

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**TOS Board of Directors Meeting**  
**October 4, 2021**

**Call to order and determination of quorum** – Dr. Michael Collins called the Fall Zoom meeting to order at 6:01 pm central time.

**Approval of Minutes** – Pam Lasley made a motion to accept minutes as corrected; Dick Preston seconded. Pass unanimously.

**Reports of Officers and Directors-at-Large:**

**Vice Presidents:**

- **East TN – Chris Welsh** - Most East Tennessee chapters have been transitioning back to in-person meetings this fall, but given COVID concerns, hybrid in-person/virtual meetings and fully virtual meetings are also being held to help connect members. Field trips are a staple activity for all chapters, and the Herndon Chapter has planned an out of state trip to the Georgia coast. Attracting new members is a priority for chapters, and in addition to hosting regular field trips, some have introduced new initiatives. The Knoxville Chapter started a new program to offer monthly virtual meetings to encourage participation by non-members active on bird-oriented social media (i.e., East Tennessee Birds Facebook group), but that outreach was largely unsuccessful and won't be continued. On the conservation side, coordinating summer and fall bird counts is a regular activity for chapters. The Knoxville Chapter has been working with the local garden club and the newly established Collier Preserve to install a native shrub garden and bluebird boxes at the preserve. Knoxville has also sponsored an exhibit of Elizabeth Gould bird illustrations at the McClung Museum of Natural History and Culture at the University of Tennessee. In addition to seasonal counts the Herndon Chapter has been conducting Nightjar Survey Routes as part of a long-term study of nightjar populations coordinated by researchers at the College of William and Mary.
- **Middle TN – Danny Shelton** – announced NTOS has a new website; [nashvillebirds.org](http://nashvillebirds.org). Danny extended a general invitation to the TOS membership for the Shelby Bottoms reception to celebrate and introduce the joint conservation window strike project on October 15<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 pm. Finally it was announced that NTOS had resumed in person meeting, field trips and Radnor Lake State Park walks this spring.
- **West TN – Dick Preston** - The Memphis Chapter invites all members to the Annual Meeting, April 23, 2022. The meeting will be held in person, at the Plantation Oaks Suites and Inn, Millington. Preliminary information and registration forms will appear in the December issue of The Tennessee Warbler and placed on the TOS website. Final details will be published in the April edition.  
The Memphis Chapter placed 100 copies of the TOS “Discover Birds Activity Books” at T. O. Fuller State Park, in Memphis. Park rangers use the books in their education programs, while additional copies are provided in partnership with local teachers. This is the third time we have donated books to the park, and they have proved highly popular with kids and their teachers. The park staff greatly appreciates the generosity of TOS.

### **Directors-at-Large:**

- East TN –Susan Hubley – Kingsport is willing to host the Fall 2022 meeting – Sept 30-October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Information will be forthcoming in summer of 2022.
- Middle TN – Mac McWhirter – no report
- West TN – Allan Trently – no report

### **Secretary – Cyndi Routledge –**

- A request was made for updated contact information on any new officers, state directors for the TOS webpage. Requested that Chapters designate a member to write up and send any 'Chapter Events' for placement on the TOS webpage. Contact me for instructions. Currently only NTOS and MTOS events are appearing there.

### **Treasurer – Pam Lasley –**

- TOS remains in excellent financial shape. Other than *Memberships* and *Grants*, revenues and expenses are running as expected. Grants awarded were at a low of \$3,322 due to very low applications. Individual memberships are up 37% over last year, primarily due to new At-Large members.
- We received almost \$1,000 (\$962) in memorials and honorariums this year, the majority of that in memory of Ruth Luckado and Martha Cooper.
- Monies for Institutional Members are down in 2021, however that is primarily a payment timing issue since we're only down one Institutional member from last year.
- We've published 3 Migrants so far and I expect we will have one more before year end. Warblers have been produced on schedule as well.
- Our Investments balance has climbed roughly \$32k (\$31,897) since 2020 year-end and currently stands at \$448,607. That includes a \$5,000 withdrawal from our Money Market account this year. Our 10-, 5-, and 3-year rate of return hovers around 10% with our 1-year ROR a bit higher at 16%
- We contributed half of our \$10,000 commitment to the Swan Conservation Trust in May and will pay the remainder in May of 2022. I released \$5,000 from our conservation "reserve" for the land purchase which leaves roughly \$12k (\$11,951) of our assets restricted use to "non-budgetary" (or extraordinary) Conservation and Research projects.
- The full results of 2020 will be presented at the Spring 2021 meeting.

### **Migrant – Editor – Bob Ford –**

- Bob reported that the March 2021 is in mail. June and September issues are all laid out. Decent stream of articles continue to come in for additional issues.
- Bob called for Roundtable articles and book reviews.
- Thanks to Cyndi Routledge for quick turnaround of publishing Migrant on TOS webpage and SORA.
- Bob is working on catching up so date on Migrant matches true current date and not always behind.

## **TN Warbler Newsletter – Theresa Graham –**

- Theresa indicated that notification were sent to all parties to get articles in by October 31, 2021.
- Thanks contributors and as well as Pam Lasley for her help in getting electronic issues out promptly.
- This upcoming issue of the Warbler will be the last printed issue. From here forth it will be all electronic.

## **Committee Reports –**

### **Birds Record Committee –**

- President Michale Collins reported he is still trying to get someone to step-up and be Secretary and that one one alternate position still needs to be filled as well.

### **Conservation & Policy Committee – Dick Preston / Melinda Welton –**

- President Biden restored the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to it's previous status.
- "Bird Safe Building Act" would require new public buildings to meet set standards for minimizing bird strikes.
- "Saving American Polinator's Act" has 64 sponsors in the House and Senate. If passed it would force FDA to review all pesticides including but not limited to neonicotinoids
- Phone calls and letters are needed in support of the "Recovering America's Wildlife Act." The Act would provide 1.3 billion dollars annually to state fish and wildlife agencies, and 97.5 million dollars to Indian Tribal wildlife agencies. The money will greatly enhance management and conservation of non-game species, and is designed to keep species from needing to be placed on the endangered list. Please encourage our members to consider contacting our two Senators as well as their respective Representatives. The Senate version of the Act is S-2372, and currently has nearly thirty co-sponsors, but unfortunately, none from Tennessee. The House version is HR 2773, and is still in subcommittee.
- Joint Conservation Bird Strike poster that was developed for project between NTOS and Metro Parks is available to any TOS Chapter for their use.
- Committee members: Laura Cook, Ashley Heeney, Melinda *Welton* - co-chair, Dick Preston - co-chair, Cyndi Routledge  
Special advisor: Dev Joslin

### **Conservation Research Funding – Dr. Michael Collins –**

- Michael Collins announced that he will continue to chair this committee. Michael reports that an announcement for funding requests for 2022 was submitted to the Warbler for the upcoming issue.

### **TOS Website – Cyndi Routledge –**

- Cyndi reported that Amy Wilms and she continue to work together to keep page as current as possible. Need Chapter's help with Events and any updates so information

stays as current as possible. Please advise your memberships that they can always find the 4 latest Migrants and 3 Warblers issues on the page. Entire Migrant collection is on SORA and all back issues of Warbler can be obtained from Theresa Graham.

- Discussion took place regarding the pros and cons of all Chapters consolidating websites under TOS webpage. Chris Welsh submitted a report which highlighted the benefits of merging chapter websites. He also stated in general most are satisfied with what they have so if a change was to take place the pros and cons of doing so is key to getting all on board. Mort Massey provided helpful feedback and expressed concerns about having only one member in each Chapter capable of maintaining the site. He proposed we consolidate all Chapter under the current TOS webpage and hire a contractor to do all maintenance and trouble-shooting while having each Chapter maintain their own content. Cyndi Routledge will contact Amy Wilms, current TOS webpage contractor for information and price quote to get the job completed and will report back at the Spring meeting.

#### **Finance –**

- Dick will assume the Chairmanship. Barbara Pyle has agreed to serve on committee. Call for additional committee members.

Pam Lasley thanked Betty Bailey for auditing the books the past two years.

#### **Curator – Stefan Woltmann –**

- Stefan agreed to being promoted from Associate Curator to Curator. Does not need any additional help at this point but would like an assistant so when the time came for him to step aside someone else knows what the job entails.

#### **TN Bird –**

- Rob Biller and Dave Worley – No report

#### **Old Business -**

- Pam Lasley and Dick Preston requested to table the Grants proposal discussion until the Spring 2022 meeting so more people can weigh-in on the proposal and process.

#### **New Business -**

- Memphis will host the Spring 2022 meeting April 22-24, to coincide with the Hatchie Birdfest. Keynote Speaker will be Dawn Hewitt from Bird Watcher's Digest.
- Stefan Woltmann is now the TOS Curator, and the Associate Curator position is unfilled. Stefan's duties remain unchanged.
- Michael Collins – asked about continuing Zoom meetings for all Fall BOD meeting. A discussion took place with the consensus being that a 'hybrid' meeting of both Zoom and in-person BOD would be beneficial so more folks can participate.

**General Announcements –**

- Wings of Winter 2022 cancelled due to COVID concerns.
- Cyndi Routledge announced that ‘winter hummingbird’ season has ‘unofficially’ begun and asked everyone to make an announcement/request at their respective Chapter meeting to perhaps leave out a feeder this winter and contact her if any are seen.
- Cyndi Routledge reported that TWRA/David Hanni has set aside \$2,000 for another printing of The Discover Birds Activity book in 2022. In accordance with a past vote TOS will match those funds and books will be printed.

**Motion to Adjourn** – Pam Lasley made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Steve Routledge seconded the motion. Pass unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Cyndi Routledge