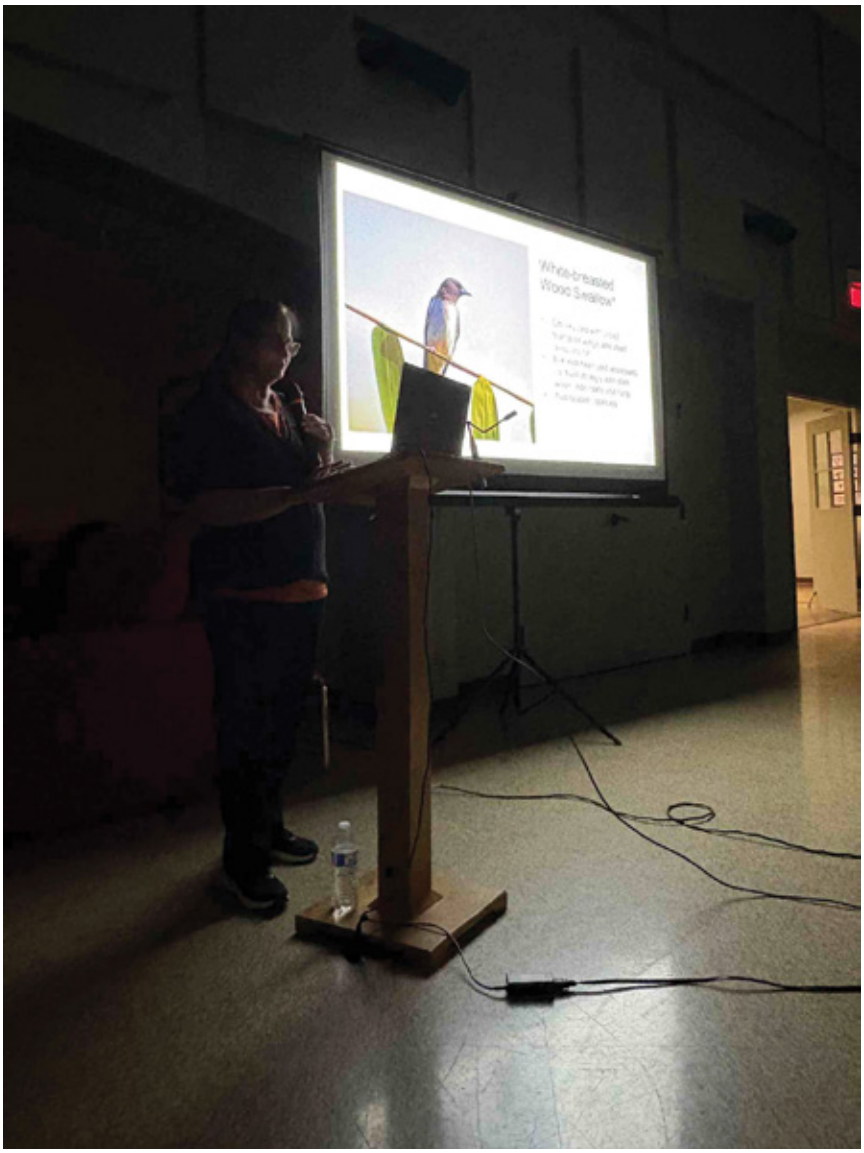
Tennessee Ornithological Society

Memphis Chapter

http://birdmemphis.org

November 2026

October's program was brought to you by Sarita Joshi, who detailed birding Bali and Java Indonesia!



"Indonesia is an archipelago that runs and crosses equator. Having so many islands the birds there have evolved into many subspecies as well endemic.

I presented many such birds and travel tidbits from this birding trip."

Thank you so much, Sarita!

To the Friends of the Mid-south Raptor Center:

I am taking a few moments to bring you all up to date on some major changes currently being undertaken at the M-SRC. As you may or may now know, this past year has been a pretty rough one for me medically speaking. I had my right kidney removed due to cancer, and I had a year long battle with an issue that made it almost impossible to swallow, resulting in the loss of about fifty pounds. I now have to walk with a cane. As a result, I can no longer give a full 100% of my efforts to the center. Luckily the center volunteers, especially jim and Martha Waldron, have been able to pick up all my slack. However, these recent events have made it necessary for me to make some changes.

About a year ago, I received word that the Memphis Zoo was interested in starting up the old Raptor Rehabilitation Program that I ran while I was a zoo employee back in the day. I started the M-SRC in 2002 when the zoo program was ended. I contacted Dr. Felicia Knightly, the chief vet at the zoo, and over the next few months we came to an agreement for the zoo to take over the daily operations at the center. The process moved rather slowly over the next several months, but, in late October, the transaction was complete, and the Memphis Zoo took over the center. They will call it The Raptor Center. The volunteers will stay, although Jim and Martha are also stepping back. Chapter member Nick Smith will continue banding birds, but now as a volunteer of the Memphis Zoo rather than the M-SRC.

These new developments are really bittersweet for me. I have been involved with raptor rehabilitation for almost 40 years. That is practically half my life. I consider it a great honor to be involved with the rehabilitation and release of well over 4,000 birds during that time. I certainly will miss it, but it was time for a change, and the zoo was the answer.

I wanted to share this information with you as the Memphis Chapter of TOS has been a supporter of the M-SRC since the earliest days, and over the years has donated funds annually. In addition, many individual members have also made monetary donations in addition to the chapter donations. Also, chapter members Jim Waldron and Dick Preston have served on the Board of Directors since 2002. I also enjoyed our annual dinners at the center, and the occasional chapter meeting there when a meeting location was needed.

I hope this will answer all of your questions, but I will still be at every chapter meeting to answer any questions or concerns you may have. Once again, thank you for your support over the past 25 years. As the old saying goes: “I couldn’t have done it without you.”

Knox Martin, Director
Mid-South Raptor Center

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!

HUMMINGBIRD TRANSMITTERS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:
Hospitality

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

- 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!



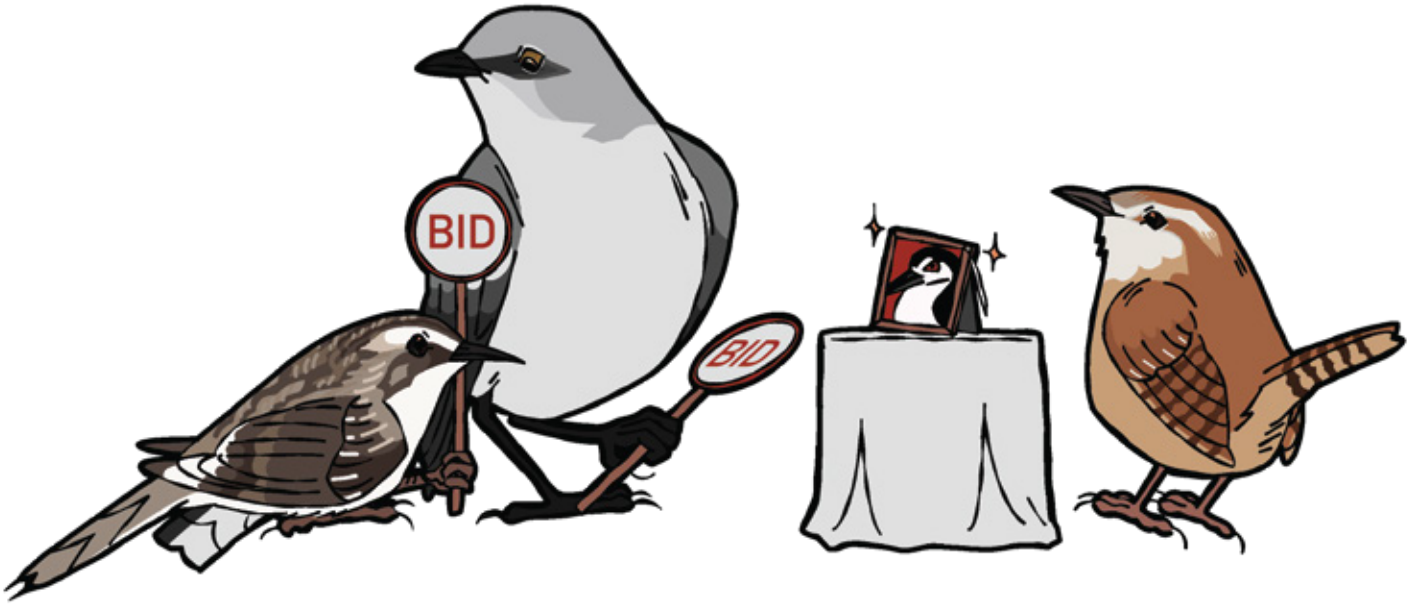
MTOS HOLIDAY SALE and SILENT AUCTION

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



OLIVE BRANCH CITY PARK

Olive Branch City Park sits on 135 acres just west of downtown Olive Branch, MS. Much of the space is filled up with baseball fields, but there are also a number of ponds along the east side of the park, and a woodland border around most of the park with a pocket of woods as well as a grassy easement in the northwest part of the park where the disc golf course is. There are no previous observations for this spot during November.

The park is located at:
8267 Goodman Rd, Olive Branch, MS 38654
and is open daily from 5:15am-11pm



November 2026 Feature Hotspot

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

November Field Trips

Wapanocca NWR Turrell, AR
Sunday November 1 at 8am
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

Field Trip Notes

from Ryan Pudwell

On Saturday September 26, we had a field trip to the Arkansas State Bird Observatory. This field trip was an opportunity to see migratory birds up close. Any birds that were caught in the mist nests were identified, banded, weighed, measured, and in some case a fecal sample was taken. All of those data points offer insight into what is going on with those specific birds and also their species. Over the years, the group at Arkansas State led by Dr Boves has banded a wide variety of birds and has even described a couple species of mites (that were new to science) that were found on birds they caught. For that Saturday, with 15 people present, there were 19 species of birds observed overall, 8 or 9 of which were represented amongst the birds that were banded that morning.

The following Saturday on October 3rd, we had a group of 5 people who went down to Ensley Bottoms, specifically to The Pits. We observed 39 species that morning with Avocets, Semipalmated Plover, and a late Dickcissel being a few of the highlight birds.

There were 6 people who came out for the field trip to Eagle Lake Refuge on Saturday October 17th. It was a nice cool start to the morning with a Winter Wren singing to get us started. As we walked along the ditch there were a number of sparrows, a few phoebes, and woodpeckers as well as a variety of other species. We ended up with a list of 30 species for the morning.

The following day on Sunday the 18th we had a group of 5 visit Nonconnah Creek at Halle Stadium. Along the way we got to see a Pileated Woodpecker drop in on a gravel bar along the creek, American Goldfinches partaking in geophagy, and spotted a few Hermit Thrushes and an Ovenbird as we were wrapping up. We had a list of 27 species for the field trip.







Pictures from Arkansas State Bird Observatory from left to right: American Redstart, Blue Jay laid on its back to demonstrate that they don't struggle when left on thein backs, and a Least Flycatcher.

Christmas Bird Count 2026 is almost here!

It's that time of year again! The Memphis area CBC will take place on Sunday, December 20. It couldn't be done without your help! You can come for a couple of hours or all day - whatever works for you.
To sign up for a day of birds and fun, contact me or one of the leaders below.

Happy birding!
Anita Vincent
901-849-5641 avin1129@gmail.com

Below are some **Memphis** counts to consider, and more locations will be added in the December newsletter:

Sunday, December 20, 2026



Shelby Farms Park —
George Payne
gpayne@fisherarnold.com

Raleigh/Frayser/Bartlett —
Ryan Pudwell
rpudwell@gmail.com

Overton Park —
Jack Pullis
Jackpullis1@gmail.com

Questions? **Please contact the leader of the group you would like to join, Anita, or me (mtosnewsletter@gmail.com)!**

Happy birding!

Who's Coming to Dinner?

Winter Feeder Visitors in West Tennessee

November is when the Memphis-area feeder crowd changes. Our year-round regulars, Northern Cardinals, Carolina Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, Carolina Wrens, Blue Jays and Downy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, are joined by birds that spent the summer farther north.

Dark-eyed Juncos are often the first sign. Watch for slate-gray birds hopping under the feeders and flashing white outer tail feathers as they flush. White-throated Sparrows arrive about the same time, scratching through leaf litter and sometimes singing their thin, whistled song on mild mornings. Yellow-rumped Warblers settle in for the winter and will visit suet, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets flick through the shrubs nearby. In some winters Pine Siskins and Purple Finches come south in numbers, so it's worth checking every goldfinch flock for streaky visitors.

A few simple things help draw a mix of birds:

- Black-oil sunflower suits most seed-eaters, from cardinals to chickadees.
- Suet brings in woodpeckers, wrens and warblers.
- Scattered millet on the ground suits juncos, sparrows and towhees.
- Fresh water matters during cold snaps, when puddles freeze.
- Clean feeders and trays regularly, and rake up old hulls.

Want a rainy-day activity? The attached large-print "Winter Feeder Birds" word search is free to print for personal or group use, and it's a good way to practice those names before the winter counts.

Puzzle from "Backyard Birds Through the Seasons" by Ben Rine (https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0HN2QQSLC).

Winter Feeder Birds

T E L G N I K N R A C M O O
E I N O K F B L U E J A Y I
E J T U C R E E P E R S E E
E U E M T S D A K D L R T K
H N L T O H U S O A E N I P
W C A F B U A N I K S I S T
O O N R G W S T C C I Y N E
T R I I O R M E C I S C E T
A W D B F E P L Y H P S A O
G T R A O D T R P C A B E S
A T A E O P L S Y S R L G E
A E C O N O Y O R M R G I E
Y N W O D L E T G Y O O C W
U K T R I L R W A O W E B G

- ☐ BLUE JAY
- ☐ CARDINAL
- ☐ CHICKADEE
- ☐ CREEPER
- ☐ DOWNY
- ☐ GOLDFINCH
- ☐ JUNCO
- ☐ KINGLET
- ☐ NUTHATCH
- ☐ REDPOLL
- ☐ SISKIN
- ☐ SPARROW
- ☐ TITMOUSE
- ☐ TOWHEE
- ☐ WOODPECKER
- ☐ WREN

Got a Winter Hummingbird?



HAVE YOU HAD A HUMMINGBIRD AT YOUR FEEDER BETWEEN **NOVEMBER 1ST AND MARCH 15TH**?

OR

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT LEAVING OUT A HUMMINGBIRD FEEDER ALL YEAR LONG?

HELP **SOUTHEASTERN AVIAN RESEARCH** CONTINUE OUR ONGOING '**WINTER HUMMINGBIRD**' PROJECT!

Scan the QR code to find out more about winter hummingbirds and how you might become one of the lucky few who host one of these rare visitors.

SOUTHEASTERN AVIAN RESEARCH

Allen Sparks



American Tree Sparrow



Fox Sparrow



Lark Sparrow



Swamp Sparrow

Sophie Dismukes



Field Sparrow



Henslow's Sparrow



American Tree Sparrow



Harris's Sparrow



Savannah Sparrow

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

November 17th, 2026, 7:00pm
St. George's Episcopal Church
2435 South Germantown Rd. Germantown, TN
Phone: (901)-754-7282

Program

David Hill, MTOS member
Owls: How One Species in Particular Altered the Course of My Life

Hospitality

Sherri Reasons will be providing hospitality for the November meeting.

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



Waterfowl



Please send your submissions to mtosnewsletter@gmail.com

New Members

Sonja Glaser
sonjacglaser@gmail.com

William Jabr and Family
liz.jabr@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Report:
As of October 22, 2026 the balance in the Treasury is $15,023.09.

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