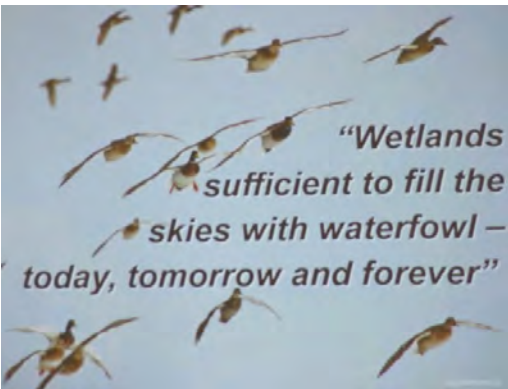




**Program for September Meeting:** “Ducks Unlimited International Conservation Efforts” presented by **Thomas Moorman, PhD. Chief Scientist for Ducks Unlimited**, Headquarters located at 1 Waterfowl Way, Memphis, TN 38120.

The fast-paced talk covered a great deal of information dealing with the “**Changing Landscape of Waterfowl Conservation**” in The United States, Canada and Mexico.

The basic mission of Ducks Unlimited is demonstrated in the following slide. Tom pointed out the habitats most important to healthy waterfowl populations and what has been affecting those habitats during the last 50 years or so. The effects, in general, have been on the negative side. The areas of most concern include deforestation, wetland drainage, energy exploration and development. These activities in Canada and the U.S. in the Boreal Forests, Prairie Pothole and Parkland regions as well as other areas affect the breeding populations each year. As you can see from the graph to the right, the breeding populations



are highly dependent on areas in Canada and the U.S. An example of the urgency of the situation is that there has been a 25% decline in the breeding population in the Saskatchewan Forest Fringe since the 1970s.

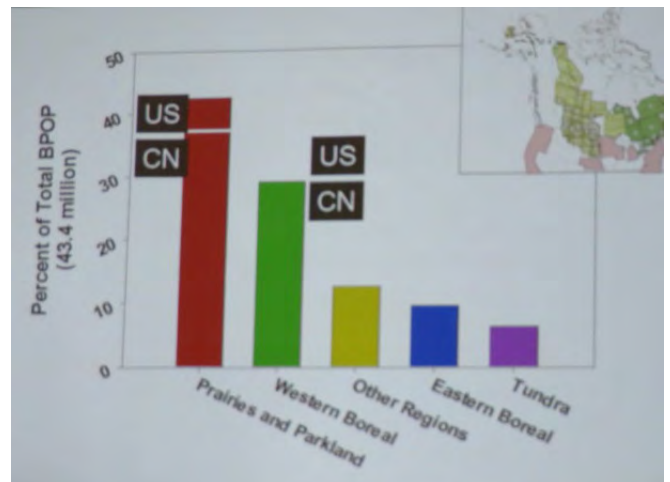


This map to the left shows the areas of highest priority for Ducks Unlimited.

Ducks are not the only beneficiaries of wetland and grassland conservation. People also benefit as a result of changing practices in agriculture and forestry. As wetlands are restored, more water is

retained in place reducing erosion from runoff. Another side benefit of water retention may be less flooding due to runoff.

The chart to the right shows that Nebraska’s Rainwater Basins through which thousands of migrating waterfowl travel each year is an area very important to the well-being of ducks and geese as they use the wetlands here for a stopover on their way south. Some 90 % of these wetlands have been lost since the 1700s, mainly to agriculture.



Ducks Unlimited is working to improve these conditions in Canada and the U.S. in several ways. Besides direct purchase and rehabilitation of habitat, their Wetlands Conservation Strategy includes, not limited to, the following (next page):



## Ducks Unlimited (continued)

### **Influence government and industry policies and associated practices:**

Primary Objective: retention of habitat, protection, sustainable land use activities.

Knowledge Transfer: effective communication of science-based information.

Adaptive Management: gap analysis, planning, monitoring.

Secondary Objective: explore restoration opportunities.

**Financing comes from various sources including:** the North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989 (federal), Duck Stamps (federal), the Land and Water Conservation Fund (federal, state & local) the Recovering America's Wildlife Act 2018, as well as memberships and donations from corporations and individuals, of which more than 80% actually goes to conservation efforts on the ground.

**For much more information on Ducks Unlimited activities go to <http://www.ducks.org>.**

(C. Brown, visual aids from the presentation)

### **Volunteers still needed for Hospitality & Visual Aids:**

1 volunteer for May

A volunteer or two are needed to be in charge of the visual aid equipment, especially a person with the ability to set it up and make sure it works for the presentations.

### **Field Trip Reports for September:**

#### **Ensley Bottoms - Maxson Wastewater Lagoons and TVA Allen Fossil Steam Plant Ash Ponds; September 1, 2018:**

Dick Preston lead a party of 20 on a 3-hour tour of the facility, stopping to observe and coach us on the many shorebird species present that day. Ducks on the water included Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (88), Wood Duck (8), N. Shoveler (16), Mallard (10), and Blue-winged Teal (29). The Killdeer are having a good year, and we counted 66. Semipalmated Plover (2) and Black-necked Stilt (1). In the Sandpiper ranks, we observed: Least (1290), Buff-breasted (1), Pectoral (169), Semipalmated (9), Western (4), Spotted (2), and Solitary (5). Greater (3) and Lesser (34) Yellowlegs were also seen. There were interesting numbers of Yellow-crowned Night Heron (16), Little Blue Heron (44), and White Ibis (76). Several usual species rounded out the total to 44 by the end of the outing. (C. Brown; stats from Dick Preston)

**Shelby County Fall Count - Shelby Forest and county-wide; Sept. 15, 2018:** As of the September meeting Dick Preston had compiled information from 12 observers tallying some 82 species. More cards are expected. The day was warm and muggy. Some of the birds were vocal which was good because many species were heard only and not seen. Thank you to those members with keen hearing and bird call recognition. (compiler - Dick Preston)

**Fort Pillow State Park & Lower Hatchie NWR; Sept. 23, 2018:** Dick Preston led a pack of 50 members or so on the sojourn to Fort Pillow from Henning, TN. Hundreds of birds were seen in full migration down the Mississippi flyway. But seriously, folks, there were only two observers. The weather was so bad, with rain and dark overcast, the only birds counted were at the Alex Haley Rest Area: 18 species, most of them in two trees by the highway. Yellow-throated Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Northern Parula (4) were among them along with an Eastern Kingbird. We then drove down to Lower Hatchie NWR to check out the conditions there. Conditions were worse and there were almost no birds except a Great Blue Heron and some little brown birds flitting in the fields. (C. Brown)

## Delta Wind Birds Outing at Four Winds Refuge & Sky Lake WMA near Isola, MS - Sept. 8, 2018:

Jason Hoeksema led the group of 22 consisting of members of Jackson Audubon Society, MTOS & TOS members, land owners and guests as we toured the private land, previously used as a catfish farm, now a managed wildlife area. The purpose of the trip was to show how DWB is working with land owners to manage habitat with migrating shorebirds and other species in mind. Roseate Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, White Ibis, Great Egret, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt and Wood Stork made the effort worthwhile. Due to high water in the ponds from recent rains the smaller shorebirds chose to feed elsewhere. We did take the opportunity to view what may be some of the largest Bald Cypress Trees in the world at Sky Lake Boardwalk. (C. Brown)

### Old Business: None.

**New Business:** Motion was made and seconded for the club to donate \$750 to the Mid-South Raptor Center. The membership must vote on this at the October meeting.

**Unusual Sightings:** **Sharp-shinned Hawk** in Virginia Reynold's yard. **Brown Boobie** in Hyde Lake at Shelby Farms. **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** in Tipton County by Dick Preston. Margaret Jefferson reported seeing a hummingbird picking off gnats from a cloud of them, not something you see everyday.

**Conservation:** Dick Preston made comments on the federal "Farm Bill" in congress now. Also made comments on the "Parkside Development" scheduled to be constructed near Shelby Farms Park,

### FYI:

**Bald Eagle hit by car in northern state:** Why is this of interest to MTOS? Mainly because the eagle was raised from a chick at the Mid-South Raptor Center, banded and released here 7 years ago. The fact that it survived that long goes to suggest that raising raptors from chicks in a controlled manner will allow them to flourish in the wild. (Knox Martin)

**Something of interest:** Below are two pictures gleaned from facebook.com : The one on the right shows the growth progress of the Barn Owl from egg to full size.

The picture group on the left documents a problem I hadn't considered. The small plastic ring that is left over from twist-off caps on things such as gallon milk jugs, etc. when separated from the jug can end up causing potentially fatal problems to wildlife. The ducks are shown here as proof of the hazard. We already know that the plastic strapping for six packs of drinks can be a problem. We should always cut the plastic loops at one point so no animal can become entangled. Obviously the same should be true for

these little rings. (C. Brown)



### TOS Membership Information

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	\$23
Other Student	\$ 5
Lifetime	\$450 one time +\$18 yearly

Please send dues to:

Barbara Pyles  
518 Forest Hill-Irene Rd. South  
Cordova, TN 38018-4832  
(901)570-1009 E-mail  
brbpyles@gmail.com

### Newsletter Delivery Options

To reduce printing and mailing costs, a digital version, which is usually expanded with photos and occasional articles, is provided. Notify Margaret Jefferson at mjefferson100@hotmail.com. If you have no internet access, a printed version can be mailed.

### Chapter Newsletter Submissions

E-mail or call Chad Brown  
cwb496@bellsouth.net or (901) 754-3385  
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.

E-mail: dickpreston@rittermail.com

### Tennessee Warbler Deadlines

- \*February 28 for the April Newsletter
- \*June 30 for the August Newsletter
- \*October 31 for the December Newsletter

Forward contributions to:  
Theresa Graham, Editor  
P.O. Box 366 Oakland, TN 38060  
(901) 465-4263 or e-mail:  
2graham@bellsouth.net

### Chapter Meeting

**October 17, 2018 at 7:00 PM**

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

### Program at 7:00 PM

**"Scissor-tail & Western Kingbird  
Range Expansion and Hybridization"**  
presented by **Dr. Than Boves** of Arkansas State University

### Hospitality

Refreshments will be provided by several members who offered to bring a dish to share.

### Field Trip Information

**October 3, 2018 - Shelby Farms Greenline: Dick Preston will lead.** Contact at (901) 837-3360 or email dickpreston@rittermail.com. Meet at the Podesta Street entrance at 7:30AM. Find the map of the Greenline by clicking on the link in the e-version of the Directory, scan left to the I-240 / Sam Cooper interchange and find the Boswell/Podesta intersection just below.

**October 21, 2018 - Wapanocca NWR: Van Harris will lead.** Contact at (901) 876-3337 or email at shelbyforester1223@rittermail.com. Meet at the Wapanocca Visitors Center at 8:00AM. Call for directions.

**October 28, 2018 - W.C. Johnson Park (Collierville): Chad Brown will lead.** Contact at (901) 754-3385 or email at cwb496@bellsouth.net. Meet at the trailhead parking lot at the end of the park road at 7:30AM. A link to Google map is in the e-version of the directory.

### New Members

**Phil & Lori Goetz**, Germantown; plmegoetz@bellsouth.net

**Charlie Bright & Susan Moffatt**, Millington;  
Charlie.bright2010@gmail.com.

**Alex McWhirter & Virginia Vick**, Memphis;  
apmmcwhirter@gmail.com & ginna.vick@gmail.com

**Dr. Norman Soskel & Judith Barrie**, Germantown;  
norman@normansoskel.com & Judith@judithannebarrie.com

### Special Events

**October 5-7, 2018 - TOS Fall Meeting and Symposium at Manchester, TN See full information on page 5.**

**Note: The November MTOS meeting will be moved to the 28th due to a conflict with the church's activities.**

# 2018 TOS FALL MEETING & SYMPOSIUM AT MANCHESTER, TENNESSEE

**October 5-7, 2018**

The Tennessee Ornithological Society's 2018 Fall Meeting and Symposium will be held in Manchester, TN on October 5-7. The Highland Rim Chapter will host the meeting and extends a cordial invitation to all TOS members. Events include the annual symposium, a board of directors meeting and field trips.

The Ambassador Inn and Luxury Suites at 925 Interstate Drive (I-24 Exit 110) will be the headquarters for the event. For reservations, call 931-728-2200 or 800-237-9228 or [www.ambassadorinn.com](http://www.ambassadorinn.com). A block of rooms is being held for TOS, and the special room rate is \$52 plus tax. There is a complimentary breakfast provided by the Ambassador from 5:30 to 9:30 a.m.

The Ambassador Inn is reached by taking Interstate 24 to Exit 110 (Route 53—Manchester and Woodbury). After exiting, go North to Interstate Drive; the Ambassador sign will be visible on the right. The Inn is within walking distance of Cracker Barrel, Oak Restaurant and quick markets/service stations. A Waffle House and two Mexican Restaurants are nearby.

## **The Annual Symposium**

The Annual Symposium will feature invited and submitted talks. A formal call for papers will be issued soon. Meanwhile, if you are interested in making a presentation, please contact Steven Routledge at [eyerout@bellsouth.net](mailto:eyerout@bellsouth.net).

## **Field Trips**

Field trips will be held Saturday and Sunday mornings and depart from the Ambassador Inn. Field trips will be to Tims Ford Lake area and Woods Reservoir Lake areas.

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

The TOS Board of Directors will meet Saturday afternoon.

## **Registration**

The registration fee is \$10. Pre-payment is encouraged although attendees may pay upon arrival. Registration will be from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m. on Friday, October 5, at the Ambassador Inn Conference Building. Send a check made out to Highland Rim Chapter/TOS to: Vida Sherwood, 1326 Harton Blvd., Tullahoma, TN 37388.

For additional information on the meeting, contact Lisa A. Trail at (931) 728-6045 or (931) 224-6129 (cell), or [lisatrail29@gmail.com](mailto:lisatrail29@gmail.com).

Jim Varner captured pictures of these three birds at Shelby Forest on Sept. 15th. (via eBird.)

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Red-eyed Vireo

White-eyed Vireo

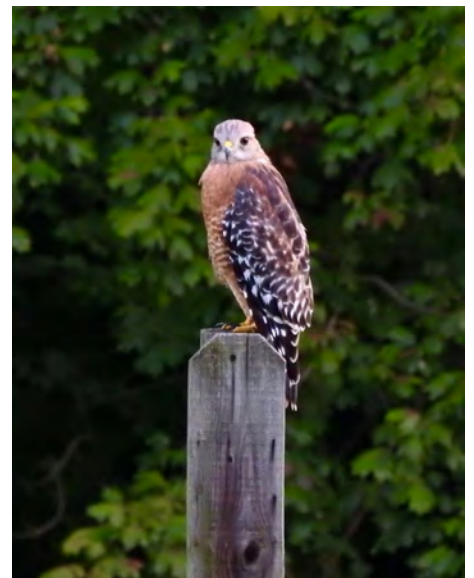


Thomas Blevins, birding with Jim Varner, contributed these pictures from Shelby Forest (via eBird.) The Blue-winged Warbler was seen at shelter #3, and the Northern Parula was near the Visitors Center.



<<< The Rough-winged Swallows were found at Poplar Tree Lake.

The Red-shouldered Hawk >>>> was near the Visitors Center.



Thomas Blevins took these two spectacular pictures of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird in his back yard recently.



We are all probably familiar with the Ruby-throated Hummingbird as they frequent our gardens and feeders throughout the summer months. If any of you have attended the Strawberry Plains Fall Hummingbird Festival you have had the opportunity to see many of these birds feeding and being captured for banding. During the Shelby County Fall Count a group of observers witnessed as many as 50 of the birds feeding on blossoms of Jewelweed alongside the dirt road that hunters use at the bottom of the big hill off of the one way road (Bluff Rd.) leading from the campground at Shelby Forest.

The Ruby-throated Hummer is the only one regularly seen east of the Mississippi River. However, there are others of the western species that do wander into the

Mid-South from time to time. The Rufous Hummingbird is one that has been seen here.

Most of these summer residents spend winter in the tropics, although a few stay on the Gulf coast. An even smaller number may remain in our area and will frequent any feeder left out on warmer days. (Kaufman Field Guide to Birds of N.A.)

It surprised me one time, while visiting in New Mexico, to see a hummingbird probing the crevices of a rock wall in the garden only to learn that it was feeding on insects and spiders living on the wall. You may notice that the throat of this hummer does not look to be ruby in color. Depending on the way the light hits it, the color observed may vary from black to ruby or to this color. (C.Brown)

