

Tennessee Ornithological Society Memphis Chapter

<http://birdmemphis.org>

September 2026

Welcome back, MTOS! I hope you've all had a wonderful, bird-filled summer! As fall migration approaches, I'm excited to welcome everyone back for another great year with the Memphis Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

This summer, I took a trip back to where my love for birding began (Acadia National Park) and found that my trip dates coincidentally aligned with the Acadia Birding Festival in

Maine. Although bad weather canceled our pelagic trip, I did make it out to Petit Manan Island to see my spark bird, the Atlantic Puffin! I always love watching those little flying black-and-white footballs out foraging over the Atlantic. Seeing them again was a fantastic reminder of the joy, curiosity, and connection that we all have in birding.



Our leadership team has been busy prepping an exciting slate of events, field trips, and programs for the upcoming year! Remember, we are moving our monthly chapter meetings to the third TUESDAY of each month! Mark your calendars for our first 2026-2027 meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 2026.

Looking forward to seeing both familiar and new faces as we start another fantastic year!

Liz Hall
President
Memphis Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Starting at the **9/15/26** meeting, MTOS can no longer use the front doors for entry.

MTOS members will need to enter in through the back parking lot doors, or the east breezeway doors, which are located on the front side of the building where the 2 wings meet.

Below is a screenshot with arrows pointing to the entrances MTOS members will use going forward.

If anyone has any questions, feel free to reach out to mtosnewsletter@gmail.com or any of the MTOS officers!



SUBMISSIONS WELCOME

Looking for submissions of any of the following:

- Birding Events
- Stories about birds, birders, or birding
- Birding tips
- Articles or other interesting things in the bird world
- Photos, poetry, art, quotes

Send your submissions to:
mtosnewsletter@gmail.com

Fall migration is underway! Birds have been moving since July, but late August into September is when you start seeing a lot more migrants. Shorebirds and flycatchers have been pushing through, and warblers will soon begin to pass through the midsouth as well. The end of September will bring our first sparrows and wintering wrens... so keep your eyes and ears peeled!

A fun tool to check out is the
[Cornell Lab BirdCast Migration Dashboard!](#)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Hospitality

Looking for volunteers to provide hospitality (food + refreshments) for the following meetings:

- September
- October
- December
- January
- February
- April
- May

If you are interested, please email
Margaret Jefferson at mjefferson100@hotmail.com

Please consider volunteering so
we can continue to have tasty
refreshments at our meetings!



ALONZO WEAVER PARK



Alonzo Weaver Park is a Memphis City Park and it is the feature hotspot for September. Recent work along Cypress Creek has enlarged the park a bit by adding a greenway trail that runs parallel to the creek. The park as a whole is a nice mix of mature trees, wooded spaces, open areas, and wetlands. In addition to the trail, an impoundment was added on the west side of the creek that should be a good spot to check for wading birds and possibly shorebirds in season (a scope could prove handy for viewing the impoundment from the park.) There are 58 species on the bird list for this hotspot but there have been 0 species observed here in the month of September.

Alonzo Weaver Park is located at 730 Mitchell Rd.
Memphis, TN 38109

Open daily from 6am-8pm

September 2026 Feature Hotspot

Please visit and submit a checklist during the month of September if you are able.



September Field Trips

Nesbit Park

Saturday September 12 at 7am

led by Ryan Pudwell

Meet at the parking lot

5760 Yale Rd Bartlett, TN 38135

Alonzo Weaver Park

Thursday September 17 at 7am

led by Ryan Pudwell

730 W Mitchell Rd, Memphis, TN 38109

A-State Bird Observatory

Saturday September 26, 2026 at 7am

led by Dr. Than Boves

Jonesboro, Arkansas

Enter "AState Bird Observatory" into google maps for directions
we will meet at the site but feel free to carpool.

This trip is about 1.5 hours from east Shelby County

October Field Trips

The background of the entire graphic is a photograph of several shorebirds, likely sandpipers or similar species, standing in shallow, rippling water. The birds are mostly grey and white with long, straight bills. They are scattered across the frame, with some in the foreground and others in the background. The water is a light blue-grey color, and the overall scene is a naturalistic depiction of a wetland or coastal environment.

Ensley Bottoms

Saturday October 3 at 7am
led by Ryan Pudwell

Eagle Lake Refuge
Saturday October 17 at 7am
led by Cliff VanNostrand

Nonconnah Creek at Halle Stadium
Sunday October 18 at 1:30pm
led by Ryan Pudwell

Wolf River WMA/Ghost River SNA
Saturday October 31 at 7am
led by Jim Varner

Other Birding Opportunities

Songbird Strolls at Overton Park

These walks are for anyone who wants to do a little birding in the Old Forest at Overton Park.

All of these walks start from the East Parkway Pavillion located at 389 East Parkway North starting at 8am on each of the dates below.

Friday September 11

Saturday September 19

Friday October 9

Saturday October 17

Friday November 13

Fall Birding in Collierville

Saturday October 10 at 7am

Join us at Johnson Park for a walk on the newly refurbished boardwalk trail. We will be looking to see what fall migrants and other species we can find.

This outing is being promoted by the Collierville Environmental Commission

Field Trip Notes

from Ryan Pudwell

As I write this, it's crazy to think that summer is drawing to a close. Since our last meeting in May, we have had a few field trips and all were well attended. Way back at the beginning of June, we had a trip to Haywood County to visit the Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge. While we didn't see anything unexpected it was fun to watch some Orchard Orioles carrying nesting material, as well as a pair of Tree Swallows tending to their nest and young. After spending some time by O'Neal Lake, we made the short drive to Powell Rd., a stop that was highlighted by a couple Swainson's Warblers and a few American Redstarts.

On Friday July 3rd we had a field trip to the Pioneer Springs Trail at Meeman Shelby Forest State Park. There were 13 people in attendance, including a few new birders. Over the course of two hours we heard way more than we saw. I think the best look any of us got of a bird was a White-eyed Vireo that didn't feel that hiding was a necessity. We also saw a good number of Great Egrets through the trees and a Scarlet Tanager briefly came into view. Everyone seemed to enjoy the springs which served as our turnaround spot.

To put a wrap on our Summer Field Trips, on August 22nd we paid a visit to John F. Kennedy Park. Despite being the largest of Memphis's City Parks, and being right on the Wolf River, it is at best birded infrequently. There is nice variety in the habitat spaces throughout the park. We started with a walk down the boardwalk trail and then followed the river going south for a way using both the paved and unpaved trails. Highlights for the day included some hummingbirds that dropped in close and an American Kestrel that was snacking on a cicada. We ended up with over 30 species which isn't too shabby for a warm August day.



Details About Upcoming Joint Fall meeting with the Kentucky Ornithological Society September 18-20, 2026

Many fieldtrips are being planned and will all departing from KenLake State Park Resort due to the ongoing construction at LBSRP, and because it's where most birders will be staying.

The first field trip will depart at 1 PM on Friday followed by others at 8 AM and 1 PM on Saturday and 8 AM on Sunday. (It is possible a few of the morning trips will depart earlier than 8 AM but that will be announced when you register on Friday night. Saturday afternoon field trips will include short options for those needing to get to Board meetings and longer for those with the whole afternoon free. We also expect to have a park naturalist walk/talk on Saturday afternoon as well.

If you are willing to lead or co-lead a field trip, please contact Chris Welsh (cwelsh@retiree.utk.edu) or Cyndi Routledge (routledges@bellsouth.net). We hope to have a TN and a KY leader for each trip. So please consider volunteering.

Our Board/Business meetings will be at Lake Barkley State Nature area in the meeting room beginning at 3 pm.

The Committee is also pleased to have two keynote presentations from Cin-Ty Lee and Andrew Birch planned. The first will be Friday night at 7 pm: Flycatchers Demystified. The second will be Saturday evening, also at 7 pm: New Advances in Flycatcher Identification and Migratory Patterns.

Registration for the weekend meeting will be on site between 6-7 pm on Friday or 6:30-7:00 on Saturday. Meeting registration will be \$10 (\$3 for students) bring a check or cash. Come early to socialize before the keynote each evening. Light refreshments will be served.

As we've announced prior...KenLake Resort State Park in Hardin Kentucky is the host hotel. Rooms and cottages range in price from \$111-\$143/night, plus taxes. To get the discounted rates you must use group 3076 when you make your reservation. Reservations can be made online or by calling 270-474-2211.

Cottage reservations must be made before July 18th and lodge room reservations before August 18th to get the discounted rate. At the writing of this email both cottages and rooms were still available.

All accommodations are NON-SMOKING. Cancellations must be made at least 48 hours in advance of arrival, or you will be charged for one night. Breakfast is not included in the room rate, but there is a dining room on-site that serves breakfast from 6 to 11 am. Folks will want to plan on getting to the dining room early for meals as it could get busy.

Additionally we have been informed that there are also a few rooms available at Lake Barkley State Park and of course at chain hotels in Cadiz, Murray and Grand Rivers, Kentucky.

A list of restaurants are also available by contacting Cyndi Routledge – routledges@bellsouth.net if interested.

Plans are still evolving so please check "NEWS" on the TOS webpage - as time draws nearer for more details.

We hope you have the dates on your calendars and plan to attend!! It should be a great weekend!!

If you have any additional questions about the weekend, please contact myself or Chris Welsh - cwelsh@retiree.utk.edu

Cheers!
Cyndi Routledge
routledges@bellsouth.net



The second-annual Tennessee Biodiversity Summit will be held on October 21, 2026. This one-day event is inclusive. Anyone with an interest in the outdoors is invited to attend, including hunters, anglers, birdwatchers, paddle-craft enthusiasts, and backyard gardeners.

If you like being outside and are curious about nature, this is for you!

This day consists of eight amazing speakers sharing information about the incredible work done across for the betterment of wildlife and habitats. You'll be fed AND have time for interaction with people just like you. There will also be educational booths from top agencies across the state, including The Nature Conservancy, State Natural Areas, and more.

You'll find actionable steps to help wildlife on whatever scale works best for you! Be a part of something GREAT for wildlife.

Visit tnwildlife.org to find the list of speakers, registration information, and the link to purchase this year's t-shirt!

2026-2027 MTOS Officers

President: Liz Hall

Vice Presidents: Caroline Schratz and Neil Lovett

Treasurer: Barbara Pyles

Recording Secretary: Knox Martin

West TN TOS VP: Dick Preston

Field Trip Coordinator: Ryan Pudwell

rpudwell@immanuelmemphis.org

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

Dues payable by PayPal at
www.birdmemphis.org or by check.

Please send checks made out to MTOS
to: Barbara Pyles
8488 East Askersund Cove
Cordova, TN 38018
(901)-570-1009

E-mail brbpyles@gmail.com

Members may contact B. Pyles for fellow
member emails.

Chapter Newsletter Submissions

Email submissions to Sophie Dismukes
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:
Cheryl Greenacre, Editor
E-mail: cgreenac@gmail.com

Chapter Meeting

September 15, 2026, 7:00pm

St. George's Episcopal Church

2435 South Germantown Rd. Germantown, TN

Phone: (901)-754-7282

Program

MTOS Members
Summer Birding Highlights

Hospitality

Hospitality still needed for September meeting!

Thank you to all who contributed to this month's newsletter!
For our next issue, we would like to feature some photos of:



Shorebirds



Please send your submissions to mtosnewsletter@gmail.com

New Members

Margaret and Bill Caufield
mcaufie@gmail.com

Andrew Nichols
chefandy@memphiscc.org

Mary Kelly
marykelly385@gmail.com

Avery Wishaar and August
Wishaar-Wilson
weishaave@gmail.com

Cayman McMahan and Emily Fultz
emandkman@gmail.com

Dylan Moreau
dmoreau774@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report

As of August 21, 2026 the balance in the Treasury is \$14,665.57.

Send ideas for chapter programs to carolineschratz@gmail.com