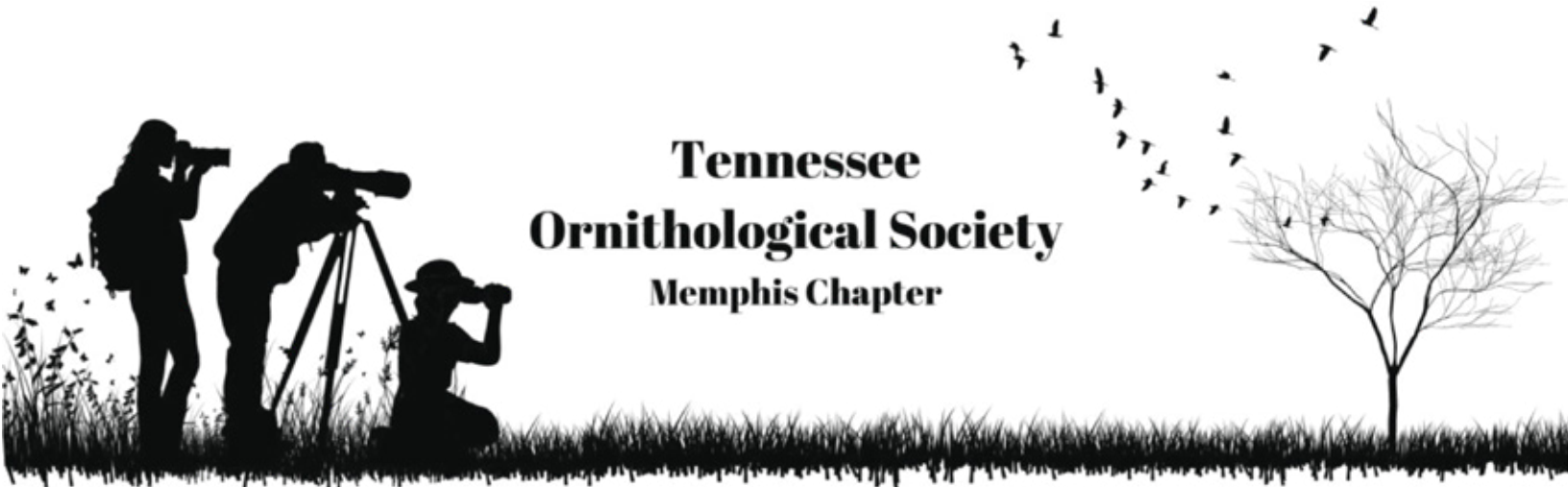




Tennessee Ornithological Society Memphis Chapter

<http://birdmemphis.org>

October 2026

September's program was brought to you by several of MTOS's own as they went over the many birds they saw over the course of the summer, or from older trips!

MTOS members Ryan Pudwell, Allen Sparks, and Riley Metcalfe put together powerpoints to

show off their bird photos, and they were quite the treat! From the scrub and desert of Arizona and Nevada, the fantastic birds of Florida and our home of Memphis, and the rich biodiversity of south Texas, there were plenty of bird photos and tales for MTOS members to enjoy!



Thank you to these members for sharing their birding adventures! While I did not share, I also enjoyed the thrill of new birds this summer from my own trip to Massachusetts, which brought me four new east coast birds.

Thank you to everyone who came to our first meeting back. This newsletter has a ton of upcoming events, so be sure to check those out!

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!

Running this one more time! See you all at the next meeting - Sophie



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:

- November
- 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!



MTOS HOLIDAY SALE and SILENT AUCTION

November 17 Chapter Meeting
Sales start at 6:30



Come check out items donated by MTOS members for use and enjoyment by others. Bird books, nature books, artwork, housewares, games, and more will be on hand. Many items are priced at less than \$5.00, with no auction bid required. Your participation benefits MTOS-funded activities. **Browsing will continue during our break.** After the meeting ends, winning auction bids will be collected, and sales will be finalized.

Checks made out to MTOS and cash are accepted.

Contact Barbara Pyles with questions at brbpyles@gmail.com



BLUE LAGOON PARK

Blue Lagoon Park, with 157 acres, is the 2nd largest park in the city of Bartlett. It is located just north of the north end of Germantown Rd and Old Brownsville Rd. The southern portion of the park is developed with a lake, a walking trail, and a playground. The northern portion of the park is largely undeveloped and consists of early succession bottomland forest. Some of the lawn areas around the lake have a tendency to hold water after rainy weather and create spaces that should attract some shorebirds. The park is best accessed by parking on street along the eastern portion of Blue Lagoon Drive. Like the majority of parks throughout Bartlett, it is open from 4am-11pm

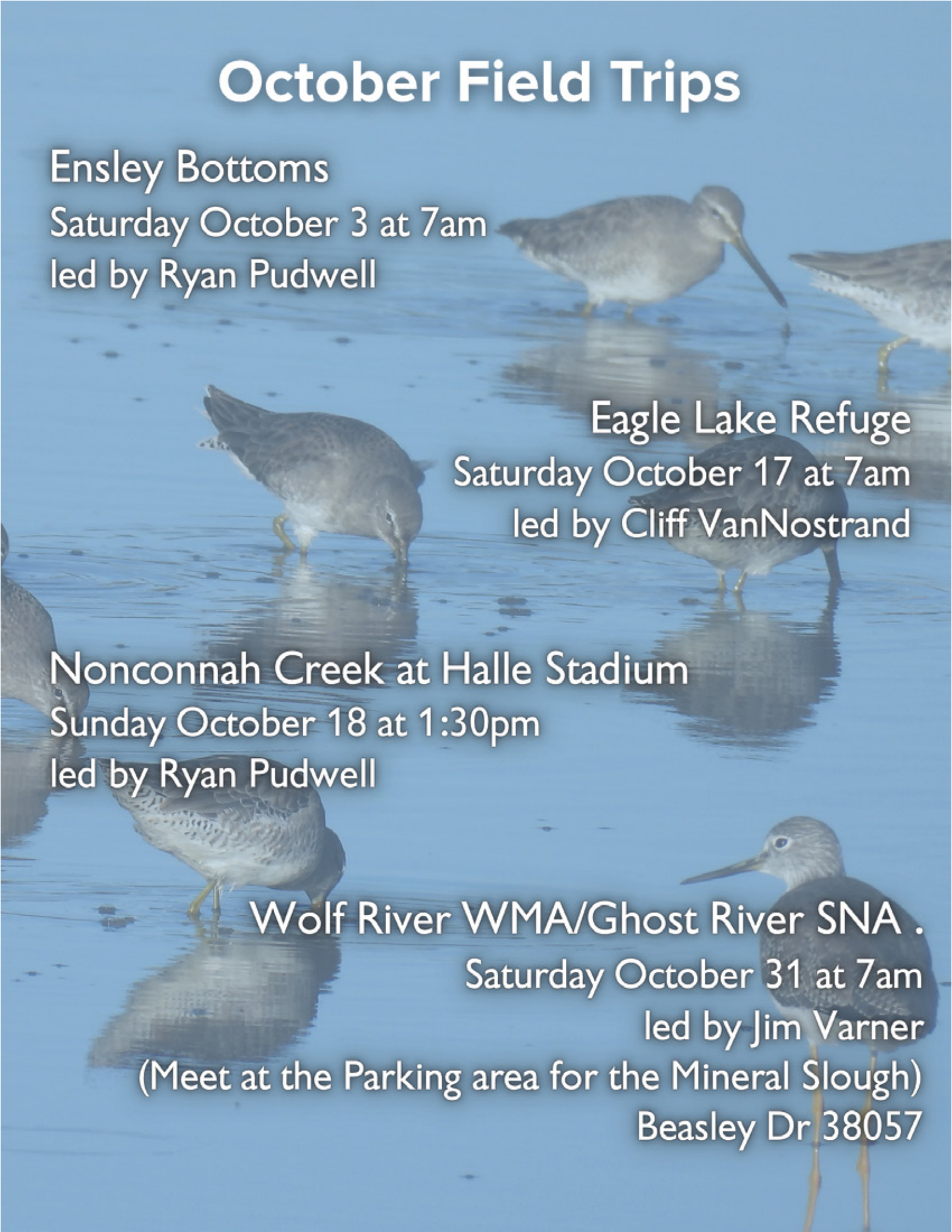
Blue Lagoon Park is located along
the east end of Blue Lagoon Drive.
Bartlett, TN 38002

A photograph of a brown duck swimming in blue water. The duck is facing left, and its reflection is visible in the water. The background is a clear blue sky.

October 2026
Feature Hotspot

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

October Field Trips

The background of the entire page is a photograph of several shorebirds, likely sandpipers or similar species, wading 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 peaceful and natural.

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

(Meet at the Parking area for the Mineral Slough)

Beasley Dr 38057

November Field Trips

Wapanocca NWR Turrell, AR
Sunday November 1 start time TBD
led by Van Harris

Nonconnah Greenbelt Park
Forest Hill Irene just north of 385
Saturday November 14 at 7:30am
led by Ryan Pudwell



Camp Currier
Eudora, MS
Saturday November 21
starting at 7:30am
led by Ryan Pudwell

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 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

On Saturday September 12, we had a field trip to Nesbit Park in Bartlett with 10 people in attendance. Unfortunately, the continuing hot weather combined with it being overcast that morning limited what we were able to observe. We ended up with 16 species for our list, though very few of those birds allowed us to do more than hear them calling. The majority of the group had never been to the park and, despite not seeing much, everyone seemed to have a good time. It started to rain just as we made it back to the parking lot.

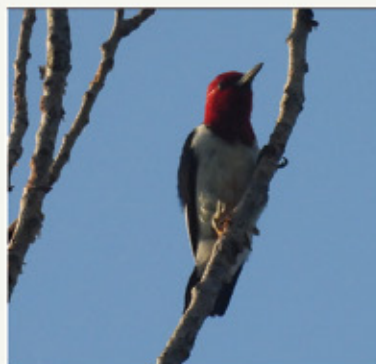
Alonzo Weaver Park is our feature hotspot for the month of September and we offered an opportunity to visit on a field trip on Thursday 9/17. Between the two of us, we ended up with 36 species including a Wilson's Warbler, a Nashville Warbler, and a mix of other things.

The TOS fall meeting was held in conjunction with KOS over the weekend of September 18-20 and was hosted at Kenlake and Lake Barkley State Parks in Kentucky. There were a variety of field trips throughout the weekend and a few members of the Memphis chapter were present. The main speakers for the weekend shared detailed information about flycatcher identification, specifically with regards to Empidonax species. There were a more than 100 people in attendance from the clubs from the two states.

A summary of the field trip to Arkansas State Bird Observatory in Jonesboro on 9/26 will be included in next month's newsletter.



Kentucky Lake before sunrise



Red-headed Woodpecker
Alonzo Weaver Park



Lesser Black-backed Gull
Marshall County, KY

Volunteer Opportunity

WM (Waste Management) would like to invite TN Ornithological Society members to volunteer in support of a biodiversity-informed microhabitat at their Tunica Landfill, Wednesday, Oct. 21st (full day) - Thursday, Oct. 22nd (half day). In partnership with Tandem Global (formerly the Wildlife Habitat Council) and with support from local ecologist, Mitch Robinson in Holly Springs, MS (formerly with the Strawberry Plains Audubon Center), we are looking for volunteers to help support this community conservation planting event to uplift habitat for pollinators, grassland songbirds, and shorebirds who utilize this important migratory stopover and breeding habitat in the heart of the MS Delta and the MS Flyway.

Site managers are currently installing a sloped “littoral shelf” at the edge of a settling pond, where we’ll be installing a transitional wetland to upland native microhabitat, using roughly 3,000 plugs of native species historically occurring in Tunica County and MS Delta. We're hoping this project will bring together conservation entities and community members for a meaningful hands-on habitat restoration effort.

The landfill installed a Terra Station and enhanced antenna to pick up MOTUS tags to have a better understanding of the wildlife in the immediate area. You can use the second link below to see the Terra Data from the Tunica Landfill and other sites around the world.

[Click Here to Volunteer](#)

[Click Here to see Terra Data from this Site](#)



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.

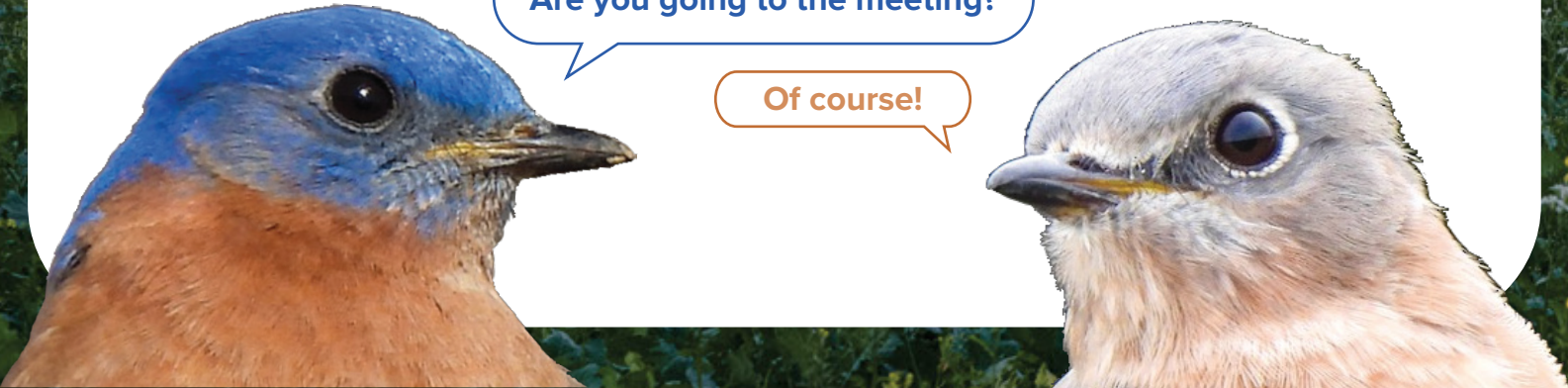
Visit tnwildlife.org to find the list of speakers, registration information, and the link to purchase this year's t-shirt!



The Shelby County Bluebird Club fall meeting will be Saturday, October 3 at 1:00 PM at Hope Church, 8500 Walnut Grove Road in Cordova.

They will have Dr. T. David Pitts as their guest speaker. Dr. Pitts is the author of *Studying Eastern Bluebirds: A Biologist's Report and Reflections* and spent more than 25 years studying Eastern Bluebird nesting while teaching biology at UT Martin. More recently, he completed an extensive study of nesting hummingbirds, observing more than 300 nests averaging approximately 20 hours of observation per nest. He'll share what he learned from both studies during their meeting and they will go over the 2026 nesting season results from their monitors.

Light refreshments will be available beginning at 12:30 PM and the program will start at 1. The meeting is free and open to both members and non-members.



Are you going to the meeting?

Of course!

The Spence Wilson Center for Interdisciplinary Humanities at Rhodes College Presents: **"Is a River Alive?"**

The Spence Wilson Center for Interdisciplinary Humanities at Rhodes College hosts a free public lecture on Thursday, October 1, 2026 by Dr. Robert Macfarlane, Professor of Literature and the Environmental Humanities at the Faculty of English in Cambridge.

Macfarlane is a well-known writer about nature, climate, landscape, people and place, and his award-winning books—which include *Is a River Alive?* (2025), *Underland* (2019), *Landmarks* (2015), *The Old Ways* (2012) and *Mountains of the Mind* (2003)—have been translated into more than thirty languages, won prizes around the world, and been widely adapted for music, film, television, radio and theatre.

He has also written operas, plays, and films including *River* (2022) and *Mountain* (2017), both narrated by Willem Dafoe. He has collaborated closely with artists including Olafur Eliasson and Stanley Donwood, and with the artist Jackie Morris he co-created the internationally bestselling books of nature-poetry and art, *The Lost Words* (2017) and *The Lost Spells* (2020), and *The Book of Birds* (2026). As a lyricist, he has written songs and albums with musicians including Cosmo Sheldrake, Karine Polwart and Johnny Flynn, with whom he has released two albums, *Lost In The Cedar Wood* (2021) and *The Moon Also Rises* (2023) and an EP, *Six Signs* (2022). In 2022, with the actor-director Simon McBurney he co-adapted Susan Cooper's classic fantasy novel *The Dark Is Rising* into a twelve-part BBC audio drama series.

Macfarlane is a Fellow of Emmanuel College and of the Royal Society of Literature. In 2017 the American Academy of Arts and Letters awarded him the EM Forster Prize for Literature, and in 2023 in Toronto he was awarded the inaugural Weston International Award for career achievement in non-fiction.

The Rhodes event begins at 6 p.m. in the McNeill Concert Hall (West Campus).

This event is free and open to the public, but attendees must pre-register using this link:

<https://fs22.formsite.com/webmanagerrhodesedu/muajlptegz/index>

As part of his visit to the Rhodes campus, Macfarlane will also introduce a free public screening of his documentary film *Underland* (Wednesday, September 30, 7pm, Blount Auditorium); pre-register here:

<https://fs22.formsite.com/webmanagerrhodesedu/98v0ktjbyt/index>

Those with specific inquiries about the Rhodes event on October 1 can contact Dr. Scott Newstok, executive director of the Spence Wilson Center for Interdisciplinary Humanities, at WilsonCenter@rhodes.edu

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DczQoFkCUX8/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/rhodes-collegememphis-tennessee/is-a-river-alive-robert-macfarlane-lecture-rhodes-college-october-1-2026/1040628291718509/>



Sanderling with Least Sandpipers



Western Sandpiper with Least Sandpipers





Least Sandpiper



Wilson's Plover



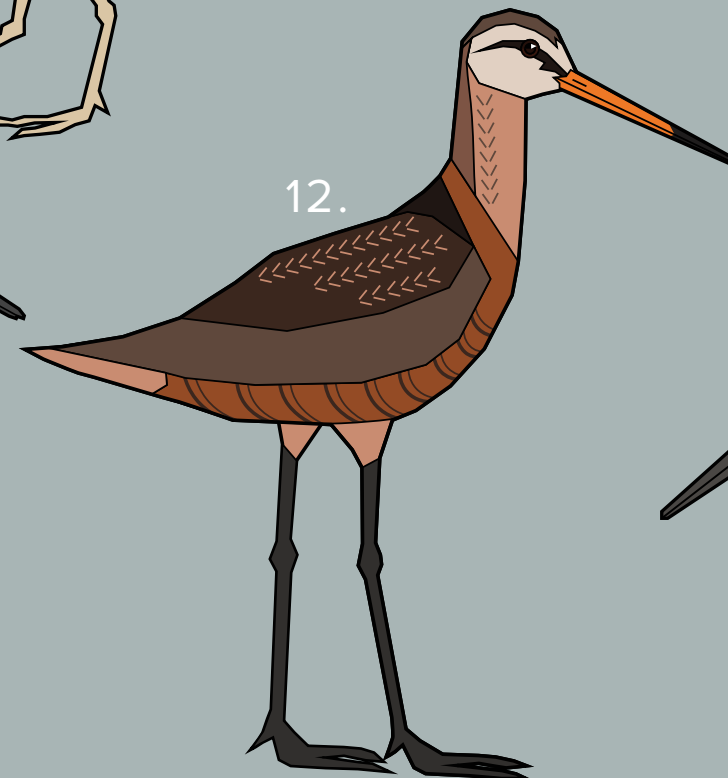
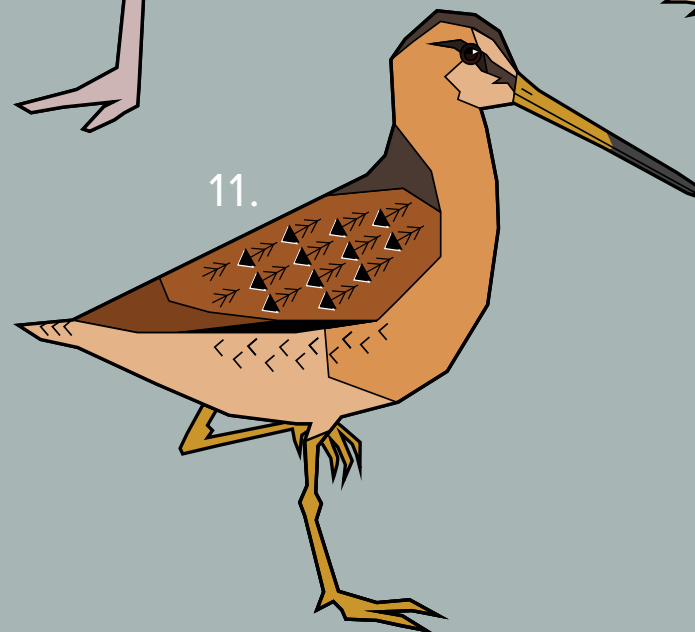
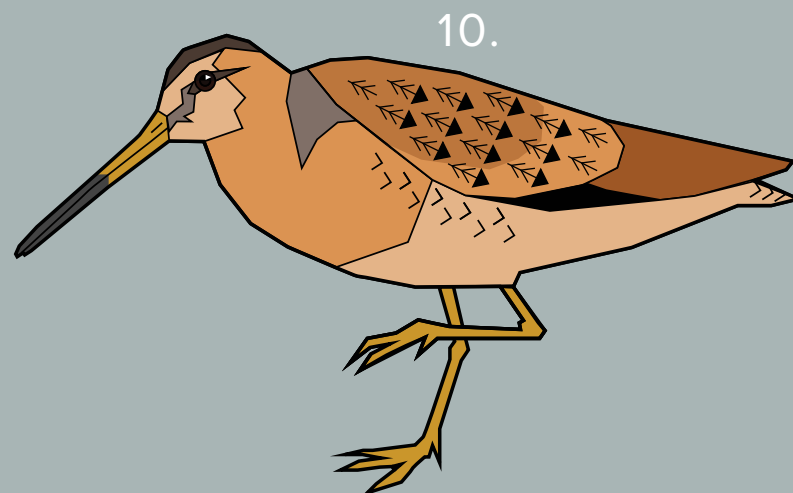
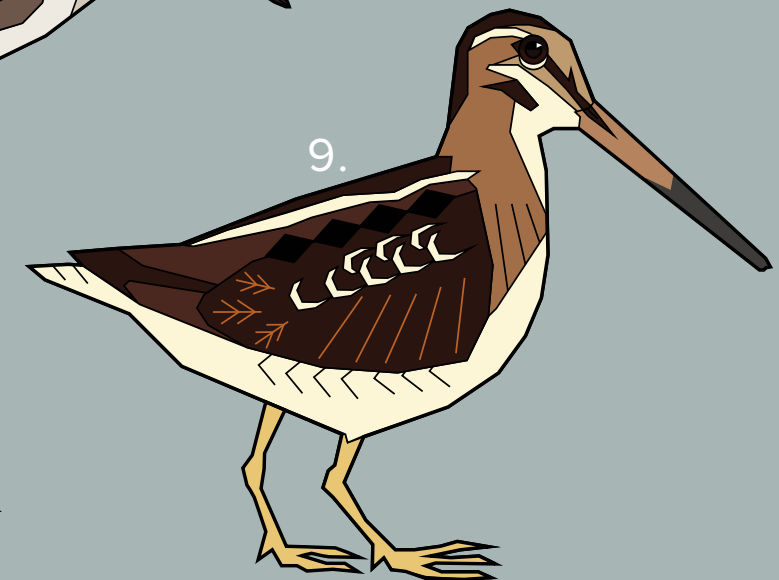
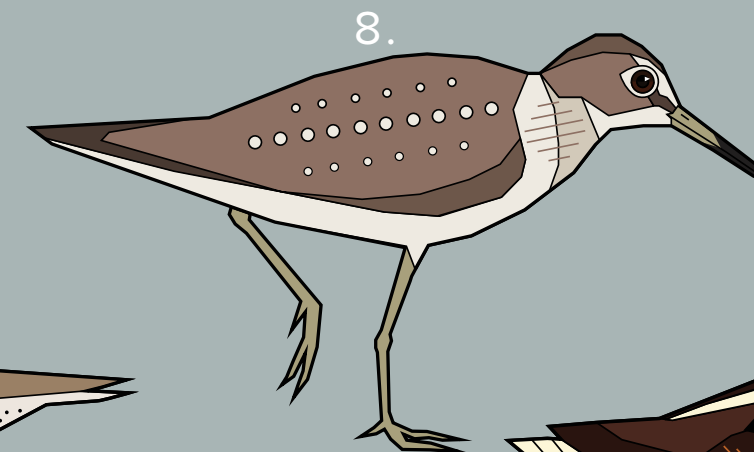
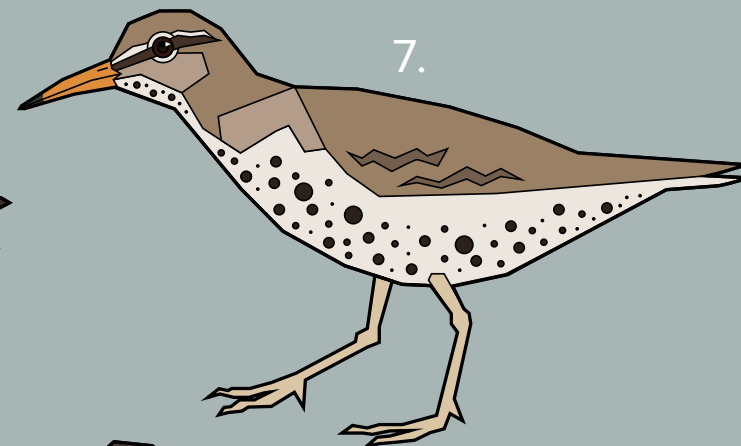
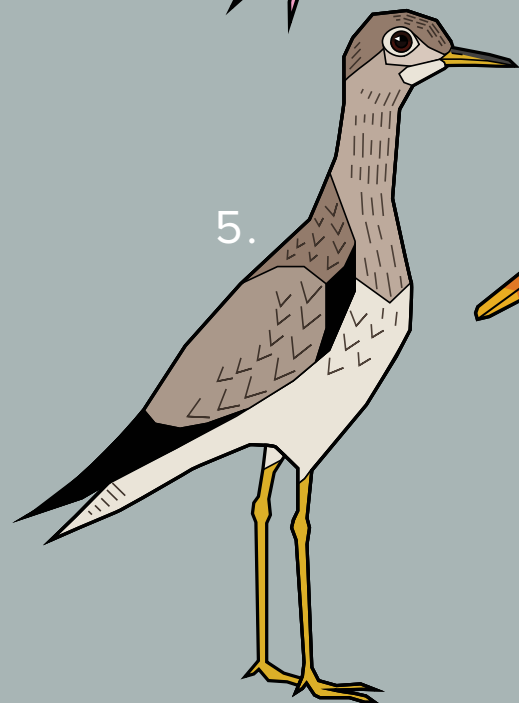
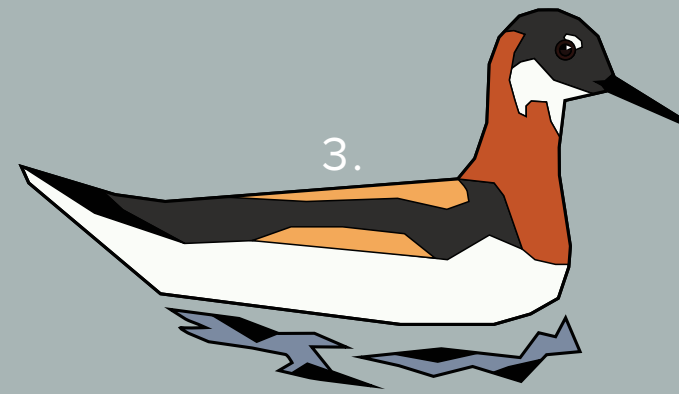
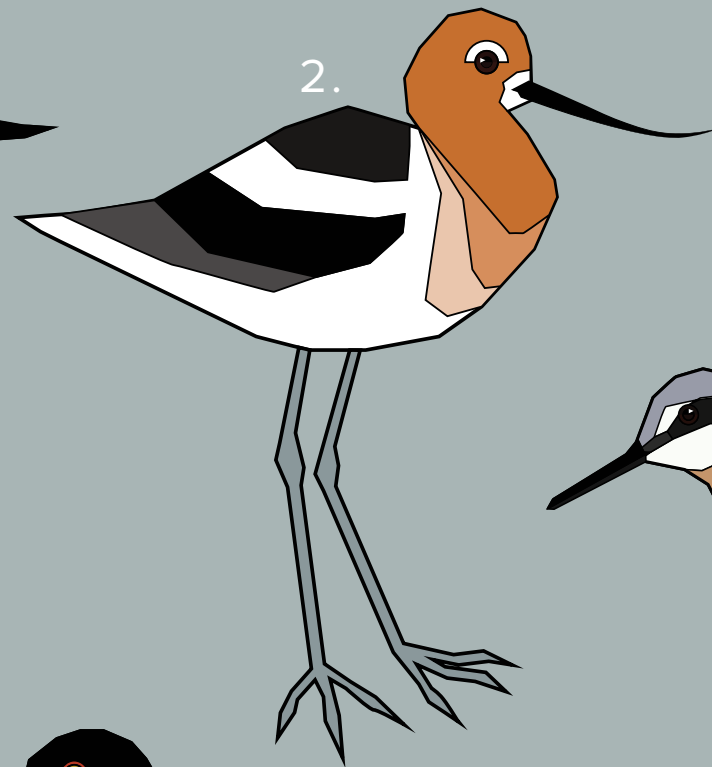
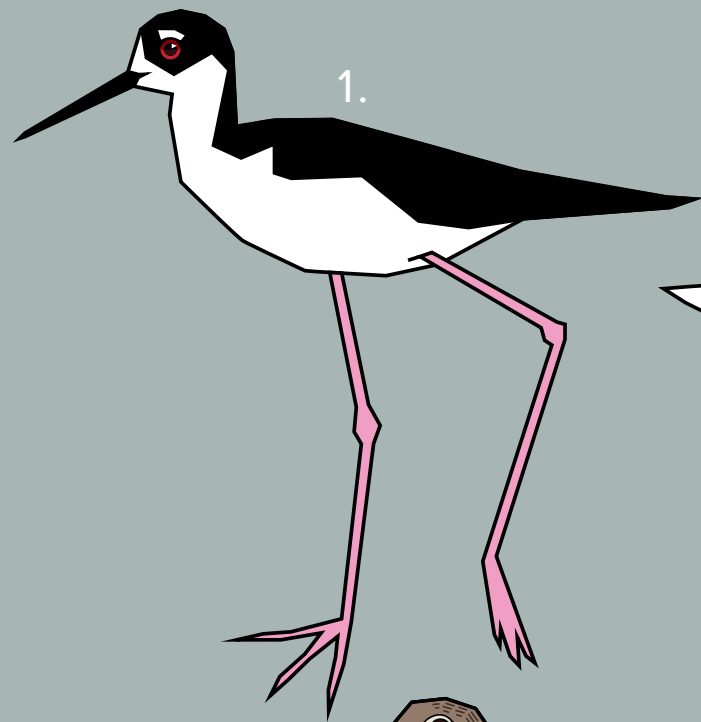
Wilson's Plover





A Random Selection of: **SHOREBIRDS**

1. Black-necked Stilt
2. American Avocet
3. Red-necked Phalarope
4. Wilson's Phalarope
5. Upland Sandpiper
6. American Oystercatcher
7. Spotted Sandpiper
8. Solitary Sandpiper
9. Wilson's Snipe
10. Short-billed Dowitcher
11. Long-billed Dowitcher
12. Hudsonian Godwit
13. American Woodcock



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

October 20th, 2026, 7:00pm

St. George's Episcopal Church

2435 South Germantown Rd. Germantown, TN

Phone: (901)-754-7282

Program

Sarita Joshi, MTOS Member

Birds of Bali + Java

Hospitality

Anita Vincent will be providing hospitality for the October
meeting.

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



Sparrows

Please send your submissions to mtosnewsletter@gmail.com

New Members

Andres Altamirano

andres.chpr@gmail.com

Christine Collins

chriscollins1234@bellsouth.net

Treasurer's Report

The balance in the Treasury as of September 21, 2026 is
\$14,543.52.

Member Dues for 2027 Year: Pay Early or Renew in January 2027
The Treasurer accepts early dues in Fall 2026 for the upcoming
2027 year. January 1 is the official renewal date. Some members
find renewing in the fall more convenient. Dues may be brought to a
meeting, mailed in, or paid online at the chapter website.

Send ideas for chapter programs to carolineschratz@gmail.com