

December Minutes
Lee & Lois Herndon Chapter of TOS

Location: Zoom

Date December 5, 2023

Attendance: 21 people attended via Zoom

Call to order: President Dave Gardner called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

Minutes: Kim Stroud read the minutes from the November meeting. David Irick made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Joe McGuiness seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Vern Maddux reported that the current balance is \$5,700.16. Vern also reported that he had at least \$300.00 in dues to deposit.

Old Business:

1. **November Field Trip:** Joe McGuiness reported that the club had a field trip on Saturday, November 25 to the Weir Dam and Musick's Campground. There were 9 participants on this field trip. During the three hours at the Wier Dam, the group observed 47 species including a female pintail and Ruddy Ducks. Next the group spent about an hour at Musick's Campground and found 24 species there. Highlights at Musick's Campground included Common Mergansers, Common Loons, Horned Grebes and Bonaparte's Gulls.
2. **Winter Trip:** Joe McGuiness suggested that trip participants have a meeting after the meeting to discuss hotel and carpool arrangements.
3. **Calendars:** Bryan Stevens reported that he hopes the calendars will arrive by New Years. He presented the cover photo, which was Eric Middlemas picture of two Tree Swallows. Because the calendars will not arrive in time for Christmas, Bryan suggested ordering fewer of them. Kim Stroud made a motion to purchase 75 calendars instead of 100. Rob Armistead seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **January Meeting:** Dave Gardner reported that the January meeting will be held via Zoom because Northeast State at Elizabethton will be closed during our normal meeting time.

New Business:

1. **Christmas Counts:** The Elizabethton Christmas Count will be conducted on Saturday, December 16 and the Roan Mountain Christmas Count will be held on Sunday, December 17. Rick Knight discussed the count areas and the party leaders for each area. Party leaders need to email their data to Rick Knight along with car and foot miles, diurnal and nocturnal party hours, and weather conditions.

2. **Donations:** Chris Soto suggested using some of the budget surplus from the last fiscal year to make donations to local charities. After some discussion, Chris made a motion to give \$200 to each of the following charities: Roan Mountain Wildlife Ambassadors, Wynwood Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, and the ETSU Eagle Cam Project. Judi Sawyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Chapter Website:** Dave Gardner demonstrated the chapter's new website, which looks good. He suggested that some members of the committee need to set up a meeting with Amy Wilms to learn how to post new content to the site.

Recent Sightings: Chris Soto reported that she had both Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets in her yard. Roy Knispel reported having 7 Common Loons and 4 Common Mergansers at Musick's Campground.

Presentation: Debi Campbell presented a lovely program entitled "Not Just Birds at Rock Creek Park" during which she encouraged people to look down, as well as up, to observe other things in nature besides birds.

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by: Kim Stroud