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THE FALL SEASON

Graham Gerdeman, Editor

1 August – 30 November 2025



Figure 1. A Great Cormorant at Chickamauga Dam in Chattanooga, Tennessee established a first state record and was seen by birders from across the state and region. Photo taken on 22 November 2025 ©Edith Dietrich.

Climatic conditions this fall were generally warm, with most of the state averaging 1-4°F above normal. An early cold snap around Veteran's Day in early November brought freezing temperatures to the region, but this was short-lived. August was bone-dry in the west but brought record-breaking rainfall and floods to the Chattanooga area in southeastern Tennessee. The remainder of the season saw normal or wetter than normal conditions almost statewide, with only a small area of the northeastern mountains remaining under moderate drought conditions by the end of November (Tennessee Climate Office 2025).

Rarities this season included a first state record of Great Cormorant, the third Inca Dove in the state in a year's time, Red Phalarope, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and as many as three Vermillion Flycatchers in Shelby County!

Sightings are extracted from eBird (2021; with assistance from Tim Lenz), submissions from regional compilers, the tn-birds listserv, and when necessary, verified social media posts or iNaturalist. Comments on historical records rely on Somershoe and Sloan (2015), archives of the tn-birds listserv as well as subsequent eBird records and submissions to the Tennessee Bird Records Committee (TBRC). Capitalized species records below indicate species requiring TBRC review. Inclusion in this report does not imply that all records have been officially accepted.

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

ad - adult	max - maximum count
au - audio recorded	m.ob. - many observers
ba - banded	Mtn - Mountain
Co - County	NWR - National Wildlife Refuge
ers - earliest reported sighting	ph - photographed
et al. - and others	SNA - State Natural Area
fide - reported by	SP - State Park
im - immature	WMA - Wildlife Management Area
lrs - latest reported sighting	yg - young

Locations: SBP - "Snow Bunting Peninsula" on Old Hickory Lake, Davidson Co; DRU - Duck River Unit of TN NWR, Humphreys Co; Ensley - Ensley Bottoms, including the EARTH Complex and TVA Lake, southwest Shelby Co; GSMNP - Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Black-bellied Whistling Duck: Reported from seven counties across the state: Macon Co (2) in Pleasant Shade 30 Aug (ph. Chris Agee) was an apparent first for the county; Coffee Co (10) including eight downy young 4 Aug (ph. Avery Fish) represented an apparent first county breeding record; Obion Co (141) on Will Dickerson Rd 19 Oct (max. Ruben Stoll) actually outnumbered the highest count in Shelby Co (120) at Ensley 2 Aug (Alan Troyer, Ruben Stoll, m.ob.); Also reported from Benton, Humphreys, and Franklin Cos.

Fulvous Whistling Duck: Shelby Co (1) continued at Ensley 2 Aug (Alan Troyer, Ruben Stoll, Daniel Redwine, Jacob Wyco).

Snow Goose: Lincoln Co (1) in the locale of the Fowler Rd Irrigation Pond 20 Aug (ph. Tim Lenz, Kent DuBois) was very early and lingered until at least 8 Oct (Avery Fish); Dickson Co (434) at Givens Farm 30 Nov (max. Victor Stoll) was the most reported.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Shelby Co (755) in flight over Shelby Farms Park in strong wind after an overnight cold front on 19 Oct (ph. Sophie Dismukes) was a notable fall high count; Lake Co (925) on the same day 19 Oct from Tiptonville Landing (max. Ruben Stoll) was even more impressive.

Cackling Goose: Williamson/Davidson Cos (1) after no reports in summer, the area's long-staying vagrant *B.H. minima* goose made repeat appearances both at its original Ward Circle Pond location 6 & 28 Aug (Randy Harrod, ph. Scott Gruwell) and Radnor Lake SP 31 Oct–17 Nov (Richard Connors, ph. Michelle Kubin, m.ob.), making it now two years since the bird's arrival in fall 2023.

Wood Duck: Henderson Co (1,320) coming to roost at Beech River WMA 16 Nov (max. Alan Troyer) was exceptional.

Gadwall: Humphreys Co (3,500) at DRU 15 Nov (max. Ruben Stoll) was the highest.

American Wigeon: Humphreys Co (1,200) in the Duck River mudflats 27 Nov (max. Ruben Stoll) was the highest.

Mottled Duck: Shelby Co (1) report from Horn Lake Hunting Ranch 17 Aug (Ruben Stoll, Cliff VanNostrand, m.ob.) represents around the twentieth state record.

Northern Pintail: Humphreys Co (350) at DRU 7 Nov (max. Ruben Stoll) was the highest.

Surf Scoter: Sullivan Co (4) at South Holston Lake 21 Nov (max. Richard L. Knight *fide* Graham Gerdeman); Carter Co (1) at Cherokee NF–Wilbur Lake 4–5 Nov (ph. Brookie Potter, m.ob.); Hamilton Co (3) at Booker T. Washington SP 7 Nov (Tim Lenz, Kent DuBois, m.ob) where (1) was also seen 9 Nov (Tim Lenz, Kent Dubois, m.ob.); Davidson Co (1) on J. Percy Priest Lake from Cook Recreation Area 3–4 & 10 Nov (ph. Daniel Redwine, Avery Fish); Shelby Co (1) at Maynard P. Stiles Water Treatment Plant 15 Nov (ph. Cliff VanNostrand, m.ob.); Lake Co (2) at Reelfoot Lake SP–Eagle Basin 9 Nov (Ruben Stoll), and (1) at Reelfoot Lake–Champey Pocket 10 Nov (Mark Greene).

White-winged Scoter: Hamilton Co (1) at Booker T. Washington SP 9 Nov (Tim Lenz, Kent DuBois, Patrick Higgins, Wolf Jedamski); Lake Co (1) at Reelfoot Lake–Champey Pocket 10 Nov (Mark Greene).

Black Scoter: Shelby Co (1) at Maynard C. Stiles Water Treatment Plant 7–18 Nov (Andrew Murray, ph. PJ Pulliam, Ryan Pudwell, m.ob.); Lake Co (3) at Reelfoot Lake SP between Keystone and Champey Pockets 9-10 Nov (Ruben Stoll, Mark Greene); Knox Co (1) at Concord Park 27 Nov (ph. Jennifer Miller).

Long-tailed Duck: Humphreys Co (1) flyby at Tie Landing 27 Nov (Ruben Stoll).

Common Merganser: Blount Co (33) on the Little River 2 Sep (ph. max. Randy Winstead) was the most; Hamilton Co (1) at Chester Frost Park 19 Oct (Daniel Jacobson, Rhonda Dodds, Peter Robinson) was an apparent first fall record for the county.

INCA DOVE: Rhea Co (1) at Yuchi WMA 10–16 Aug (Beth Schilling, ph. Roi Shannon, Debra Shannon, m.ob.) establishes the ninth state record—and the third in only a 12-month period!

White-winged Dove: Shelby Co (1) single birds reported in the county 1 Aug–8 Nov (m.ob.).

Common Nighthawk: Huge numbers of migrants were recorded in flight across the state from 29 Aug–6 Sep, resulting in new high counts in eBird for twelve counties! Blount Co (2,540) at the Townsend Visitor Center 5 Sep (ph. max. Evan Kidd, Kathryn Barrow, Rick Barrow); Davidson Co (1,668) over a home in Brentwood (Melissa James); Washington Co (444) at Little Biscuit Mini Farm (Larry McDaniel, Richard L. Knight, m.ob.); Johnson Co (100) at "Camp Q" 30 Aug (Christopher D'Aiuto, Ruth Sherrick); Marion Co (136) from

Nickajack Dam 6 Sep (Diana Roberts); Monroe Co (110) over a Madisonville yard 5 Sep (ph. Jarvis Shirky); Sevier Co (200) over Staghorn Lane 6 Sep (ph. Danielle Espy); Sumner Co (120) 4 Sep (ph. Tim Loyd); Trousdale Co (50) over Hartsville 4 Sep (Chris Agee); Unicoi Co (95) in Erwin 5 Sep (Joe McGuinness); White Co (31) over Gillen Drive 5 Sep (Douglas Downs); Wilson Co (205) 4 Sep (Robin Nation). Multiple other locations reported 100+ birds, many observations of which were taken in only a few minutes of counting. The actual numbers crossing the state must have been staggering!

Chimney Swift: Montgomery Co (6,000) at a chimney roost at Moore Magnet/Mericourt Park 14 Sep (max. Cyndi Routledge, Steve Routledge) was the highest, and an apparent high-count record for the county.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Stewart Co (158) at the Land Between The Lakes South Welcome Center during a nearly five-hour banding session was once again the highest count of the season 3 Sep (Cyndi Routledge); Davidson Co (1) recaptured female (previously banded Aug 2025) at Bells Bend Park on 29 Nov (LinnAnn Welch, ph. Cyndi Routledge) was late.

Rufous Hummingbird: Davidson Co (1) adult male at a private residence in west Nashville 30 Sep (ph. David Parsley) and (1) adult male which was regular at an east Nashville residence 7 Oct–30 Nov (ph. James Dearman); Hamilton Co (1) at a Seminole Drive residence throughout the season 29 Sep–16 Nov (Bob Goodrick, ph. Lizzie Diener, m.ob.); Washington Co (1) apparent young male at a feeder at Twin Lights Farm 21 Oct (ph. Mary Barrett).

Virginia Rail: Reported from nine counties in suitable habitat; Trousdale Co (1) at Lock 5 Wildlife Refuge 6 Oct (Avery Fish) was a first county record in eBird.

Sora: Shelby Co (5) at DRU 17 Oct (max. Daniel Redwine) was the highest.

Common Gallinule: Meigs Co (1) juvenile at Cherokee Removal Memorial Park 19 Oct–1 Nov (ph. Patrick Higgins, m.ob.), a first county eBird record; Rhea Co (1) juvenile at Watts Barr Lake 31 Oct–3 Nov (ph. Patti Niswonger), also a first county eBird record; Hawkins Co (1) juvenile at John Sevier Lake 29–30 Oct (ph. Susan Hubley, Michael Hubley), where nearly annual the past ten years.

Sandhill Crane: Meigs Co (3,000) was the highest count of arriving birds at Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge 29 Nov (max. Jarvis Shirky).

Whooping Crane: Meigs Co (1) immature, banded bird arrived at Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge 29 Nov (Charles Murray, Peter Robinson, Donna Bourdon).

American Avocet: Another strong fall season for the species saw numerous records from 12 counties across the state: Blount Co (9) at Ft. Loudon Lake 24 Aug (ph. Randy Winstead, Evan Kidd); Putnam Co (1) at Cane Creek Park (ph. David Kirschke); Coffee Co (7) at Hillsboro Hwy Pond 11 Aug (ph. Avery Fish, Isaac Brown); Lincoln Co (3) at Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 24 Aug (Frank Bills); Rutherford Co (11) at Fate Sanders Marina 20 Aug (ph. Jo VerMulm) and (10) at Hurricane Creek Boat Ramp 19 Oct (Isaac Brown); Davidson Co (4) at J. Percy Priest Dam 23 Sept (ph. Justin Hiltner, m.ob.); Sumner/Davidson Cos (12) at Old Hickory Lake reported from both SBP and Lock 3 (ph. Graham Gerdeman, Tim

Loyd); Robertson Co (1) along Homer Worsham Road 8 Oct (ph. Jerry Webb); Benton Co (14) at Nathan Bedford Forrest SP 10 Aug (ph. Mary Ganaway, Sue Bradley); Humphreys Co (1) at DRU 1 Sep (Alan Troyer, Ruben Stoll, Paige O'Neal); Gibson Co (12) at Gibson Co Lake 20 Oct (ph. Mark Greene); Lake Co (1) at Tiptonville Landing 12 Aug (ph. Mark Greene); Shelby Co (11) was the most at Shelby Farms Park 19 Oct (ph. Ryan Pudwell, m.ob.), also (2) at Cool Springs Park 24 Aug (ph. PJ Pulliam), (4) at Horn Lake Hunting Ranch 17 Aug (ph. Alan Troyer, m.ob.), and (4) was the most at Ensley 19 Oct (PJ Pulliam), where (2) birds were also reported 13 Aug (ph. PJ Pulliam) and (1) was present 1 Nov (ph. Cliff VanNostrand, m.ob.).

Black-bellied Plover: There were relatively few reports this fall: Cocke Co (1) at Rankin Bottoms 21 & 25 Aug (David Kirschke, Robert Riggs, Elaine Sharpe); Hamilton Co (2) at Harrison Bay SP 7 Oct (Tim Lenz); Lincoln Co (1) at Fowler Road Irrigation Pond lingered from 9 Aug–8 Oct (ph. Tim Lenz, Avery Fish, m.ob.); Benton Co (1) individual birds were reported from Evans Branch 27 Sep, 8 & 10 Oct (Daniel Redwine, Ruben Stoll, Patrick Higgins), from Camden Landing 19 Oct (Ruben Stoll), and (2) further north at Lick Creek WMA 29 Oct (Ruben Stoll, Philemon Friesen); Lake Co (2) at Tiptonville Landing 2 Sep (Mark Greene).

American Golden-Plover: There were far more Golden-Plovers than Black-bellied, with reports from 16 counties, across the state from Memphis to Bristol. Humphreys Co (47) from Kentucky Lake–Tie Landing 1 Sep (max. Alan Troyer, Ruben Stoll) was the highest count.

Semipalmated Plover: Washington Co (1) at Austin Springs 30 Oct (lrs. Richard L. Knight *fide* Graham Gerdeman) established a new late record for northeast TN.

Piping Plover: Lake Co (1) from Tiptonville Landing 12 Aug (Mark Greene); Lincoln Co (1) at Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 12 Aug (ph. Daniel Redwine, m.ob.) was an extraordinary find and a first county record.

Upland Sandpiper: Hawkins Co (1) at Stanley Valley Road 13 Aug (ph. Tammy Bright) was a first county record in eBird; Hamilton Co (1) at Standifer Gap Marsh 26–27 Sep (Tim Lenz); Marion Co (1) at River Canyon Road 4 Oct (Patrick Higgins) was also an eBird county first; Warren Co (1) at Hickory Creek Nature Trail 21 Sep (Bill Martin); Coffee Co (1) at Hillsboro Highway Pond 23 Aug (Kevin Tayes); Lincoln Co (1) at Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 21 Aug (Daniel Redwine, ph. Patrick Higgins); Stewart Co (1) at Cross Creeks NWR 25 Aug (Avery Fish); Weakley Co (1) along TN-190 9 Aug (David Chaffin); Shelby Co (1) at Ensley 8 Sep (Cliff VanNostrand).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Shelby Co (7) at Ensley 2 Aug (max. Tricia Vesely, Dick Preston) was the most reported.

Long-billed Dowitcher: Shelby Co (249) at Ensley 18 Oct (max. Ruben Stoll) was the most reported.

Wilson's Phalarope: Lincoln Co (1–2) at Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 20 Aug–2 Sep (ph. Tim Lenz, m.ob.); Humphreys Co (1–2) from DRU and the Duck River/Kentucky Lake Mudflats 27–28 Aug & 1 Sep (Alan Troyer, Ruben Stoll, Jason Cole, ph. Dallas Harrell); Shelby Co (3) was the most at Ensley 7 Sep (Michael Sandoz), where 1–2 birds were report-

ed 2 Aug–29 Sep (m.ob.).

Red Phalarope: Benton Co (1) from Kentucky Lake–Evans Branch 27 Sep (Daniel Redwine) was the first county record in eBird and only the second state record of the species in the past five years.

Red-necked Phalarope: Humphreys Co (3) on the mudflats of the Duck River at DRU 25 Aug (ph. Ruben Stoll), with at least one continuing 26–27 Aug (Graham Gerdeman, ph. Alan Troyer); Lincoln Co (1) at the Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 21–23 Aug (ph. Daniel Redwine, m.ob.).

Spotted Sandpiper: Humphreys Co (14) at DRU 8 Aug (Ruben Stoll); Shelby Co (14) at Ensley 2 Aug (Jacob Wyco, m.ob.) were tied for the highest counts.

Willet: Benton Co (5) at Nathan Bedford Forrest SP–Eva Beach 12 Aug (max. Alan Troyer); Humphreys Co (3) at DRU 31 Aug (Mark Brown); Sullivan Co (3) at South Holston Lake 13 Aug (ph. Roy Knispel); Lincoln Co (2) at Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 2 Sep (ph. Patti Niswonger).

Ruddy Turnstone: There were two in the far west of the state and three in the eastern mountains: Shelby Co (1) at Ensley 6 Aug (Cliff VanNostrand); Lake Co (1) from Tiptonville Landing 21 Aug (Mark Greene); Hawkins Co (1) at Holston River–Cherokee Lake 30 Aug–2 Sep (ph. Susan Hubley, m.ob.); Cocke Co (1) at Rankin Bottoms 15 Sep (ph. Clancey Deel); Monroe Co (1) at Tellico Lake WMA 5 Sep (ph. Christie Mann).

Red Knot: Shelby Co (1) at Ensley 5–8 Sep (ph. PJ Pulliam, m.ob.) was the first to be found at "the Pits" since 2019.

Sanderling: Cocke Co (18) at Rankin Bottoms 7 Sep (ph., max. Chris Welch, Deb Welch) was the most; Davidson Co (1) at Long Hunter Recreation Area 22 Aug (Avery Fish, Isaac Brown) was a rare Nashville area find.

White-rumped Sandpiper: Rare in fall, there were several: Cocke Co (21) at Rankin Bottoms 7 Sep (ph. max. Chris Welsh, Deb Welsh) was exceptional, setting a record for the second highest fall count for the state; Coffee Co (1) at Hillsboro Highway Pond 13–22 Sep (ph. Jo VerMulm, David VerMulm, m.ob.); Lincoln Co (1) at Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 23, 26, & 29 Aug (ph. Alan Troyer, m.ob.); Sumner Co (1) at Cages Bend 6 Sep (ph. Tim Loyd); Benton Co (1) at Camden Landing 20–22 Oct (ph. Ruben Stoll, m.ob.).

Least Sandpiper: Shelby Co (4,300) was the most at Ensley and a very notable record 1 Aug (max. Paul Dickson), where (3,500) were reported the following day 2 Aug (Daniel Redwine, Jacob Wyco, Ruben Stoll, Alan Troyer).

Pectoral Sandpiper: Shelby Co (950) at Ensley 2 Aug (max. Daniel Redwine, Jacob Wyco, Ruben Stoll, Alan Troyer).

Western Sandpiper: Single digits reported from eight counties: Shelby Co (5) at Ensley 23 Aug (ph. max. PJ Pulliam) and 8 Sep (max. Avery Fish) were the highest counts; Davidson Co (1) at Shelby Park–Cornelia Fort Airpark 22–23 Sep (ph. Gra-

ham Gerdeman, m.ob.) was a rare Nashville record—only the third in the past decade.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Shelby Co (520) at Ensley 2 Aug (max. Daniel Redwine, Jacob Wyco, Ruben Stoll, Alan Troyer) was notable.

Little Gull: Hamilton Co (1) at Chickamauga Lake seen from Booker T. Washington SP and Mulkey Point 12–16 Nov (Tim Lenz, ph. Rachel Burgess, m.ob.).

Bonaparte's Gull: Hamilton Co (850) at Chickamauga Lake from Booker T. Washington SP 25 Nov (max. Tim Lenz) was the highest count.

Laughing Gull: Knox Co at least (1) first cycle bird at Concord Park 8–23 Nov (ph. Terry Crowe, m.ob.), however (2) were seen together there 21 Nov (ph. Rob Upchurch). Hardin Co (6) was the most at Pickwick Dam 16 Aug (ph. max. Alan Troyer) where 1–4 were reported throughout the fall (Alan Troyer, Victor Stoll, Ruben Stoll); Benton/Humphreys Co (2) was the most seen together in the environs of KY Lake 27 Sep & 3 Oct (ph. Daniel Redwine) where single birds were reported from both counties Aug–Oct.

Franklin's Gull: Hardin Co (71) at Pickwick Dam 25 Oct (max. Alan Troyer, Ruben Stoll) was the highest count.

American Herring Gull: Benton Co (80) at the Benton Co Landfill 22 Nov (max. Daniel Redwine) was the most; Davidson Co (26) at J. Percy Priest Lake from Cook Recreation Area 27 Oct (Daniel Redwine) was an exceptional fall count for the county.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Once a rarity in TN, there were fall records from 13 counties this season, including in the far NE corner: Washington Co (1) at Boone Lake 27 Oct (Richard L. Knight, m.ob.) was a county first; Henry Co (48) at Paris Landing SP 10 Oct (max. Ruben Stoll) sets the second highest fall count for TN on record, and the fourth highest of any season.

Least Tern: Rhea Co (1) at Watts Bar Lake 9 Aug (ph. Clyde Blum) established a first county record in eBird; Coffee Co (1) at Hillsboro Highway Pond 9 Aug (ph. Tim Lenz, m.ob.) and 24 Aug (Frank Bills); Lincoln Co (3) at Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 13 Aug (ph. Roi Shannon, Debbie Shannon); Obion Co (2) at Reelfoot–Indian Creek 25 Aug (Mark Greene); Lake Co (100) was the most seen at Tiptonville Bar from Tiptonville Landing 12 Aug (max. Mark Greene); Shelby Co (25) was the most in the Co, from Ensley Bottom Ranch 17 Aug (Victor Stoll, Ruben Stoll).

Caspian Tern: Benton Co (56) at Nathan Bedford Forrest SP–Eva Beach 21 Aug (max. Sue Bradley, Mary Ganaway) was notable.

Black Tern: Franklin Co (42) at Woods Reservoir 12 Aug (ph. max. Roi Shannon, Debbie Shannon) was the most reported.

Common Tern: Davidson Co (12) at J. Percy Priest Dam 23 Sep (max. Avery Fish) was the most reported.

Pied-billed Grebe: Hamilton Co (200) from Harrison Bay SP 15 Nov (max. Tim Lenz) was the most reported. The locale of Chickamauga Lake in Hamilton Co has consistently pro-

duced high counts of this species over the past decade, especially during fall.

Horned Grebe: Franklin Co (206) at Woods Reservoir 22 Nov (max. Avery Fish) was the most reported.

Red-necked Grebe: Davidson Co (1) from Cook Recreation Area 14 Nov (Daniel Redwine).

Eared Grebe: Sumner Co (1) at Old Hickory Lake from Lock 3 Recreation Area 31 Oct (ph. Tim Loyd); Franklin Co (2) at Woods Reservoir 16 Nov (max. Luke Thompson, Richard Candler, Graham Nystrom).

Red-throated Loon: Davidson Co (3) was the most from Cook Recreation Area on J. Percy Priest Lake 17 Nov (ph. Daniel Redwine, Avery Fish); Lake/Obion Cos (2) were seen on Reelfoot Lake from the state park cabins in Lake Co and the campground in Obion Co 23 Nov (ph. Alan Troyer).

Pacific Loon: Hamilton Co at least (1) at Chickamauga Lake 19–30 Nov (Tim Lenz, ph. Austin Young, m.ob.) where (2) were seen at once 21–22 Nov (Ruben Stoll, ph. Isaac Brown, m.ob.).

Common Loon: Davidson Co (674) was an exact clicker count at J. Percy Priest Lake from Cook Recreation Area 17 Nov (max. Daniel Redwine, Avery Fish), establishing a record high count for the county; Rutherford Co (138) from Hurricane Creek Boat Ramp a few days earlier on 14 Nov (Avery Fish) set a new high count for Rutherford.

Wood Stork: Shelby Co (45) was the highest at Horn Lake Hunting Ranch 17 Oct (ph. max. Adrian Hall, PJ Pulliam, m.ob.). It was the second fall in a row with significant numbers of Wood Storks in the county.

Brown Booby: Haywood Co (1) continued at Hatchie NWR–O'Neal Lake until last reported 3 Aug (ph. Liz Rutemeyer); Perry Co (1) on the Buffalo River at Daily Loop Road 14 Aug (ph. Eric Hughes *fide* Ruben Stoll) was a first for the county and apparent 11th state record, though the bird could have been the same individual from Hatchie NWR.

Anhinga: Haywood Co (1) at Hatchie NWR–O'Neal Lake 2 Aug (ph. Graham Gerdeman, Adriana Gerdeman); Hardeman Co (1) in Saulsbury 18 Aug (Mary Schmidt); Hamilton Co (1) at Harrison Bay SP 18 Oct (Noah Sanford); Hardin Co (1) at Pickwick Dam 7 Nov (ph. Ruben Stoll); Shelby Co (2) was the most reported at both Meeman-Shelby Forest SP 5 Oct (ph. Adrian Hall, Liz Hall) and from Horn Lake Hunting Ranch 17 Aug (ph. Alan Troyer, Cliff VanNostrand, m.ob.); Humphreys Co (16) was the most at DRU 4 Aug (Sue Bradley, Mary Ganaway).

GREAT CORMORANT: Hamilton Co (1) at Chickamauga Dam 21–30 Nov (ph. Hans Holbrook, Tim Lenz, m.ob.) established a first state record and was seen by birders from across the state and region (Fig. 1).

Neotropic Cormorant: Davidson Co (1) at the cormorant rookery island off of Long Hunter SP–Bryant Grove 1 & 6 Aug (ph. Graham Gerdeman, Avery Fish, Isaac Brown); Rutherford/Davidson Cos (1) seen from the same area in both adjacent Cos 22 Aug (Isaac Brown,

Avery Fish); Hardin Co (1) flying south near Pickwick Dam 25 Oct (Ruben Stoll, Alan Troyer); Humphreys Co (2) was the most reported from the DRU environs 9 Aug (Ruben Stoll) and 1 Sep (Ruben Stoll, Alan Troyer); Haywood Co (1) from Hatchie NWR–Lake O'Neal 1 Aug (Christie Mann, Kathie Kent, Julie Moore); Lake Co (1) at Reelfoot Lake 19 Oct & 17 Nov (ph. Alan Troyer, Mark Greene); Shelby Co (3) at Horn Lake Hunting Ranch 17 Aug (max. Jim Varner, m.ob.) and (1) from Mud Island 10 Nov (Rob Harbin).

White Ibis: Shelby Co (1) individual juvenile birds from three different locations: the Germantown Greenway on the Wolf River 5 Aug (ph. PJ Pulliam, Adrian Hall), Shelby Farms Park–Gardner Road Marsh 10 Aug (ph. Mike Tillman), and Horn Lake Hunting Ranch 17 Aug (Jim Varner, m.ob.); Humphreys Co (3) at DRU 9 Aug (ph. max. Alan Troyer), where 1–2 were also reported sporadically from 5 Aug–1 Sep (m.ob.).

Glossy/White-faced Ibis: Shelby Co (1–2) *Plegadis* ibises at Shelby Farms Park 20–21 Oct & 12 Nov (Sophie Dismukes, Cliff VanNostrand, PJ Pulliam) were all flyovers which could not be identified to species.

Roseate Spoonbill: Hardin Co (2) juvenile birds at Savannah Bottoms 17 Aug (ph. Victor Stoll, Ruben Stoll).

American Bittern: Hamilton Co (1) at Standifer Gap Marsh sporadically 26 Sept–8 Oct (au. Tim Lenz, ph. Peter Robinson, m.ob.), and (1) at Soddy Daisy 2 Nov (Stefanie Jones, Kristin Whitson); Lincoln Co (1) at Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 27 Sep (au. Tim Lenz, Patrick Higgins); Davidson Co (1) at Walter S. Davis Marsh 23 Oct (Robert Deegan) and 6 Nov (ph. Sheri Vaughn, Brad Dowd); Shelby Co (1) at Ensley 28–30 Sept & 3 Oct (ph. Tricia Vesely, Rob Harbin, m.ob.), and (1) at Shelby Farms Park 11 Oct (Sophie Dismukes, Cliff VanNostrand).

Least Bittern: Hamilton Co (3) was the most reported at Standifer Gap Marsh 11 Aug (Tim Lenz) where 1–2 was reported 2 Aug–19 Sep (m.ob.); Hawkins Co (1) at John Sevier Lake 5 Aug (Susan Hubley, Michael Hubley).

Little Blue Heron: Humphreys Co (500) as a "conservative estimate" at DRU 9 Aug (max. Ruben Stoll) doubled the previous TN high count from summer and appears to be the highest total reported in the state since 1997.

Snowy Egret: Humphreys Co (250) at DRU 1 Sep (Ruben Stoll, Alan Troyer) is also the highest count in many years. Small herons are clearly doing well at the rookeries at DRU.

Western Cattle-Egret: Humphreys Co (1604) at DRU 27 Aug (max. Alan Troyer) set a new high count for Humphreys Co.

American White Pelican: Washington/Sullivan Cos (62) photographed at Boone Lake 12 Nov and posted to social media (*fide* Richard L. Knight) was by far the largest flock ever seen in NE TN. The species remains quite uncommon east of Knoxville. Obion Co (1,000) at Reelfoot Lake 23 Nov (max. Alan Troyer) was the most reported.

Brown Pelican: Rutherford Co (1) continued from summer for one additional day at Fall Creek Recreation Area 1 Aug (ph. Avery Fish).

Swallow-tailed Kite: There were several random sightings across the state in addition to the regular fall migrants in the Sequatchie Valley: Bledsoe (4) was the most along Lower East Valley Road 16 Aug (ph. max. Andrew Burgess, m.ob.), where at least (1) was present until at least 1 Sep (Roi Shannon, Debbie Shannon); Marion Co (2) soaring over private land 6 Aug (ph. Patrick Higgins); DeKalb Co (1) over a home 22 Aug (Shelley Smith) was an apparent first county record; Chester Co (1) 10 Aug (Noah Phillips) was also an apparent first county record; Crockett Co (1) near Alamo 15 Aug (Mark Greene) was a first for that county in eBird; Haywood Co (1) at Hatchie NWR–O'Neal Lake 2 Aug (Ruben Stoll, Jacob Wyco, m.ob.); Fayette Co (1) at Williams Drive Sod Farm 2 Aug (ph. Ruben Stoll, Jacob Wyco, m.ob.) established an apparent first for that county.

Golden Eagle: Shelby Co (1) seen heading down the river from Mud Island 25 Sep (Cliff VanNostrand); Lauderdale Co (1) at Chickasaw NWR 28 Nov (ph. Ripley Kindervater); Henderson Co (1) near Huron 16 Nov (ph. Alan Troyer); Hardin Co (1) at Pickwick Lake from Bruton Branch 30 Nov (ph. Ruben Stoll); Perry Co (2) from White Oak Ridge 28 Nov (ph. max. Ruben Stoll, Alan Troyer).

Northern Harrier: Montgomery Co (19) along Stateline Road 21 Nov (max. Marvin Beachy) was notable.

Mississippi Kite: Lake Co (72) along Tiptonville-Obion Levee Road 12 Aug (ph. max. Mark Greene) was the most reported.

Broad-winged Hawk: Lincoln Co (160) kettling near Fayetteville 27 Sep (ph. max. Patrick Higgins, Tim Lenz) was the highest count of southbound migrants.

Rough-legged Hawk: Lake Co (1) dark morph bird near Tiptonville 7 & 9 Nov (ph. Mark Greene, Ruben Stoll).

American Barn Owl: Shelby Co (8) at Shelby Farms Park 30 Oct (max. Cliff VanNostrand) was a notable count, and apparently the second highest count for TN.

Long-eared Owl: Shelby Co (1) near a previous winter roost location 8 Nov (Ruben Stoll).

Short-eared Owl: Shelby Co (1) on 1 Nov at Ensley was the earliest report (ph. ers. Jo VerMulm, David VerMulm) and (3) was the most reported at Shelby Farms Park 8–9 Nov (max. Ryan Pudwell, Larry Chitwood); Blount Co (2) at Cades Cove, GSMNP 30 Nov (Keith Watson, m.ob.) was the only other report.

Northern Saw-Whet Owl: Davidson Co (1) reported from Old Hickory Blvd near Bells Bend 31 Oct (ers. Daniel Redwine) was the earliest and an always rare county record; Perry Co (3) was the highest count at the known wintering location near Linden 6 Nov (au. Ruben Stoll); Monroe Co (2) was the most at Whigg Meadow 30-31 Aug (Tracey Muise, m.ob.).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Davidson Co (2) at Shelby Park 11 Sep (ph. max. Ariel Dunham); individual birds reported from nine counties in east and middle TN, but curiously none were reported west of Williamson County.

Say's Phoebe: Shelby Co (1) at Shelby Farms Park–Community Gardens 1–3 Oct & 19 Nov

(ph. Sophie Dismukes, Adrian Hall, Larry Chitwood, Cliff VanNostrand).

Vermillion Flycatcher: There were at least two, and possibly THREE in Shelby Co, (1) at Shelby Farms Park–Gardner Road Marsh 27 Sep (ph. Andrew Murray, m.ob.) might have been the same male bird found a month later near Halle Stadium 25–30 Oct (ph. Ryan Pudwell, m.ob.); a different first year female was then found at nearby Medal of Honor Park 31 Oct–2 Nov (ph. Ryan Pudwell, m.ob.).

Ash-throated Flycatcher: Shelby Co (1) in the company of the Vermillion Flycatcher at Halle Stadium 25–28 Oct (ph. Ryan Pudwell, m.ob.) established approximately the 16th state record (Fig. 2). A *Myiarchus* flycatcher found at Shelby Farms Park 29 Sep (Rob Harbin) was believed to have been an Ash-throated by the observer and may possibly have been the same bird.



Figure 2. An Ash-throated Flycatcher in Shelby County, Tennessee provided approximately the 16th state record. Photo taken on 25 October 2025 ©PJ Pulliam.

Great-crested Flycatcher: Sevier Co (1) reported in Gatlinburg 20 Nov (lrs. Sarah Tattersall, Dan Tattersall) by visiting birders tied the late state record.

Western Kingbird: Shelby Co (13) was the most at Ensley 2 Aug (max. Daniel Redwine, m.ob.).

Eastern Kingbird: Davidson Co (40) at Shelby Park 4 Sep (Andrew Cameron, m.ob.), including 36 in a single tree, set a new high count for the county.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Davidson Co (1) at Shelby Park–Cornelia Fort 26 Aug–1 Sep (Bonner Black, ph. Cameron Archer, m.ob.) was a rare Nashville record.

White-eyed Vireo: Knox Co (1) at Concord Park 28 Nov (Jennifer Miller) and Sumner Co (1) at Old Hickory Lake–Walton Ferry Boat Ramp 29 Nov (au. lrs. Patrick Higgins) were both notably late.

Bell's Vireo: Lincoln Co (1) at Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 31 Aug–1 Sep (ph. Tim Lenz, m.ob.) was a county first and rare record for middle TN; Rutherford Co (1) along Swamp Road 10 Oct (ph. Jane Powell) identified months later from photos was the first record for the county, as well as for the greater Nashville area; Dyer Co (2) at Thorny Cypress WMA 28 Aug (ph. Ruben Stoll); Lake Co (4) at Tumbleweed WMA 2 Sep (ph. max. Mark Greene).

Purple Martin: Davidson Co (160,000) was the highest estimate of numbers leaving the downtown Nashville roost at dawn 31 Aug (max. Graham Gerdeman).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: Maury Co (1) at Tailings Pond No. 10 30 Nov (lrs. Ruben Stoll) and Hamilton Co (1) at Standifer Gap Marsh 28–29 Nov (Tim Russell, Tim Lenz) were notably late.

Barn Swallow: Lincoln Co (1) at the Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 27 Oct (Avery Fish) and Davidson Co (1) at Walter S. Davis Blvd Marsh 29 Oct (lrs. Robert Deegan) were the latest.

Cave Swallow: Hamilton Co (1) Harrison Bay SP–Duck Point 30 Oct (ph. Tim Lenz, Wolf Jedamski, Hans Holbrook) was a rare find and the second for Hamilton Co.

Gray Catbird: Rutherford Co (44) at Stone River National Battlefield 26 Sep (max. Avery Fish) was exceptional and set a county high count.

Purple Finch: Perry Co (78) from a morning count near Linden 23 Nov (max. Victor Stoll) was the highest from a relatively strong showing across the state. There were reports from 64 counties.

Red Crossbill: Sevier Co (84) at GSMNP–Mount LeConte 28 Nov (ph. max. Patrick Higgins, Michael Higgins) was exceptional.

Bachman's Sparrow: Montgomery Co (2) on Ft. Campbell–one singing adult bird and one juvenile–26 Aug (au. Daniel Moss).

Clay-colored Sparrow: There were reports from seven counties sprinkled across the state: Shelby Co (1) at Shelby Farms Park 5–8 & 16–21 Oct (ph. Sophie Dismukes, PJ Pulliam, m.ob.) were possibly all the same individual; Benton Co (1) at Evans Branch 8 Oct (ph. Ruben Stoll) was an apparent county first; Davidson Co (1) at Woodlawn Cemetery 23–25 Sep (ph. Graham Gerdeman, m.ob.) and (1) at Shelby Park–Cornelia Fort Airpark 27 Sep (ph. Phillip Casteel); Lincoln Co (1) at Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 5 Sep (ph. Avery Fish) was an apparent county first; Hamilton Co (1) at Lookout Mountain 24–27 Sep (Bruce Dralle, Traci Dralle); Knox Co (1) at Atlee Fields 15 Nov (K. Dean Edwards) and (1) at Seven Islands State Birding Park 11 Oct (Terry Crowe, Maria Crowe); Hawkins Co (1) on Stoney Point Road 4 Oct (ph. Shane Falin) was yet another apparent first county record.

Harris's Sparrow: Davidson Co (1) at Shelby Park Nature Center 18–25 Nov (ph. Ariel

Dunham, m.ob.).

LeConte's Sparrow: Shelby Co (21) at Shelby Farms Park–Gardner Road Marsh 8 Nov (ph. max., Alan Troyer) was notable.

Nelson's Sparrow: Lincoln Co (1) at Fowler Road Irrigation Pond 26 Oct (ph. Matthew Palmeri) & 1 Nov (ph. Shelby Carter, Russell Brown) was a county first (Fig. 3); Davidson Co (1) at Shelby Park 27–28 (ph. Ron Burkert, Jeffrey Hill); Benton Co (2) at Camden WMA 28–29 Oct (ph. Alan Troyer, Wade Baker); Humphreys Co (1) at DRU 21 Oct (Avery Fish, Isaac Brown) and 1 Nov (ph. Carole Swann); Hardin Co (1) at Bellis Road Fields 26 Oct (Patrick Higgins); Shelby Co (1) found sporadically at Shelby Farms Park–Gardner Road Marsh 16–18 Oct & 4–6 Nov (Rob Harbin, ph. Tommy Edwards, m.ob.).



Figure 3. This Nelson's Sparrow was the first for Lincoln County, Tennessee. Photo taken on 26 October 2025 ©Matthew Palmeri.

Henslow's Sparrow: Davidson Co (2) at Bells Bend 25 Oct (ph. Graham Gerdeman, Daniel Redwine); Montgomery Co (8) at Fort Campbell 5 Aug (max. Daniel Moss *fide* Graham Gerdeman); Sumner Co (1) at Castalian Springs 11 Aug (Victor Stoll, m.ob.); Henry Co (1) at Haggler Ridge Road 7 Nov (ph. Alan Troyer); Humphreys Co (1) at DRU 11, 14, & 31 Oct (ph. Daniel Redwine, m.ob.); Hardin Co (1) near Bellis Road 12 Oct (Alan Troyer) and (3) in the same location 25 Oct (ph. Ruben Stoll, Victor Stoll); Shelby Co (1) reported sporadically at Shelby Farms Park 16 Oct–19 Nov (ph. Cliff VanNostrand, Sophie Dismukes, m.ob.) and (1) at Ensley 22 Nov (Cliff VanNostrand, Scott Heppell).

Baltimore Oriole: Putnam Co (1) at Bluetooth Hollow Heritage Farm 20 Nov (lrs. Mark Taylor, Holly Taylor) was very late.

Connecticut Warbler: Putnam Co (1) at Bluetooth Hollow Heritage Farm 2 Sep (Mark Taylor, Holly Taylor) was the only report.

Magnolia Warbler: Hamilton Co (1) on DeFriese Road 21 Nov (lrs. Charles Murray) was notably late.

Blackpoll Warbler: Rare in fall, there were several documented reports: Hamilton Co (1) Cravens House 4 & 12 Sep (Tommie Rogers, ph. Tim Lenz); Monroe Co (1) at Tellico Cabin 16 Oct (Eric Dinkel); Putnam Co (1) at Bluetooth Hollow Heritage Farm 12 Sep (ph. Mark Taylor, Holly Taylor); Davidson Co (1) at Radnor Lake SP 10 Oct (ph. Reese Martin, Andreanna Burman); Montgomery Co (1) in a yard 28 Sep (Rick Shipkowski).

Painted Bunting: Hamilton Co (1) female/juvenile type at Cravens House 3 Sep (Kent DuBois) was a rare eastern record.

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REPORT OF THE TENNESSEE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE, 2025

Graham Gerdeman
Nashville, Tennessee

It is the job of the Tennessee Bird Records Committee (TBRC) to maintain the Official List of the Birds of Tennessee and to ensure that sightings of rare species are documented accurately and adequately for posterity. This list, along with information for submitting documentation, may be viewed in the TBRC section of the TOS website (https://tnbirds.org/tennessee-bird-records-committee/). The TBRC also maintains status codes for abundance and frequency of each species on the Official List. Species which are coded as anything other than "Regular" or "Casual" require review of the committee.

Current members of the committee are Graham Gerdeman (Secretary), Chris Sloan, Beth Schilling, Mark Greene, Michael Smith, Jeffrey Walck, and Stefan Woltmann (alternate). We wish to thank all who have taken the time to document and submit rare bird records. Many of these reports are accompanied by photographic documentation, which is especially valuable to the work of the committee. If a recently submitted record is not included in this list, it is probably still under review. If an older submitted record is not included, please send an email to tbrc@tnbirds.org. Please note, a species is considered provisional if it is not verified by an extant specimen, extant photograph or sound recording, or the written documentation of three independent observers of a species or of the same individual bird.

Reviewed records are listed in taxonomic order:

Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*) - Written documentation and photographs of one individual submitted by Beth Schilling; Yuchi Wildlife Management Area, Rhea Co, 10 August 2025. A ninth state record. Accepted 6–0.

Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis)* - Written documentation and photograph of one individual submitted by Clayton Ferrell; TN National Wildlife Refuge–Duck River Unit; Humphreys Co, 10 April 2025. A first state record. Accepted 5–1.

Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*) - Written documentation and photographs of one individual submitted by Geoffrey North; "Snow Bunting Peninsula," Davidson Co, 14 January 2025. A fourth state record. Accepted 6–0.

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) - Written documentation and photographs of one subadult individual submitted by Graham Gerdeman; Cook Recreation Area, Davidson Co, 6 December 2025. Accepted 6–0.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) - Written documentation and photographs of one individual, submitted by Kyle Bess; Mississippi River, Dyer Co, 23 May 2025. Believed to be the seventh state record. Accepted 6–0.

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) - Written documentation and photograph of one individual, originally seen by Joel Fryer on 18 July, submitted by Glenn Weatherly; Hatchie National

Wildlife Refuge, 21 July 2025. Accepted 6–0.

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) - Written documentation and photographs of one individual, originally found by Hans Holbrook 21 November 2025, submitted by Edith Dietrich; Lake Chickamauga, Hamilton Co, 22 November 2025. A first state record. Accepted 6–0.

Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*) - Written documentation, photographs, and audio recording of one individual submitted to eBird by Ruben Stoll; Reelfoot Lake, Lake Co, 9 November 2024. A third state record. Accepted 6–0.

Dark-eyed Junco (Gray-headed) (*Junco hyemalis - caniceps* group) - Written documentation and photographs of one individual submitted by Cristy Mayes; Davidson Co, 16 March 2025. A first state record of this phenotype. Accepted 6–0.

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*) - Written documentation and photograph of one adult male individual submitted by Elizabeth Hall; Shelby Co, 4 May 2025. A third state record. Accepted 6–0.

The Official List of the Birds of Tennessee follows the American Ornithological Society's (AOS's) Checklist of North and Middle American Birds (https://checklist.americanornithology.org/taxa/). Following changes published in the 66th Supplement to the checklist (Chesser et al. 2025), two notable changes were made at the species level to the Tennessee list:

Warbling Vireo is now Eastern Warbling-Vireo (*Vireo gilvus*) following a split of that species with the western subspecies, now Western Warbling-Vireo (*V. swainsoni*). The western species could possibly occur as a vagrant to the state in the future. An audio recording would likely be required to confirm the identity.

The Herring Gull complex was split four ways, resulting in American Herring Gull (*Larus smithsonianus*) replacing "Herring Gull" on the state list. With the tendency of the large gulls to wander, both Vega Gull (*L. vegae*) and European Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*) are possible winter vagrants to someday occur here.

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2025 TENNESSEE FALL BIRD COUNTS

Liz Rutemeyer, State Count Compiler

Six Fall Bird Counts were conducted this year. One hundred sixty-seven observers in 71 parties volunteered 391 party hours in the field to record 36,292 individual birds, representing 178 species. The Fall Count five-year average is 181.6 species. The weather was fairly mild during the count period. Temperatures ranged from 42°F in Elizabethton to 92°F in Montgomery County.

No new species were recorded this year for the Fall Count, leaving the all-time species total for the Tennessee Fall Bird Count compilation at 266. Count highlights included American Golden-Plover (6th record in the fall count for these locations), Short-billed Dowitcher (5th), Lesser Black-backed Gull (3rd), and Bachman's Sparrow (3rd). Northern Saw-whet Owls had a high count this year with three birds counted. Northern Harrier was missing for the first year since 2016 in a fall count.

Counts are placed in the table geographically from West to East. Taxonomy follows the latest revision of the AOS Checklist of North American Birds.

Data beginning with 2001 for spring, fall, and Christmas counts are stored in Excel spreadsheets in a format that supports use of the data in pivot tables, Power BI, or other data modeling tools. These data are available to researchers by contacting the State Compiler, Liz Rutemeyer, at zzalbers@gmail.com.

COUNTY SUMMARIES

(F/Y = feeder/yard watcher)

Blount County – 20 September; 0425-2120. Weather: clear to partly cloudy; calm winds 0-4 mph; 60-88° F. Count highlights included Sora, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Peregrine Falcon, Fish Crow (a fall count high of 81), Bobolink, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Canada Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, and Dickcissel (a fall count first). Observers: Jean J. Alexander (F/Y), Kathryn Barrow (F/Y), Rick Barrow, Annie Bell, Warren Bielenberg (F/Y), Stephanie Crain, Jenny Darden, Wanda DeWaard (F/Y), Andy Feldt, Sandy Graves, Kim Henry, Stephen P. Henry, Thomas D. Howe (compiler), Susan Hoyle, David M. Johnson (F/Y), Kris Johnson, Evan Kidd, Martha Rudolf, Michael G. Ryon, Marianne Searfoss, Harumi Tsuruoka, June D. Welch, Valerie Wininger, and Randy C. Winstead.

Elizabethton – 4 October; 0445-2000. Weather: clear to partly cloudy; winds light & variable; 42-82° F. The count area is Carter County, and parts of adjacent Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington counties. This was the 53rd consecutive Elizabethton Fall Count. Highlights included American Barn Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, and Wilson's Warbler. Observers: Fred Alsop, Rob Armistead, Rob Biller, Tammy Bright, Debi Campbell, Ron Carrico, Catherine Cummins, John Dollard, Dave Gardner, Connie Irick, David Irick, Reagan Jarrett, David Kirschke, Jacki Knight, Rick Knight (compiler), Vern Maddux, Joe McGuiness, Tom McNeil, Brookie Potter, Jean Potter, Pete Range, Judi Sawyer, Chris Soto, Bryan Stevens, and Kim Stroud.

Knoxville – 4 October; 0609-2040. Weather: clear to partly cloudy; winds were 0-5 mph

and variable; 56-78° F. Species total of 118 was above average. Count highlights included Green-winged Teal, Sora, American Golden-Plover (not seen on a fall count since 2014), Golden-crowned Kinglet, Sedge Wren, and Lark Sparrow (a first for the fall count). Notable misses include Black-crowned Night-Heron, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and Empids (likely due to the later count date.) Observers: Amy Abercrombie, Robert Abercrombie, Patti Armistead, Karen Beuerlein, Frank Bills, Courtney Clark, Gail Clendenen, Steve Clendenen, Howard Cox, Jeremy Dotson, K. Dean Edwards (compiler), Patricia Harmon, Ron Hoff, Angela Hoffman, Nathan Hoffman-McConchie, Susan Hoyle, Kristine Johnson, Evan Kidd, Luke Lewis, Rita Lewis, Bruce Marshall, Kim McCollom, Seth McConchie, Dollyann Myers, Paul Pardue, Natalie Pheasant, Patrick Rakes, Tyler Reese, Martha Rudolph, Liz Rutemeyer, Beth Schilling, Rob Upchurch, Chris Welsh, and Shane Williams.

Montgomery – 20 September; 0515-1900. Weather: mostly clear; light winds; 60-92° F. Highlights included Little Blue Heron, Chimney Swift (6000+ thanks to a roost), Willow Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Bachman's Sparrow (spotted at Fort Campbell where a pair had successfully fledged this summer; Fort Campbell is the only reported current breeding location for this species in Tennessee). Fall count firsts included Osprey, Brown Creeper, Song Sparrow, and Golden-winged Warbler. Observers: Elaine Foust, Debbie Hamilton, Steve Hamilton, Sherri Hanson, Daniel Moss, Cyndi Routledge, Steve Routledge, Brandy Schnettler, Rick Shipkowski (compiler), and Sue Shipkowski.

Nashville – 4 October; 0515-2105. Weather: foggy to clear early and partly cloudy to clear and sunny later; 57-85° F. Notable sightings included Wilson's Snipe (first fall report since 2012), Lesser Black-backed Gull, Peregrine Falcon, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Wilson's Warbler. Observers: Krista Allen, Rachel Anderson, Jim Arnett, Jenna Atma, Kim Bailey, Frank Berryman, Susan Bradfield, Trae Bradfield, Shirley Breece, Isaac Brown, Lise Brown, Marie Connors, Richard Connors, Paul Richard Cook, Baily Crable, Sam D'Anna, Jennifer Dickinson, Robert Dickinson, Brad Dowd, Tommy Edwards, Robert English, Avery Fish, John Froeschauer, Graham Gerdeman, Steve Goodbred, Barbara Harris (compiler), Randy Harrod, Eric Hilt, Linda Holt, Melissa James, Pam Lasley, Steve Lasley, Deborah Linius, Kathy Malone, Max Mays, Roy McGraw, Tera Rica Murdock, Paige O'Neal, Allison Palmer, Matthew Palmieri, Amy Pardo, Benjamin Pardo, Caroline Rexer, Chris Ryland, Nila Sathe, Brianna Saylor, Sarah Scott, Sheila Shay, Mike Smith, Shelly Smith, Anne Snyder, Marcus Snyder, Cyndi Tolsma, Andrea (Pandy) Upchurch, Rita Veneble, LinnAnn Welch, Grant Winter, and Paul Yoder.

Shelby County – 13 September; 0530-1945. Weather: scattered clouds in the morning and partly cloudy in the afternoon; 67-83° F. Count area included Shelby Forest, Shelby Farms, Ensley Bottoms, Overton Park, W. C. Johnson Park, and T.O. Fuller Park. Notable highlights included Hooded Merganser (a fall count first), American White Pelican (previously seen at the 2015 fall count), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, Gray-cheeked Thrush (previously seen at the 2011 fall count), Orchard Oriole (a fall count first), and Prairie Warbler (a fall count first). Misses were Wild Turkey and Northern Bobwhite. Observers: Judith Barre, Adrienne Bolton, Emily Conant, Sophia Dismukes, Adrian Hall, Margaret Jefferson, Douglas Logan, Morgan (Walt) Mattingly, Kade Parker, Dick Preston (compiler), Ryan Pudwell, Jewel Simpson, Normal Soskel, Ed Thomas, Cliff VanNostrand, and Tricia Vesely.

COUNT DATE	Blount BLNT 9/20/2025	Elizabethton ELIZ 10/4/2025	Knox Co. KNCO 10/4/2025	Montgomery Co. MTGM 9/20/2025	Nashville NSHV 10/4/2025	Shelby SHLB 9/13/2025	Total
SPECIES							
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck						35	35
Canada Goose	290	466	129	126	125	202	1338
Wood Duck	37	34	29	22	21	31	174
Blue-winged Teal	4	21	17	25	22	69	158
Northern Shoveler						6	6
Mallard	48	64	55	2	86	39	294
Green-winged Teal			1				1
Hooded Merganser						2	2
Common Merganser	2	12					14
Northern Bobwhite			cw	1			1
Wild Turkey	28	25	11	34	48		146
Pied-billed Grebe	2	4	1		7	3	17
Mourning Dove	188	145	114	62	71	425	1005
Eurasian Collared-Dove	3	2				15	20
Rock Pigeon	42	183	71	60	45	211	612
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	3	5	4	4	3	20
Common Nighthawk			1			9	10
Chimney Swift	99	176	102	6250	200	97	6924
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	55	1	3	29	8	54	150
Sora	1		2			1	4
American Coot					18		18
Black-necked Stilt						18	18
American Golden-Plover			1				1
Killdeer	17	41	59	31	74	95	317
Stilt Sandpiper						28	28
Least Sandpiper						3200	3200
Pectoral Sandpiper						56	56
Semipalmated Sandpiper						45	45
Western Sandpiper						2	2
Short-billed Dowitcher						4	4
Wilson's Snipe					1	6	7
Spotted Sandpiper	1	3			2	5	11
Solitary Sandpiper	1	2			1	3	7
Lesser Yellowlegs						57	57
Greater Yellowlegs						7	7
Ring-billed Gull					19		19
Lesser Black-backed Gull					1		1
Gull sp.		2					2
Double-crested Cormorant	142	30	39		112	9	332
American White Pelican						33	33
Little Blue Heron				1			1
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	1					5	6
Black-crowned Night Heron	2				1		3
Green Heron	11	3	2	1		9	26
Great Egret	8	5	6	7	9	57	92
Great Blue Heron	21	26	24	7	35	14	127
Black Vulture	41	39	13	165	249	24	531
Turkey Vulture	73	195	25	33	81	1	408
Osprey	2	5	6	2	3	1	19
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1					1
Cooper's Hawk	3	6	3		13	5	30
Bald Eagle	2	7	1		13		23
Red-shouldered Hawk	27	6	6	6	17	21	83
Broad-winged Hawk	1	1	1			1	4
Red-tailed Hawk	8	17	9	4	14	8	60
American Barn Owl		1					1
Eastern Screech-Owl	5	24	cw	1	12	5	47
Great Horned Owl	2	5	2	1	4	1	15
Barred Owl	1	7	5	4	6	6	29
Northern Saw-whet Owl		3					3
Belted Kingfisher	13	22	19	1	26	4	85
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	5	1	5	2	3	17

COUNT DATE	Blount BLNT 9/20/2025	Elizabethton ELIZ 10/4/2025	Knox Co. KNCO 10/4/2025	Montgomery Co. MTGM 9/20/2025	Nashville NSHV 10/4/2025	Shelby SHLB 9/13/2025	Total
SPECIES							
Red-bellied Woodpecker	59	71	81	27	128	55	421
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		9	2		4		15
Downy Woodpecker	28	41	58	24	100	29	280
Hairy Woodpecker	8	17	4	3	10	2	44
Northern Flicker	12	54	52	3	65		186
Pileated Woodpecker	29	17	11	9	28	16	110
American Kestrel	2	14	4	5	16	7	48
Merlin		4					4
Peregrine Falcon	2				1		3
Great Crested Flycatcher	5			1		2	8
Eastern Kingbird	2			1		5	8
Eastern Wood-Pewee	32	17	13	25	29	26	142
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher						2	2
Acadian Flycatcher				4	1	8	13
Willow Flycatcher				1			1
Least Flycatcher	4					5	9
Empidonax sp.	4					3	7
Flycatcher sp.		1					1
Eastern Phoebe	38	82	40	18	37	19	234
White-eyed Vireo	64		15	57	29	49	214
Yellow-throated Vireo	8	6	2	13	2	9	40
Blue-headed Vireo	4	23	1	3	4		35
Philadelphia Vireo	1	4	5		7	3	20
Eastern Warbling-vireo			1			5	6
Red-eyed Vireo	1	10	5	7	4	17	44
Loggerhead Shrike		1				1	2
Blue Jay	188	360	182	70	349	69	1218
American Crow	235	416	127	35	124	92	1029
Fish Crow	81	4	5		4	5	99
Common Raven	3	21					24
Carolina Chickadee	134	158	159	60	167	78	756
Tufted Titmouse	119	140	130	67	199	96	751
Bank Swallow						12	12
Tree Swallow	6	120	28		2	14	170
Northern Rough-winged Swallow			12	18	11	203	244
Purple Martin						2	2
Barn Swallow	1		2	5		227	235
Cliff Swallow						28	28
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		13	4		7		24
Golden-crowned Kinglet		4	cw				4
Cedar Waxwing	16	126	39		59		240
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	13	7	4	3	1	29
White-breasted Nuthatch	38	70	38	54	84	26	310
Brown-headed Nuthatch	7		8				15
Brown Creeper		1	1	1			3
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	7		1	9	1	11	29
Carolina Wren	189	135	156	73	189	38	780
Northern House Wren	4	3	11	1	5		24
Winter Wren			cw				
Sedge Wren			2		1		3
Marsh Wren					2		2
Gray Catbird	59	27	35	3	46	5	175
Brown Thrasher	39	9	31	3	33	13	128
Northern Mockingbird	58	74	115	34	140	39	460
European Starling	370	560	339	179	582	427	2457
Eastern Bluebird	96	157	80	54	216	38	641
Veery		1		1			2
Gray-cheeked Thrush		5	3		12	2	22
Swainson's Thrush	20	42	9	1	18	2	92
Wood Thrush	5	7	5	2	15	2	36
American Robin	225	233	86	35	151	177	907
House Sparrow	19	34	29	23	18	44	167

COUNT DATE	Blount BLNT 9/20/2025	Elizabethton ELIZ 10/4/2025	Knox Co. KNCO 10/4/2025	Montgomery Co. MTGM 9/20/2025	Nashville NSHV 10/4/2025	Shelby SHLB 9/13/2025	Total
SPECIES							
American Pipit			cw				
House Finch	262	50	55	40	138	33	578
Red Crossbill		3					3
American Goldfinch	94	64	54	39	111	31	393
Bachman's Sparrow				1			1
Lark Sparrow			1				1
Chipping Sparrow	22	51	9	49	31	20	182
Field Sparrow	17	6	9	12	72	9	125
Dark-eyed Junco		30					30
White-crowned Sparrow		1					1
White-throated Sparrow		2	1		4		7
Savannah Sparrow		1	3				4
Song Sparrow	45	98	23	1	7		174
Lincoln's Sparrow			2		3		5
Swamp Sparrow		2		cw	4		6
Eastern Towhee	29	47	42	16	50	10	194
Yellow-breasted Chat		1		1			2
Bobolink	2		6				8
Eastern Meadowlark		20	12	1	25	22	80
Orchard Oriole						3	3
Baltimore Oriole						2	2
Red-winged Blackbird	153	70	236	6	52	55	572
Brown-headed Cowbird	12	208	4		129	145	498
Common Grackle	266	24	3	101	242	37	673
Blackbird sp.	350						350
Ovenbird		2	2		1		5
Northern Waterthrush	1	2	1				4
Golden-winged Warbler	1			1			2
Blue-winged Warbler	1					2	3
Black-and-white Warbler	2	6	3	5	6	3	25
Prothonotary Warbler				1		2	3
Tennessee Warbler	23	47	36	6	54	2	168
Orange-crowned Warbler		1		cw	2		3
Nashville Warbler	4	1	1		6	4	16
Common Yellowthroat	46	12	14	15	33	7	127
Hooded Warbler	3	5	6			9	23
American Redstart	12	21	30	6	34	3	106
Cape May Warbler	15	9	7		1		32
Northern Parula	1	21	3	15	10	22	72
Magnolia Warbler	18	28	48	15	75	8	192
Bay-breasted Warbler		47	7	10	22	4	90
Blackburnian Warbler	1	4	1		1		7
Yellow Warbler	1		1		1	3	6
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3	3	3	2	13		24
Black-throated Blue Warbler		11	1				12
Palm Warbler	13	26	30	4	8		81
Pine Warbler	24	4	11	5	3	2	49
Yellow-rumped Warbler	8	4	7	5	7		31
Yellow-throated Warbler	4	2	2	8		5	21
Prairie Warbler				3		3	6
Black-throated Green Warbler	1	14	6	4	23	5	53
Canada Warbler	1		1				2
Wilson's Warbler	1	1			2	2	6
Parulidae sp.	6						6
Summer Tanager	2		2	27	30	22	83
Scarlet Tanager	9	9	4	2	2	4	30
Northern Cardinal	168	165	187	89	314	92	1015
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2	13	6	2	35		58
Blue Grosbeak			2	5	3	5	15
Indigo Bunting	47	9	88	21	96	37	298
Dickcissel	1			3			4

COUNT DATE	Blount BLNT 9/20/2025	Elizabethton ELIZ 10/4/2025	Knox Co. KNCO 10/4/2025	Montgomery Co. MTGM 9/20/2025	Nashville NSHV 10/4/2025	Shelby SHLB 9/13/2025	Total
Observers	24	25	34	10	58	16	167
Parties	12	10-13	24	4	11	10	71-74
Party hours	91.5	97	60.67	31.5	76.5	34	391.17
Hours by car	14		6.25	18.75	9.5	12.5	61
Hours by foot	72.55		42.62	12.75	50.75	19.5	198.17
Miles by car	197.5		56.12	229.5	165.4	56.5	705.02
Miles by foot	37		25.67	3.75	47.8	18.5	132.72
Hours owling	4.75	6	0.07	1	12.25	2	26.07
Miles owling	0		0	0.25	39.1	1	40.35
Feeder observers	5		9	4			18
Feeder hours	5.5		11.73	2.75			19.98
Temperature low (F)	60	42	56	60	57	67	42
Temperature high (F)	88	82	78	92	85	83	92
Start time	4:25 AM	4:45 AM	6:09 AM	5:15 AM	5:15 AM	5:30 AM	4:25 AM
End time	9:20 PM	8:00 PM	8:40 PM	7:00 PM	9:05 PM	7:45 PM	9:20 PM
Party miles	229.75		81.79	233.5	252.3	76	873.34

FINAL MINUTES
TOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

September 27, 2025

The BOD meeting was held at The Langston Center in Johnson City, TN. Friday night's bird walk and reception were held at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park. Saturday and Sunday field trips visited Unaka Mountain, Roan Mountain, Hampton Creek Cove, and the bird banding station at Big Bald.

President Chris Welsh called the business meeting to order at 3:57 pm. Thanks were extended to the Elizabethton Chapter for all their hard work on the weekend's meeting.

Secretary Cyndi Routledge determined there was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes – Pam Lasley made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Ron Hoff seconded. Passed unanimously.

Report of Officers and Directors-at-large:

- **VPs**
  East TN – Vacant. Eastern chapters sent information for the record. All continue to participate in festivals and birding events to get the word out about birds and bird conservation. Kingsport celebrated its 10th year with record membership. Bristol Bird Club is celebrating its 75th year.

  Middle TN – Steve Routledge – NTOS Radnor Lake bird walks have been conducted for 49 years, and all are invited to join NTOS for these walks. NTOS distributed five pairs of binoculars via their Conservation Grant to Montgomery County's Middle College Bird Alliance group.

  West TN – Dick Preston – Many changes are taking place at The Pitts – Ensley Bottoms, a long-time important shorebird stopover and breeding territory in the Memphis area. Dick will be meeting with the facility manager to find out how/whether the lagoons and property will be managed going forward and will report back in the spring.

- **Directors-at-Large**
  East TN –Susan Hubley – no report
  Middle TN – Mac McWhirter – no report
  West TN – Allan Trently – no report

- **Secretary**– Cyndi Routledge
  Cyndi requested all TOS Chapters send her updates of Officers and State Directors for the TOS webpage and announced TWRA's Tennessee Biodiversity Summit will be held on October 22, 2025 at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. All information on the Summit can be found on the TWRA website.

- **Treasurer**– Pam Lasley
  TOS remains in excellent financial shape. BASED ON MEMBERSHIP YEAR, membership **dollars** are running approximately 10% less than last year, $1420. Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Memphis have had significant drops in membership. We awarded $10,612 in Grants this year. We have produced 2 editions of *The Migrant* so far this year.

  Our Dividends are on par with last year at this time. Our investments have gained market value of approximately $40,000 this year which was about the same as last year. Market Value of our investments was $529,265 as of September 25, 2025.

  A full financial report will be presented at the Spring 2026 meeting.

- **Migrant Editor** – Bob Ford
  The editorial team is working on the September 2024 issue, meaning we have slipped to a full year behind the ideal publication schedule, but efforts are underway to catch back up. Full length articles are wonderful, but book reviews, short notes, write-ups of first state records, etc. are welcomed as well.

  Bob has requested a meeting specifically to discuss the future of The Migrant. Birding, record keeping etc. has changed quickly with eBird and high-quality cameras, but The Migrant hasn't really kept up with how to be interesting and relevant to current birders while still providing the place for important data and information to be stored for future birders/researchers. He will review other state journals for ideas prior to the meeting. This discussion will be held at the Spring 2026 TOS meeting if not before.

  Bob plans to continue through the Dec 2025 issue, 6 issues left. Ideally, the next editor can be found during this time and shadow the process.

- **TN Warbler Newsletter**
  Theresa Graham has been editing and producing The Tennessee Warbler newsletter for many years, but she is ready to turn it over to someone else. We are looking for a replacement as soon as possible. Possible candidates should contact Chris Welsh.

Committee Reports

- TN Bird Record Committee – Graham Gerdeman – no report
- Conservation & Policy Committee – Dick Preston / Melinda Welton – no report
- Conservation Research Funding – Dr. Michael Collins – no report
- Website – Cyndi Routledge – Server migration and update took place successfully. Cyndi continues to coordinate with Amy Wilms on all updates and additions.
- Finance – Steve Routledge – no report
- Curator – Stefan Woltmann – no report
- TN-Birds - Rob Biller – TOS has officially become the owner of the tn-birds freelist listserv.

OLD Business

- Joint meeting with Kentucky Ornithological Society will be held in fall 2026. Dates are not set, but the 3rd weekend in September is being considered. Cyndi Routledge has volunteered to coordinate along with Chris Welsh and the Kentucky group. A suggestion was made to stream the keynote address from the meeting for those who cannot attend. KenLake State Park Resort was suggested as a place to hold the meeting. Chris Welsh will continue to coordinate with KOS President and details will be provided to both memberships as they become available. Ron Hoff made a motion that we contribute up to an additional $1500 for speaker and venue expenses for this joint meeting with KOS. Roy Knispel seconded. Passed unanimously.
- It was announced that Liz Rutemeyer has taken over for Ron Hoff as State Compiler and transition went smoothly. All count reports should be sent to Liz.
- The search for a Vice President for East TN continues, but candidates have been identified, and an appointment will be made in the near future.
- The search for someone to replace Bob Ford as Migrant Editor continues. Several candidates have been contacted. All Chapters are urged to announce at their meetings, and anyone interested should contact Chris. A brief discussion took place about potentially paying the Migrant Editor, which is not something TOS has done in the past. All this and more will be discussed in the spring at the Migrant specific meeting Editor Bob Ford has requested.
- **Discover Birds Book** - 48,018 books distributed since 2011; ~900 books remain. We will consider printing more in 2026 depending on demand and grant money from TWRA.
- Discussion of moving The Migrant issues back on the TOS website continued from the Spring 2025 meeting. Cyndi Routledge reported on the state of SORA (Searchable Ornithological Research Archive, now housed at the University of South Florida) and concern was expressed about lack of access to the most recent issues. Consensus was that all issues of The Migrant should be available on the TOS website. The Migrant will also be on SORA but having it on the TOS website allows us to ensure current issues are accessible. Dean Turley made a motion to have Amy Wilms add The Migrant issues to TOS website for fee of up to $3000. Ron Hoff seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

New Business:

- Liability Insurance – Is it needed? Discussion took place as to need and cost. Pam Lasley will touch base with TOS member lawyers to help understand coverage, and we will revisit this question at the Spring 2026 business meeting.
- Interest in a winter meeting was expressed. A volunteer is needed to coordinate and set the dates. Once that has been determined it will be announced on the TOS webpage and on tn-birds.

General Announcements – Spring Meeting in Kingsport – May 1-3, 2026. The keynote speaker will be Sheri Williamson, author of the North American Guide to Hummingbirds.

Future spring meeting hosts are set for: Memphis 2027; Knoxville 2028; Nashville 2029.

Chris Welsh announced that the Mississippi State Ornithological fall meeting will be held Oct. 17-19, 2025 for anyone interested in attending.

Ron Hoff made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dick Preston seconded. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Routledge

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INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

The Migrant records observations and studies of birds in Tennessee and adjacent areas. Articles and short notes are solicited; they should be original, factual, concise and scientifically accurate.

SUBMISSIONS: Manuscripts should be submitted electronically to Dr. Jeffrey Walck at jeffrey.walck@mtsu.edu. If a manuscript cannot be submitted electronically, send a hard copy to: Dr. Jeffrey Walck, Department of Biology, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN 37132. Manuscripts that have been published in other journals should not be submitted.

PREPARATION: Consult recent issues of The Migrant for guidance on format and style. The manuscript, as a Word document, should be double-spaced with adequate margins. Tables, each with a legend and row and column headers, and figure legends should follow the main text of the manuscript. Figures and photographs should be submitted as separate files, such as jpg; 72–100 dpi is acceptable. Weights, measurements, and distances should be in metric units, and dates in "continental" form (e.g., 16 March 1997). Use the 24-hour clock (e.g., 0500 or 1900).

NOMENCLATURE: The scientific name of a species should be given after the first use of the full common name in the text. The scientific name should be italicized and in parentheses.

Names should follow the A.O.S. Check-list of North American Birds.

TITLE: The title should be concise, specific and descriptive.

ABSTRACT: Manuscripts of five or more pages should include an abstract, being 200 words or fewer. It should include a brief explanation of why the research was done, the major results, and why the results are important.

LITERATURE CITED: List all literature citations in a "Literature Cited" section at the end of the main text of the manuscript. Text citations should include the author and year.

IDENTIFICATION: Manuscripts reporting rare or unusual species or species at atypical times should include date and time, light and weather conditions, exact location, habitat, optical equipment, distance, behavior of bird, comparison with other similar species, characteristic markings, experience of observer, other observers verifying the identification, and reference works consulted.

SEASON REPORTS: Observations considered for publication in "The Season" should be emailed to the Season Editor, Graham Gerdeman at grahamgerdeman@gmail.com.

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