

DRAFT
TOS Board of Directors Meeting
September 28, 2024

President Dr. Michael Collins called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm . The meeting was held at the recreation lodge at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park. President Collins thanked the Memphis Chapter for hosting the meeting and doing a wonderful job as always.

Secretary Cyndi Routledge determined there was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes – Motion was made to accept Board of Director’s Minutes as written. Passed unanimously. Motion was made to accept General Meeting Minutes with typos corrected. Passed unanimously.

Reports of Officers and Directors-at-Large:

- VPs:
 - East TN – Chris Welsh – Knoxville Chapter will be joining Chattanooga for a joint field trip next month in an ongoing effort to work together.
 - Middle TN – Steve Routledge – Wednesday morning migration Radnor Lake State Park Walks continue and have been ongoing for 45 years. NTOS Board has had a conversation with Chris Sloan, new Chair of American Bird Association, about collaborative conservation actions.
 - West TN – Dick Preston – no report. However, two sad announcements regarding the passing of two Memphis Chapter members; Rob Peebles and Dr. Perry Larimer. Our condolences to their friends and family.

- Directors-at-Large:
 - East TN –Susan Hubley – no report
 - Middle TN – Mac McWhirter – no report
 - West TN – Allan Trently - Middle Fork Bottoms State Park in Madison County was officially opened on August 12, 2024. This 860-acre park contains grasslands, marshes, early successional and bottomland forests. A visitor's center is scheduled to be completed in the next few years.

Secretary Report – Cyndi Routledge - Called for any updates to State Directors lists for webpage to be sent for updating purposes.

Treasurer’s Report – Pam Lasley - TOS remains in excellent financial shape. Our Membership dollars are running approximately 10% less than last year. A significant portion of that decline is due to fewer life members in 2024 than 2023. We awarded \$20,000 in Grants this year. We have produced 3 editions of *The Migrant* this year so far.

Our Dividends are slightly higher than last year at this time. Our investments have gained market value of approximately \$40,000 this year. We were running the same potential gain in Sept of 2023. Market Value of our investments was \$460,133 at June 30, 2024. Full results will be presented at the Spring 2025 meeting.

- Migrant Editor – Susan McWhirter reported on behalf of Editor Bob Ford - First Digital Migrant will be the March 2024 edition. December 2023 issue is a bit behind but at printer now. Call for content for The Migrant. Back issues of the Migrant through 2021 are available on SORA and will soon be available on University of South Florida edu site. Additional details will be forthcoming in the next Warbler or the Spring meeting.
- TN Warbler Newsletter – Theresa Graham – Deadline for submissions October 31, 2024.

Committee Reports

- TN Bird Record Committee – Graham Gerdeman – no report
- Cons. & Policy Committee – Dick Preston / Melinda Welton – Dick Preston reported the following:
 - New York State has passed the Birds and Bees Protection Act which outlaws ANY neonicotinoid coating on corn, soybeans, wheat agricultural products. First State to do this. Eleven other States have bans on treated seeds for residential plantings.
 - There is an outbreak of avian botulism at Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge in Northern California. 80,000 known birds dead so far. Low water levels is the primary underlying cause.
 - “Extinct” Guam Kingfisher making a comeback through the efforts of Nature Conservancy. A small group has been released on Cooper Island as a test site. If efforts prove to be successful more will be released in the future.
 - TN State Legislature to consider detrimental changes to how the State protects our Wetlands. West TN Representative Keven Vaughn (R-95) is lead sponsor. Tennessee Department of Conservation released 183-page reporting outlining 18 recommendations...none of which are good news for preservation of TN’s wetlands. Please contact your representative and senators and let them know how you feel about this action.
- Conservation and Research Funding – Dr. Michael Collins – There was a large number of requests for 2024 grants. \$20,000 was awarded. Some were fully funded while other were partially funded. The announcement for 2025 Grants will be published in the upcoming Warbler with a February deadline for submission.

- Website – Cyndi Routledge – Amy Wilms continues to make progress towards efforts to move the chapter sites to the TOS page and are close to completion. Chattanooga and Highland Rim are the only two Chapters lacking inclusion as of this date but work progresses and should be complete by spring. Once all Chapters are on the page a menu linking all pages will be developed. The question about putting all Migrant issues on the webpage was proposed by Amy. The Board was asked to consider this proposal and be ready to decide in the Spring. Cyndi Routledge also brought up the fact that Amy’s current contract does not include this work, so we also need to consider what we’re willing to pay Amy to have it done if we choose to do it.
- Finance – Steve Routledge – no report
- Curator – Stefan Woltmann – no report
- TNBird - Rob Biller – working to keep it going.

Old Business – No new business

New Business

- Michael Collins called for a Chapter to volunteer to host the Spring meeting. Hearing none, he suggested we go back to a rotational system-based meeting schedule so Chapters can plan and know when they need to step up and host a meeting. A lengthy discussion took place regarding pros and cons of this idea. Pam Lasley made a motion to establish a contingent rotation plan for Spring and Fall meetings. Spring rotations will begin in 2025 with Chattanooga, followed by Kingsport in 2026, Memphis in 2027, Knoxville in 2028 and Nashville in 2029. Second Susan Hubley. Passed unanimously. President Collins will notify the Chapter Presidents about this new system and make adjustments accordingly. Per Fall rotations...it was decided to wait to formulate the rotation until President Collins spoke to Elizabethton Chapter since it is believed that they had informally volunteered to do the Fall 2025 meeting.
- Dick Preston made a motion for a funding increase for Chapters hosting the Annual Spring and Fall state meetings to help offset increased expenses; a maximum of \$3,000 for Spring and \$1000 for Fall. Chris Welsh seconded. Passed unanimously
- Pam Lasley reviewed how the TOS regular budgeting and funding operates since a question arose about whether or not to lower the TOS annual dues when The Migrant goes digital and what exactly folks will be ‘getting’ for their dues dollars. After a good discussion that included rising costs and increased funding for Conservation and Research grants, the decision was made not to lower dues.
- Cyndi Routledge discussed being contacted by various Festivals and meeting across the state for a TOS presence. She explained that when possible, she sends information to closest Chapter. A hand-out with QR code linked to TOS webpage has been created and is available for another to use at these events.

General Announcements

- 1) Anti-window collision material samples and information was made available from Decorative Films. Directors were encouraged to take it back to their Chapters to share. More samples can be obtained free from the company...you just need to pay \$4.75 shipping. Contact Cyndi Routledge for additional information.
- 2) Discover Bird book update and reprinting announcement as follows:
 - Total number distributed since 2011 – 46,368 books. There are 720 books remaining. TWRA has pledged a minimum of \$2500. TOS will match the \$2500. Copies in a Flash was contacted for a price quote for new printing. \$5000 will print 2000 as paper prices continue to rise. The cost is now double for what we initially paid for the books in 2011.
- 3) Lula Lake Land Trust, a nonprofit conservation organization located just south of Chattanooga on Lookout Mountain, GA contacted us to announce they are teaming up with the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga to host a bird-blitz and bird-banding on October 12, 2024 and inviting all to attend.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Steve Routledge. Seconded Pam Lasley. Passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Cyndi Routledge, Secretary