

FINAL MINUTES
TOS Board of Directors Meeting
May 3, 2021

The second virtual Board of Directors ZOOM meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by President Michael Collins (MTOS). Secretary Cyndi Routledge (NTOS) determined there was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes: Dick Preston (MTOS) requested one change. Dick Preston (MTOS) made a motion to approve minutes with one house-keeping change. Chris Welsh (KTOS)d – seconded. Passed Unanimously

Reports of Officers and Directors-at-Large:

- East TN – Chris Welsh – KTOS has been holding Zoom meetings since September. The chapter added 17 new members this year, mostly by engaging people on bird walks at Seven Islands State Birding Park and inviting people from the East Tennessee Birding Facebook group. KTOS lost two long time members Carol Gobert and Bob Collier. KTOS has been developing the Collier Preserve Natural Garden as a joint venture with the Master Gardeners group and has provided \$500 in support to the McClung Museum at the University of Tennessee for a major bird painting exhibit scheduled for August 2021.
- Middle TN – Danny Shelton – Resumed Wednesday morning Radnor Walks on April 28, 2021.
- West TN – Dick Preston - The Memphis chapter held their first in person meeting on April 24, 2021. It was held outside at the Mid-South Raptor Center with COVID 19 precautions. Almost 50 members and guests attended. The Memphis chapter conducted a full schedule of winter and spring field trips. Attendance remained high, as members and guests sought safe relief from Covid-19 restrictions. The 10th annual Hatchie Bird Fest was held April 23rd to 25th, in Haywood County. Several members of the Memphis chapter led in person and virtual field trips and provided virtual seminars for the event. In April, a Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*) was found injured at an oil refinery in Memphis, Shelby County. The bird was taken to the Mississippi Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in nearby De Soto County. Unfortunately, the bird had sustained a spinal fracture and died after nine days. This was the second record of a Limpkin for west Tennessee and just the fifth for the state. The Memphis chapter notes with great sadness the passing of long-time member Jaime Wright. Jaime had a life-long love of birds and was a strong proponent for their conservation. She regularly attended chapter meetings well into her 90's.
- Directors-at-Large:
 - East TN –Susan Hubley – no report
 - Middle TN – Mac McWhirter – no report
 - West TN – Allan Trently – no report
- Secretary – Cyndi Routledge (NTOS) – Reminded Members that both draft and final approved minutes are always available on the TOS webpage and encourage members to read them.

Treasurer – Pam Lasley (NTOS) - Assets for the Society at the end of 2020 were \$423,365 including cash of \$4,512 and fair market value of our Vanguard investments at \$416,709. The year saw our investments experience a net increase of \$19,482 which includes transfers of \$27,500 to operating checking. The reserve for Migrants to be printed remain the same as last year and there were no charges to the Conservation and Research Restricted Fund.

Non-investment revenue for the year was \$12,302 for memberships and subscriptions, \$100 from contributions. Total expenses were \$36,260. Publications and communications at \$16,456 are our largest expense and includes 4 issues of The Migrant, all three issues of The TN Warbler, and completion of our new website. We were able to award \$15,180 in research and conservation grants. Insurance was the same as last year at \$997. Overall, the net revenues over expenses was \$23,124

Our Investments had another good year. Dividends and interest for 2020 were \$14,697 and we gained \$32,285 in market value for the year. In 2020, we distributed \$27,500 to our operating cash account for the year. Returns for are 12.4% for 1 year return, 3 year annualized is 9.5%, 5 year is 10.2% and 10 year annualized return on investments is 8.7%. The portfolio remains defensively structured with approximately 45% in equity positions.

Membership report: Total individual membership was exactly the same as last year, but institutional subscriptions were down by 3. There was very little significant movement in all chapters, but At-Large membership increased by 30%, by 15 members. Almost all of the new At Large members have come via our new TOS website.

As required by the Constitution, an examination of the 2020 financial records was performed. Since there is no Finance Committee in place, I requested Betty Bailey of the Kingsport chapter to perform this exam. She has submitted her report to the president.

Into the 4th month of 2021 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 only \$3,322 in grants this year. I believe applications were down significantly. The Swan Conservation Trust's grant application to purchase of 140 acres in Lewis County, was approved by NAWCA, so we will donate \$5,000 in matching funds this month and also in May of 2022

At the end of the first quarter, our Vanguard investment account has risen to \$425,495 and we have not transferred any funds to operating checking yet this year. Our investment returns look good for the year so far. The full results of 2021 will be presented at the Spring 2022 meeting.

Migrant – Editor – Bob Ford (MTOS) - Maintaining goal of 6 months delay on all issues. Good number of articles and Roundtable notes but always looking for book reviews, photo gallery pictures and future articles.

TN Warbler Newsletter – Theresa Graham (MTOS) – Next deadline is June 30th.

Committee Reports

TN Bird Record Committee – Ruben Stoll (NTOS) has rolled off.

Cons. & Policy Committee – Dick Preston (MTOS) / Melinda Welton (NTOS) - The Conservation Policy Committee (CPC) reviewed a series of letters from the American Bird Conservancy (ABC), and several other organizations, sent to the President of the United States, relevant Committee chairs in the U. S. House of Representatives and the Senate, and the Secretary of the Department of the Interior. The letters seek to reverse the damage done by the previous administration to many of the most effective laws and regulations for the protection of birds and the environment. These included:

- The Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- The Migratory Bird Protection Act
- The Endangered Species Act

Additional letters urged protection for Sage-Grouse and the passage of The Bird-Safe Buildings Act.

At the recommendation of the CPC, immediate past-president Danny Gaddy, and current president Michael Collins, added TOS to the list of organization supporting the letters. Committee encourages all Chapter members to check out ABCbirds.org and make comments as they see fit.

Conservation & Research Funding – Dr. Michael Collins (MTOS) – Applications were down this year, received only two potentially due to COVID. Both projects were funded.

TOS Website- Cyndi Routledge (NTOS) – New website remains a great asset to TOS. Cyndi continues to coordinate with webmaster Amy Willms on updates and additions. As Pam noted at-large memberships continue to grow as a result of folks finding it. Please note that since last meeting in November a new page has been added called

“NEWS”. This page is intended for action alerts, timely information and announcements. All submissions for that page should be sent to Cyndi. Reminder that all Migrant issues are now housed at SORA and can be accessed via the webpage as well as current and 3 past issues of the Warbler. Chapters have begun submitting field trips and meeting dates for the Events page. If your Chapter has not begun using this great outreach tool and want more info contact Cyndi. Finally, in order to keep the page as current as possible please send all new Officers, State Directors and any other changes to Cyndi as soon as possible.

- Finance – Constitution calls for it but functionally we work without it. So we need to find someone to fill the spot.
- Curator – Stefan Woltmann – no report
- TNBird - Rob Biller and Dave Worley – no report

Old Business

Further discussion of the Grants proposal presented last fall. Would like to defer to the first in-person meeting. Proposal will be placed on the TOS webpage under “News” and comments will be solicited.

New Business

Report on the Discover Bird activity book program & distribution by Cyndi Routledge (NTOS) - In 2020 thru today we distributed 2,735 books in spite the pandemic...to homeschools, camps, school systems, nature centers and individuals. This number doesn't reflect what would have been sent to the TWRA crane festival or the Wheeler Crane Festival since both were cancelled 2020 festivals. 625 books were distributed to them in 2019.

Pre-COVID we have distributed between 3200-4000 books per year. Last printing took place in January of 2020 and we printed 3000 books. Currently I have ~2600 books left. Cyndi has spoken with David Hanni and there will be funding in his 2022 budget for a reprint. Amount TBD. We are closing in on having distributed nearly 40,000 copies of the book since 2011 and it continues to be one of our most successful educational projects.

Discussion of locating a Secretary and an additional position for the TN Birds Record Committee. Michael Collins (MTOS) will reach out to Ruben Stoll (NTOS) for his recommendations and ideas.

President Michael Collins (MTOS) will contact Lebanon group to see if they'll hold the Fall 2021 meeting. Memphis plans to host the spring 2022 annual meeting.

Discussion of should *The Migrant* and *The Tennessee Warbler* to digital only. Danny Gaddy (CTOS) made a motion that the *TN Warbler* will move to digital only by June 1, 2022 (August issue). Seconded by Mac McWhirter (At-large). Passed unanimously. Regarding *The Migrant* going to all digital, a breakdown of expense and discussion with Bob Ford (MTOS) needs to take place before a decision is made – issue tabled for now.

Discussion of an automated Subscribe/Unsubscribe from The Warbler.

Should TOS extend student memberships or add a college membership – Mac McWhirter (At-large) reminded the BOD that this is a Constitutional question and would take an Amendment. A committee comprised of Kimberly Stroud (Elizabethton) Michael Collins (MTOS), Mort Massey (KTOS) will be formed to undertake this work.

Discussion of strategies to finding volunteers to sustain Chapters.

Susan McWhirter (At-large), Ron Hoff (KTOS) and Martha Waldren (MTOS) are ready to move ahead with TN Field Cards. Mac McWhirter (MTOS) made a motion to allocate up to \$500 to move ahead with printing of the TN Field Cards. Seconded by Chris Welsh (KTOS). Passed unanimously.

Discussion regarding David Aborn's (CTOS) offer to lead the effort to create a TN Breeding Bird Atlas. Offer will be declined.

Discussion of the maintenance and expense of Chapter websites and the possibility of moving all Chapters under the TOS state site. Chris Welsh (KTOS) recommended the VPs of the different regions have a discussion to see the level of interest from each Chapter.

General Announcements - Mort Massey (KTOS) announced that Seven Islands is looking into putting on a weekend Birding Festival next spring to benefit the Park asked for feedback.

Cyndi Routledge (NTOS) announced Wings of Winter Birding Festival will take place on January 14-16, 2022.

Motion to Adjourn - Pam Lasley (NTOS) made a motion to adjourn. Steve Routledge (NTOS) seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Cyndi Routledge (NTOS)

TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
DRAFT
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL SPRING MEETING
May 4, 2021

The Annual Spring business meeting was held via Zoom and hosted by President Michael Collins. President Michael Collins called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm central time.

Secretary Cyndi Routledge confirmed that a quorum had been met and was present.

President Michael Collins began the meeting by welcoming everyone to the Annual Spring Zoom meeting.

President Michael Collins then briefed the membership on the following items:

Treasurer's Report – Assets for the Society at the end of 2020 were \$423,365 including cash of \$4,512 and fair market value of our Vanguard investments at \$416,709. The year saw our investments experience a net increase of \$19,482 which includes transfers of \$27,500 to operating checking.

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Slate of Nominated Officers –

VP - East TN – Chris Welsh

Middle TN – Danny Shelton

West TN – Dick Preston

Secretary – Cyndi Routledge

Treasurer – Pam Lasley

President Michael Collins asked for nomination from floor. Hearing none, the Slate of Officers was presented to the membership for acceptance. The vote was unanimous to approve as presented.

Michael Collins thanked past President Danny Gaddy for his time and help in the transition.

Board of Directors voted to move the Tennessee Warbler to digital only beginning June 1, 2022.

Voted up to \$500 to print TN Field Cards.

Announcements – Working on arranging hosts for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 meetings.

Membership continues to grow with At-large numbers especially – 30% increase via the webpage.

New TOS website is a great asset to organization. Special thanks to Cyndi Routledge for coordinating all efforts to keep site current.

Conservation Policy Committee continues to be busy working on conservation issues. Chair Dick Preston encourages folks to tap into the American Bird Conservancy.

Discover Bird Activities books continue to be a great educational resource for kids. Averaging a distribution of 3500 books per year. Approaching 40,000 books distributed since 2011.

Seven Islands State Park looking into starting a birding festival next spring. Watch for announcements with regard.

President Michael Collins called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mac McWhirter made the motion. It was seconded by Beth Schilling. Passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cyndi Routledge, Secretary