush			13						13					
261	Northern Waterthrush				17	21			29		6	6			
262	Blue-winged Warbler			27		12		28			25		14		5/12/2001 7/28/2004
263	Golden-winged Warbler				12	20			20	29	5				
264	"Brewster's Warbler"				19						23				
265	"Lawrence's Warbler"				14	27									
266	Black-and-white Warbler			21			24	17			11	1	20		
267	Prothonotary Warbler			31						26	19				
268	Worm-eating Warbler			27							25				
269	Swainson's Warbler				3				31	24					4/3/2017 SFSP
270	Tennessee Warbler				4	25	4		19			27			
271	Orange-crowned Warbler	24	10	28		12				10		8			
272	Nashville Warbler				1	15			21			18			
273	Connecticut Warbler				23	19					15				5/19/2017

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1	Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec			
274	Mourning Warbler				15	31			19		27	25				
275	Kentucky Warbler			25						30						
276	Common Yellowthroat			27							21					
277	Hooded Warbler			22							26					
278	American Redstart				6						21					
279	Cape May Warbler	3			22	19			20	24		2				
280	Cerulean Warbler				3					30						
281	Northern Parula			1								25				
282	Magnolia Warbler				10		24		7			10				
283	Bay-breasted Warbler				24	24			31	12		7				
284	Blackburnian Warbler				3	28			28	8		23				
285	Yellow Warbler				9							27				
286	Chestnut-sided Warbler				16	27		7		1		27				
287	Blackpoll Warbler				14	22										
288	Black-thr. Blue Warbler								24	18		4			9/18/22 WRGreenway	
289	Palm Warbler			1		23										
290	Pine Warbler															
291	Yellow-rumped Warbler					17				24						
292	Yellow-throated Warbler			19							24					
293	Prairie Warbler				9	18		3							Rob Harbin 7.3.2014	
294	Black-throated Green Warbler			19		25			3		24				Chickasaw Basin Wolf	
295	Canada Warbler				22				11		28					
296	Wilson's Warbler				22	26			19			5			11/5/2015	
297	Yellow-breasted Chat	26			14					29	13		12			
298	Green-tailed Towhee												25			
299	Spotted Towhee														banded in 1953	
300	Eastern Towhee															
301	Bachman's Sparrow			Not reported since the 1950's												
302	American Tree Sparrow											16			11/16/? Ron Harbin	
303	Chipping Sparrow															
304	Clay-colored Sparrow										8				10/8-11/2020	
305	Field Sparrow															
306	Vesper Sparrow	27		1	28											
307	Lark Sparrow							28							7/28/2020	



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1	Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec		
308	Savannah Sparrow					23				9					
309	Grasshopper Sparrow								17						
310	Henslow's Sparrow			27	24								3		
311	LeConte's Sparrow				1	8						6			5/8/1996
312	Nelson's Sparrow				8	16				22		13			
313	Fox Sparrow				27						18				
314	Song Sparrow														
315	Lincoln's Sparrow									22					9/22/1996
316	Swamp Sparrow					16				28					
317	White-throated Sparrow							4			15				
318	Harris' Sparrow					3					30				
319	White-crowned Sparrow					17					4				
320	Dark-eyed Junco					10	30			21					6/30/2020 Norman Soskel
321	Summer Tanager		2								17		5		2/2/1978see Migrant
322	Scarlet Tanager				9	nest	3		15	6	28				
323	Western Tanager					6									
324	Northern Cardinal														
325	Rose-breasted Grosbeak				15	22				30		16	17		
326	Black-headed Grosbeak														
327	Blue Grosbeak			24	13					20	27				
328	Lazuli Bunting				29	3									1996/2000
329	Indigo Bunting		22									5			
330	Painted Bunting				11			18			15	2			???ebird
331	Dickcissel	27			14					29		3			
332	Bobolink				17	29				15		4			11/4/22 Jim Varner
333	Red-winged Blackbird														
334	Eastern Meadowlark														
335	Western Meadowlark					24	nested 1951				15				
336	Yellow-headed Blackbird														12/15/2011 JRW
337	Rusty Blackbird				19	16						11			
338	Brewer's Blackbird				15						27				
339	Common Grackle														
340	Shiny Cowbird														7/6-10/1995
341	Bronzed Cowbird				22							30			11/30/2017



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1	Species	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec		
342	Brown-headed Blackbird														
343	Orchard Oriole				4			26							11/8/?ebird not confirmed
344	Baltimore Oriole			18	S					13	4				
345	Purple Finch					7									
346	Common Redpoll												21-22		feeder.Collierville.2017
347	House Finch														
348	Red Crossbill							nested							
349	White-winged Crossbill												26		12/26/1954; 1st state
350	Pine Siskin					22	6				10				
351	American Goldfinch														
352	Evening Grosbeak					9					17				
353	House Sparrow														

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