

**Tennessee Ornithological Society
Minutes of the Fall Board of Directors
September 28, 2019
FINAL**

The annual Fall meeting was held Friday, September 27th to Sunday September 29th, 2019 and was hosted by the Lee and Lois Herndon Chapter of Elizabethton, TN. Field trips were to Sycamore Shoals State Park, Roan Mountain, Unaka Mountain, Hampton Creek Cove, Carver Gap and the Big Bald Banding station. A paper symposium was held on Saturday afternoon and a banquet was held at Kaycliff Center on Boone Lake on Saturday night with a presentation by Dr. David Buehler.

The meeting was called to order by President Danny Gaddy (CTOS) at 5:15 pm. Cyndi Routledge (NTOS), Secretary, determined that a quorum had been met.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SPRING 2019 BOD AND ANNUAL MEETING:

- The minutes from the 2019 Spring BOD and Annual meeting were distributed for approval.
- Motion was made by Steve Routledge (NTOS) to accept the 2019 Spring BOD Minutes with one spelling correction.
- Seconded by Mac McWhirter (At-large)
- Unanimously approved.
- Motion was made by Mac McWhirter (at-large) to accept the 2019 Annual Spring Meeting Minutes as written.
- Seconded by Steve Routledge (NTOS)
- Unanimously approved.

REPORTS FROM THE OFFICERS:

President: Danny Gaddy (CTOS) –

- Thanked the Herndon Club for their hospitality and terrific job for all the weekend's events.

Vice Presidents:

East TN - Chris Welsh – no report

Middle TN – Danny Shelton – no report

West TN – Dick Preston –

- Members of the Chapter continue to participate in the MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) banding operation at Strawberry Plains Audubon Center in Holly Springs, MS.
- Dick also reported that Hal Mitchell is in the process of establishing the first MOTUS monitoring tower in the south at Strawberry Plains Audubon Center in MS.
- The Chapter invites all TOS members to the 2020 Annual Spring Membership Meeting to be held the last weekend in April 2020. Host hotel will be the Plantation Oaks Inn and Suites. Dawn Hewitt, editor of Bird Watchers Digest will be the Keynote.

Secretary – Cyndi Routledge (NTOS) – no report

Treasurer – Pam Lasley (NTOS) –

- TOS remains in good financial shape. Revenues and Expenses are running as expected with individual memberships slightly ahead of last year however contributions are a bit behind.

- We have published 3 Migrants with one more due out before the end of 2019. The Warbler has been published on time as always.
- The Conservation and Research Fund has awarded \$9318 in grants this year.
- Our investment balance has climbed \$38,345 since 2018 and currently stands at \$381,526.
- By vote of the Executive Committee, \$1500 was released from the conservation reserve for the Dauphin Island land purchase.
- As required by the Constitution, an examination of the 2018 financial records were performed by former Finance Chair, Susan Hollyday (NTOS), since no new Finance Chair has been appointed yet. The results, which have been submitted to the President, indicated a clean exam

Announcements from the President Danny Gaddy (CTOS) on actions TOS is undertaking:

- Some TOS chapters have been interested in Networking with other TOS chapters.
- TOS/Cyndi Routledge (NTOS) responded to inquiries from Global Bird Rescue.
- Alerted BOD to the adverse changes to Endangered Species Act.
- Alerted BOD to the ongoing Southern Environmental Law Issues.
- Announced that Ken Dubke was awarded the TN Conservation Lifetime Award by TDEC.
- Back issues of the Migrant will be placed on SORA.
- TOS was contacted by the Wilson Journal to obtain 'missing' copies of The Migrant.

Reports on Publications:

Migrant Editor – Bob Ford (MTOS) –

- Susan McWhirter (at-large) reported Migrants are being printed on time. Bob would like to start a photo gallery for blank pages. A volunteer is being sought to maintain this new gallery.

Committee Reports:

Conservation Policy Committee – Melinda Welton (NTOS)/Dick Preston (MTOS) –

- A new study published in the Journal of Science reveals that since 1970 bird populations in the United States have declined almost 29% signaling a widespread ecological crisis. The CPC requests that all members take action by generating as many letters as they can to both Senators and Representatives in support of conservation priorities to begin to address this bird crisis. Members can find resources to help with reporting by visiting 3billionbirds.org.
- A bipartisan bill, H.R. 919, designed to reduce bird mortality by calling for Federal buildings to incorporate bird-safe building materials, design features and lightning is making its way through Congress. The CPC urges members to take action immediately by contacting your representatives and Senators and urging them to support the bill.
- TOS is a member of the American Bird Conservancy and the CPC urges members to visit abcbirds.org for quick and easy links for submitting your comments on all bird related important issues including the two issues above.
- No other Committee Reports

Old Business:

- New TOS Webpage - President Danny Gaddy (CTOS) thanked Cyndi Routledge (NTOS) for taking over the process to develop the page. It is being designed by Amy Wilms and is in progress.

New Business:

- Discussion of what we as a Club can do to educate the public on the 'state of the birds' as has been reported by the recent Cornell report. President Danny Gaddy (CTOS) then suggested more money for education projects. Dick Preston (MTOS) reminded the BOD that we do have a mechanism in place to do just that.
- Mac McWhirter (at-large) made the motion that we increase the annual funding from \$10,000 to \$20,000 for Conservation and Research Funding in the calendar year 2020.
Seconded Chris Welsh (KTOS)
Passed unanimously.
- Rick Blanton (Bristol) made the motion that beginning with the TOS Spring 2020 meeting that we strongly encourage that anyone leading a TOS bird walk enter the data in eBird.
Seconded by Pam Lasley (NTOS).
Passed unanimously.

Pam Lasley (NTOS) made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Rick Blanton (Bristol)

Passed unanimously

Meeting was adjourned at 6:24 pm

Respectfully submitted;

Cyndi Routledge, Secretary