

**TOS Board of Directors Meeting
April 23, 2022**

President Dr. Michael Collins called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm central time with a welcome to everyone in attendance. The meeting was held at the Holiday Inn in Millington, TN.

Secretary Cyndi Routledge determined there was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes – A motion was made to accept the minute as presented. No objections. Passed unanimously.

Reports of Officers and Directors-at-Large:

- **VPs:**

- **East TN** – Chris Welsh (KTOS) –No report

- **Middle TN** – Danny Shelton extended an invitation for Wednesday morning Radnor Walks which are taking place through May 11th. Our Fall walks begin our 43rd year. Outreach Programs have begun again and NTOS has or will participate in FOUR. Including Outdoor Expo at Bells Bend and Conservations Days at The Wilderness Station in Murfreesboro. Our Membership continues to grow.

- CBC, Fall and Spring Counts and Field Trips continued as ‘normal’ even though the new variant surge of fall...adhering to CDC protocol.

- Reminder that Shelby Bottoms is now a ‘showcase’ for Window Strike Prevention ideas. If you’re interested in learning more about how NTOS and Metro Parks achieved this contact Melinda Welton or Cyndi Routledge. And do stop by the Nature Center if you’re in the area. NTOS BOD has voted to ‘take a break in July and August and ‘not’ meet. Low attendance and precedent by other Chapters guided our decision.

- **West TN** – Dick Preston (MTOS) – In person meetings since September with different meeting places due to COVID protocol. Ensley Bottoms (‘the Pits’) new fences and gates being erected to keep out vandals. Weekdays gates will be open. Weekends there can be issues with access. Organized groups should make ‘reservations’ ahead of time. Barn Owl and Bluebird boxes continue to be placed around area and maintained by David Hill, Dick Preston, Jim Waldron and Martha Waldron.

- **Directors-at-Large:**

- East TN –Susan Hubley – Announced Kingsport Chapter will host the meeting. Sept. 30 – Oct. 2nd

- Middle TN – Mac McWhirter – No report

- West TN – Allan Trently – No Report

- **Secretary** – Cyndi Routledge – Any changes of Officers or State Directors please get information to me as soon as possible.

- **Treasurer** – Pam Lasley (NTOS) - Assets for the Society at the end of 2021 were \$475,648 including cash of \$2,543 and fair market value of our Vanguard investments at \$472,039. The year saw our investments experience a net increase of \$55,330 which includes total transfers of \$10,000 to operating checking. The reserve for Migrants to be printed was reduced to reflect

only two issues were outstanding for 2021 at estimated current costs. The Conservation Reserve was reduced by \$5,000 to show the first of two payments of a grant to the Swan Conservation Trust.

Non-investment revenue for the year was \$16,558 for memberships and subscriptions, \$1,064 from contributions. Total expenses were \$30,669. Publications and communications at \$20,121 are our largest expense and includes 5 issues of *The Migrant*, all three issues of *The Warbler*, and website maintenance contract. We awarded \$3,822 in research and conservation grants and the \$5,000 to the Swan Conservation Trust noted above. Insurance was the same as last year at \$997. Overall, the net revenues over expenses was \$52,283

Our investments had an excellent year. Dividends and interest for 2021 were \$18,960 and we gained \$46,370 in market value for the year. As noted above, we distributed \$10,000 to our operating cash account for the year. Investment performance was 15.8% for 1 year return, 3 year annualized is 15.3%, 5 year is 11.5% and 10 year annualized return on investments is 10.0%. Our portfolio mix is 64% stocks, 30% bonds and 6% short term reserves.

Membership Report - Total individual membership increased an overall 8% to 693, and institutional subscriptions were static. Knoxville, At Large, and Nashville have had the largest percentage increase. The largest losses have come from some of our smaller chapters, Sellars, Bristol, and Highland Rim. Total memberships stand at 710.

As required by the Constitution, an examination of the 2021 financial records was performed. The newly appointed Finance Committee (S Routledge, Pyles, Preston) has performed this exam and will give a report during the meeting.

2022:

TOS remains in excellent financial shape. Revenues, expenses and publications are running as expected, with Individual memberships roughly the same as last year.

The Conservation and Research Fund has funded \$8,400 in grants this year. Applications were up from last year but still not recovered from our pandemic low. *The Migrant* publications are running at their scheduled pace, and we have sent (and paid for) our last hard paper copy of *The Tennessee Warbler*.

At the end of the first quarter, our Vanguard investment account has declined to \$435,435 which includes a \$10,000 transfer to our operating account. Our investment profile has historically weathered downturns in the market, and I expect this will be true for this current challenging economic climate. The full results of 2022 will be presented at the Spring 2021 meeting.

- **Migrant** – Editor –Bob Ford. December 2021 all but ready to be sent out. Call for articles. Cyndi Routledge reported on the changes taking place at SORA and the backlog incurring there. Will continue to pursue and report back. Questions about the Migrant going 'digital'. Discussions are ongoing. Thanks to Rick Knight for all his efforts with the Seasons Reports for his 25 years of service. Need for a Season's Editor and Regional reporters was discussed.
- **TN Warbler Newsletter** – Theresa Graham – No report

Committee Reports

TN Bird Record Committee – Graham Gerdeman (NTOS) – 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 the by-laws of the committee and information for submitting documentation, may be viewed in the TBRC section of the TOS website (<https://tnbirds.org/tennessee-bird-records-committee/>). Current members of the committee are Graham Gerdeman (Secretary), Ron Hoff, Chris Sloan, Beth Schilling, Mark Greene, Michael Smith, and Jeff Walck (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.

Following is the first report of the actions of the TBRC since September, 2019 (*The Migrant* 90(3): 93-94, 2019). Just as with regular meetings of the TOS (and many aspects of everyday life), the work of the TBRC was delayed in part by the onset of the global Covid-19 pandemic. This includes the recruitment of new, qualified members to replace those whose terms had expired, as well as review of many submitted records. We appreciate the patience of many who were waiting on approval of a rare bird record. 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.

Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*)

Written documentation of a historical observation of a single individual submitted by Scott Somershoe; Pace Point, Big Sandy Unit, Tennessee NWR, Henry County, 30 September 2014. Accepted 6-0.

Boat-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus major*)

Written documentation and photographs of one female submitted by Ronald Manley; "Snow Bunting Peninsula," Old Hickory Lake, Nashville, Davidson County, 24 August 2018. This is a first state record and the furthest inland record. Accepted 6-0.

American Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*)

Written documentation and photographs of one individual submitted by Victor Stoll. HWY 78 West in Lake County, near Ridgely TN, July 13, 2019. This is a first state record. Accepted 6-0.

Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*)

Written documentation of a late fall juvenile submitted by Bob Foehring; Shelby Farms, Memphis, Shelby County, 15 September 2019. Accepted 6-0.

Clay-colored Sparrow (*Spizella pallida*)

Written documentation of a single bird submitted by Bob Foehring; Shelby Farms, Memphis, Shelby County, 8 October 2020. This is the second Shelby County record. Accepted 6-0.

Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) - 2 different records

Written documentation of one individual submitted by Luke Thompson; Hiwassee Wildlife Refuge, Birchwood, Meigs County, 14 November 2020. This is a first Meigs County record. Accepted 6-0.

Written documentation and photograph of one individual submitted by Graham Gerdeman; Edwin Warner Park, Nashville, Davidson County, 30 March 2021. This is a first Davidson County record. Accepted 6-0

Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*)

Written documentation and photographs of individual submitted by Mary Glynn Williamson; Bells Bend Park, Nashville, Davidson County, 6 December 2020. This is a first state record. Accepted 6-0.

Pacific-Slope Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*)

Written documentation and photographs of individual submitted by Evan Kidd were supplemented by audio recording by Randy Winstead; Maryville, Blount County, 12 December 2020. This is a first state record. Accepted 6-0.

White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes saxatalis*)

Written documentation and photographs of adult bird submitted by Wolf Jedamski; Chattanooga River Park, Chattanooga, Hamilton County, 10 January 2021. This is a first state record. Accepted 6-0.

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)

Written documentation and photographs of two adults coming to a backyard feeder by David Hamilton; Memphis, Shelby County, 27 March 2021. Accepted 6-0.

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*)

Written documentation and photographs of a single individual submitted by Tammy Ross; TVA ash ponds, New Johnsonville, Humphreys County, 23 October 2021. This is a first state record. Accepted 6-0.

Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*)

Written documentation and photographs of immature female submitted by Graham Gerdeman; Bells Bend Park, Nashville, Davidson County, 27 December 2021. This is a first state record. Accepted 6-0.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)

Written documentation and photograph of adult male coming to a backyard feeder submitted by Karin Beuerlin; Knoxville, Knox County, 16 January 2022. Accepted 6-0.

Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*)

The WI-FL migratory population is considered countable as a Reintroduced Indigenous Species by the Recording Standards and Ethics Committee (RSEC) of the ABA, with the first confirmed wild hatching on 22 June 2006 (<https://www.aba.org/aba-area-reintroduced-indigenous-species/>). Whooping Cranes in this population occur with some frequency, but not always annually, in Tennessee, so it has been an oversight that the species is not represented on the official state list. It was agreed to correct this and add Whooping Crane to the state list with a frequency code of "Casual." Accepted 6-0.

By Fall 2022 meeting a set of procedure will be presented to the BOD for approval.

- **Conservation & Policy Committee** – Dick Preston / Melinda Welton – Recovering America's Wildlife Act of 2021 has moved out of subcommittees in both Houses. This Act would provide 1.3 billion dollars annually to state fish and wildlife agencies and an additional 97.5 million to

Indian Tribal Fish and wildlife agencies. Members encouraged to contact representatives to encourage passage.

Committee continues to sign onto many letters regarding bird conservation.

Discussion of the contagious avian flu spreading across North America.

A new group called 'Bird Safe Nashville' has been formed to promote Lights Out, Cats Indoors, Plant Native.

- Conservation Research Funding – Michael Collins – Uptick in grants, still under traditional numbers. Awarded \$8,400 to applicants.
- Website – Cyndi Routledge – Proposal from website developer Amy Wilms was presented. Project is to integrate all Chapter under TOS webpage. Steve Routledge made a motion to accept Amy Wilms – Webpage Consultant's proposal and move forward to integrate all TOS Chapters into the main TOS website at the cost to TOS. Ron Hoff seconded. Passed unanimously.
- Finance – Dick Preston - Financial records are in good standing, all receipts and documentation in order and complete. Additionally there was a call to update the language pertaining to the number of members of the finance committee.
- Curator – Stefan Woltmann – No report
- TN-Bird - Rob Biller and Dave Worley – No report

Old Business – 'Proposal for Change in Procedure' – It has been proposed that TOS merges the evaluation process of all types of conservation funding requests into one committee – "The Grants Committee" – It would consist of 7 members appointed by the President with diverse conservation and research backgrounds. They will develop overall priority for TOS spending for Conservation and Research funds and will publish guidelines and requirements for projects to be evaluated and funded. This Committee will be assigned an annual budget in consultation with the Treasurer and approved by the Board of Directors. Funding requests will be evaluated in light of TOS stated priorities. This Committee will also consider extra-budgetary requests arising after funding has been decided for a year. Final approvals will be funded to the Executive Committee for a final decision. Mac McWhirter made a motion to accept the change in procedure to form a "Grants Committee". Ron Hoff seconded. Passed unanimously.

Discover Bird Books....Cyndi Routledge reported a new printing of books – \$2,000 from TWRA and matching funds from TOS will produced these 5000 books. There was a distribution of 1250 books in 2021 and thusly in 2022 – 2130 books.

New Business

Proposed Amendments to the TOS Constitution

- 1) College memberships – To Increase our membership and attracting a broader, younger demographic it is important step for the long-term health of TOS. We propose amending the TOS constitution to add a College membership to TOS:
 - College membership. Available to all students enrolled in any post-secondary educational institution. Post-secondary institutions include colleges and universities, including graduate programs, community colleges, and technical and trade schools.

College memberships shall be entirely digital and will receive information via email.
Cost \$10/year.

Pam Lasley makes a motion to accept the change to the Constitution as proposed. Rick Knight seconded. Passed unanimously.

2) Mailings

The TOS Constitution currently specifies that proposed amendments and *The Tennessee Warbler* must be mailed. *The Tennessee Warbler* has moved to electronic delivery only, and our language should reflect this change. The following changes are to align our language with future practices.

Proposed change - Any Voting member may propose an amendment to the Constitution by notifying all officers, Directors, local chapter presidents and secretaries of the proposed changes in writing by email thirty days before a meeting of the Board of Directors and by publication in the Society's newsletter thirty days prior to the Annual Meeting.

2) *The Tennessee Warbler*

Proposed change - An issue of *The Tennessee Warbler* shall be sent and posted on the TOS website at least thirty days before the Annual Meeting and shall contain a schedule of events, a proposed agenda for the meetings and proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws.

Pam Lasley makes a motion to accept both these mailing change to the Constitution as written. Rick Knight seconded. Passed unanimously.

General Announcements

- 1) Birding Kingsport will host the Fall 2022 meeting, scheduled for September 30 – October 2.
- 2) Wings of Winter Bird Festival – January 13-15, 2023.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Pam Lasley. Seconded Susan Hubley. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:12 pm central time.

Respectfully submitted,
Cyndi Routledge, Secretary