

Tennessee Ornithological Society Memphis Chapter

<http://birdmemphis.org>

May 2025

APRIL PROGRAM



Cindi and Steve Routledge described a birding tour they and 7 other TOS members took in Costa Rica in February 2024. Cindi is the Secretary of TOS, does contract work studying birds for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, and is the President of Southeastern Avian Research (SEAR). Steve is a SEAR board member and Treasurer. SEAR was established to promote conservation of hummingbirds and other neotropical migrants. Cindi

has banded 18,000 hummingbirds and was especially interested in seeing some of the many hummingbird species of Costa Rica. Costa Rica is popular as a site for birding and nature tours. The Central American country has many tropical microclimates and 6 active volcanos. A quarter of the land is protected as nature reserves.

The 16-day birding trip was led by guide Paco Madrigal and organized by Cotinga Tours. The group saw 424 bird species and prepared 122 bird checklists. Cindi added 79 birds to her life list. Cindi noted that Costa Rica has few endemic species because many bird species can also be seen in adjoining countries, especially Panama. Steve showed a map of Costa Rica and noted that the tour focused on the central and southwest portion of the country including the Osa Peninsula. The trip began and ended at the hotel Bougainvillea near San Jose where they were able to explore a 10-acre botanical garden. They stayed at numerous lodges including Selva Verde Lodge and Drake Bay Wilderness Lodge. They visited a riparian zone, took a boat tour through a mangrove swamp, boated to Corcovado National Park, and viewed nesting sea birds on a rock in Corcovado Bay. They visited Las Cruces Biological Station, a





protected forest fragment with many palms and endangered plant species. The group observed a wide variety of birds including owls, nightjars, hawks, woodpeckers, antshrikes, woodcreepers, tanagers, Crested Guan, Great Curassow, Yellow-throated Toucan, Northern Emerald Toucanet, Fiery-billed Aracari, Great Tinamou, Scarlet Macaw, and the endangered Great Green Macaw. The group also enjoyed seeing animals such as colorful poison dart

frogs, lizards, tent bats, tapir, tayra (a large member of the weasel family), coati and 3 monkey species.

Cindi's favorite bird sighting of the trip was the Fiery-throated Hummingbird. When seen in good light this hummingbird combines every color of the rainbow on its throat and breast. Seeing it made up for failure to see the Resplendent Quetzal.

<https://southeasternavianresearch.org>

-Margaret Jefferson

..... Member Highlights

Barbara Pyles introduced a new youth member Mila Kedzierski (Mila Kedz). Mila said she has a life list of 300 birds, many seen in Europe & Central America.

Martha Waldron reminded field trip leaders to please share their eBird checklists with MTOS-Shelby on eBird to make the data part of the Memphis Chapter records. Chapter records starting 1928 have been posted to eBird. Members can also share their personal data with MTOS-Shelby. When birding with a group of birders please have only one person share the list.

Notable sightings:

Brown-headed Nuthatch April 12 H.W. Cox Park, Shelby Co.

Lark Sparrow April 13-19 Gardner Rd. Gardens, Shelby Farms Park

Painted Bunting April 22-23 Ensley Bottoms, Earth Complex

-Margaret Jefferson



TIPTON COUNTY MUSEUM

BIRDFEST

MAY 2-4, 2025

- ART
- BIRD HIKES
- BIRD WATCHING
- GIVEAWAYS
- FOOD
- FUN
- PONTOON RIDES
- SPECIAL GUESTS
- AND MUCH MORE!

**SPECIAL
CONCERT BY
KEITH PALUSO**



SEE OUR SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR
SPECIFIC TIMES AND LOCATIONS.



[HTTPS://FACEBOOK.COM/TIPTONCOUNTYBIRDFEST](https://facebook.com/tiptoncountybirdfest)



TIPTON COUNTY
MUSEUM
VETERANS MEMORIAL
NATURE CENTER

TIPTON COUNTY MUSEUM



TIPTON COUNTY MUSEUM

BIRDFEST



Tipton County Museum
751 Bert Johnston Ave
Covington, TN 38019
(901) 476-0242

For questions, further information, early registration, or liability waivers please call the Tipton County Museum,

Friday, May 2:

- 3:00 PM: Kick-off bird hike at Fort Pillow State Park with Ranger Tyson Weller. Hikers will meet at the Fort Pillow Museum at 2:45 PM.
- 6:00 PM- Reception at the Tipton County Museum. Come join us at the museum
- 9:00 PM: for refreshments and mingle with other bird enthusiasts while checking out the Museum's bird and photography exhibits, and local bird art. Be sure to sign up for your favorite events, fill out your liability waivers, and pick up your bird check-off lists!
- 6:30 PM: Waterfowl talk by TWRA Region 1 Wildlife Management Area Managers, Jared Poore and Rob Lewis
- 7:30 PM: Special concert by Keith Paluso from NBC's "The Voice" and Lead singer of "Blood Sweat and Tears".

Saturday, May 3:

- 30 Min. bef. Facebook live event. Legend of the Nightjar with Bob Ford.
- 1st light:
- 6:30 AM: Arrival for morning hikers, sign-ups, light grab and go breakfast.
- 7:00 AM- Intermediate Bird Hike with Bob Ford, Liz Reed, and Lily Yates at Lower Hatchie
- 11:00 AM: National Wildlife Refuge in Lauderdale County. Hikers will meet at the Tipton County Museum and drive to the refuge.
- 7:00AM- Photography Bird Walk with Watt Wallace, Julie Hartsfield, and Keith Paluso.
- 11:00AM: Hikers will meet at the museum and drive to the refuge.
- 8:00 AM- Beginner's Bird Hike and bird watching with Dexter Hartsfield at the Tipton County
- 10:00 AM: Museum's Nature Trail.
- 12:00 PM- Break for lunch. Bring your own picnic and have lunch at the museum. There are also
- 1:00 PM: several local restaurants and fast-food places nearby.
- 1:00 PM: Snake Program at the Tipton County Museum with Tyson Weller. Learn about snakes in West Tennessee and how to identify venomous versus non venomous snakes.
- 2:00 PM: Backyard Birds Program with Sherl Rose and Keith Paluso. Learn about local backyard birds, and how to care for birdfeeders and birdhouses. Then take a short hike through the woods on the Museum's nature trail.
- 4:00 PM: Quails, Habitats, and Conservation with Ted Turner at the Tipton County Museum.
- 6:00 PM: Sunset Bird Pontoon Ride and Hayride at Fort Pillow State Park with Tyson Weller. Meet at Fort Pillow State Park at 6:00 PM at the butterfly garden. This is a limited event. Pre registration is required through the Fort Pillow Website. We will have a link on our website as well. This event is \$7.00.

DOOR
PRIZES

RAIN
OR
SHINE!

BIRD
ART

BIRD
EXHIBIT

SWAG
BAGS

PHOTO
EXHIBIT



<https://www.facebook.com/tiptoncountybirdfest>

NO alcoholic beverages will be permitted.



LOOKING FOR ARTISTS

If you have artwork you'd like to submit for consideration for use on the cover of our next MTOS Directory, please send to Theresa Graham at 2graham@bellsouth.net.

Artwork can be black & white, or in color. Preferred orientation is Portrait.

Deadline for artwork is August 31.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April / May 2025

Friday-Sunday, May 2-4

Spring TOS Meeting
Chattanooga, TN

<https://tnbirds.org/event/tos-meeting-may-2-4/>

Wednesday, May 7, 7:30 am

Overton Park

Meet at East Parkway parking lot

Field Trip Leader: Dick Preston

dickpreston48@gmail.com

Saturday, May 10

Spring Count/Global Big Day

Meet at Shelby Forest Visitors Center 7:30 am or bird anywhere in Shelby County. Post data to eBird or give to Dick Preston

Field Trip Leader: Dick Preston

dickpreston48@gmail.com

<https://ebird.org/news/global-big-day-10-may-2025>

Wednesday, May 21, 7:00 pm

Chapter Meeting

St. George's Episcopal Church
2425 South Germantown Rd.
Germantown, TN

Saturday, May 24, 7:30 am

Shelby Farms Park

Meet at Disk Golf Parking Lot -
Pine Lake Drive

Field Trip Leader: Cliff

VanNostrand

birdinginthe901@gmail.com

Wednesday, May 28, 7:30 am

Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park

Meet at Visitors Center

Field Trip Leader: Dick Preston

dickpreston48@gmail.com



BARRED OWL

PHOTO BY

Don
Sanderlin

A LA CARTE

- Military Macaws in Texas's Big Bend National Park (HT: Gregg Elliott)
<https://www.aba.org/military-macaws-in-texas-big-bend-national-park/>
- A Coastal New England Town's 'Ornery' Vandal: A Woodpecker (HT: Gregg Elliott)
https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/23/us/woodpecker-breaking-car-mirrors.html?unlocked_article_code=1.DE8.mR3a.uKLEESA8vLp&smid=url-share
- Scientists are puzzled by increasingly abundant bird species in Maine's North Woods
<https://observer-me.com/2024/03/30/news/scientists-are-puzzled-by-increasingly-abundant-bird-species-in-maines-north-woods/>
- The Strangest Places Birds Show Up (And Why They Keep Coming Back)
<https://www.birdwatchingdaily.com/beginners/birding-faq/the-strangest-places-birds-show-up-and-why-they-keep-coming-back/>
- New Film Explores Extraordinary Atlantic Flyway
<https://www.audubon.org/florida/news/new-film-explores-extraordinary-atlantic-flyway>
- eBird Rules and Best Practices
<https://support.ebird.org/en/support/solutions/articles/48000795623-ebird-rules-and-best-practices>
- Tipton County Museum BirdFest
<https://www.facebook.com/Tiptoncountybirdfest>

TOS Membership Information

Members may join online
at www.birdmemphis.org or by mail.

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 | \$15 |
| Other Student | \$10 |
| Lifetime | \$450 one time +\$18 yearly |

Dues payable by PayPal
at www.birdmemphis.org or by check,
made out to MTOS.

Please send dues to: Barbara Pyles
8488 East Askersund Cove
Cordova, TN 38018
(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 Deon 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

*March 15 for the April Newsletter
*July 15 for the August Newsletter
*November 15 for the December Newsletter

Forward contributions to:
Theresa Graham, Editor
Email: 2graham@bellsouth.net

Chapter Meeting

May 21, 2025. 7:00pm

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

Program

Jacob Newby, Middle Fork Bottoms State Park
Birding the 58th Tennessee State Park

Hospitality

Refreshments will be provided by Margaret Jefferson and Liza Altizer.

Upcoming Field Trip Information

May 7: Overton Park
May 10: Meeman Shelby Forest SP
May 24: Shelby Farms
May 28: Meeman-Shelby Forest SP

Thank you to all who contributed to this month's newsletter.

Please send your submissions to mtosnewsletter@gmail.com.

Treasurer's Report

As of April 22, 2025 the balance in the Treasury is 14,411.85. This is the balance after recording the below April expenditures. The Treasurer continues to receive 2025 membership renewals; another handful is expected by May 31.

New Business

Two expenditures were voted on and approved at the April 16 chapter meeting. The chapter approved a \$600 Honorarium to St. George's Episcopal Church for provision of meeting space. The chapter also approved a \$750 Donation to veterinarian Dr. Felicia Knightly of the Memphis Zoo for procurement of an ophthalmoscope, for use with raptors. In 2024 Dr. Knightly and staff cared for over fifty raptors; fifteen have been helped so far in 2025.

A \$300 conservation donation was made to the Southeastern Avian Research 501(c)(3), as thanks to our April program speaker, Cyndi Routledge, and in lieu of travel and lodging cost reimbursement.



Prothonotary Warbler



Osprey



Great Egret



Cattle Egret

PHOTOS BY
ALLEN SPARKS

Photos by Larry Chitwood



Wild Turkey—Gardner Road



Purple Gallinule—Ensley Bottoms



Killdeer & Black-bellied Whistling-Duck—Ensley



Western Cattle Egret—Shelby Farms Marsh



Tree Sparrow—O'Neal Lake, Hatchie NWR



Sora—Ensley Bottoms



Palm Warbler—O'Neal Lake, Hatchie NWR



Northern Flicker—Shelby Farms Park, Beaver Lake