

March Minutes
Lee & Lois Herndon Chapter of TOS

Location: Zoom

Date: March 5, 2024

Attendance: 19 people attended via Zoom

Call to order: President Dave Gardner called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm

Minutes: Kim Stroud read the minutes from the February meeting. Debi Campbell made a motion to accept the minutes with one correction. Judi Sawyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Vern Maddux reported that the current balance is \$5,534.16. Dues will be paid to TOS this month.

Old Business:

1. **Burkes Graden Field Trip:** Joe McGuiness reported that 4 people attended the Burkes Garden field trip and 38 species were observed. The lower numbers were probably due to poor weather conditions. Highlights of the trip include a Greater White-fronted Goose, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Wilson's Snipe, and a Bald Eagle.
2. **Banquet:** Joe McGuiness reported that the Nightjar researchers will be unable to present at the banquet. Dave Gardner reported that Marty Silver is interested in being a speaker. Dave conducted poll to determine a possible date for the banquet and April 12 was selected. Vern Maddux will check on the availability of Tipton-Haynes.

New Business:

1. **March Field Trips:** On Saturday, March 16, Joe McGuiness will lead a field trip to water areas around Kingsport. We will meet at the Aquatics Center at 7:30 am. We will bird the Meadowview Golf Course, River Road, and the Green Belt. Then, we plan to have lunch at Riverfront Restaurant.
2. **Nightjar Surveys:** Joe McGuiness reported that there are three Nightjar Survey periods this year: April 12 – May 1, May 15 – 30, and June 13 – 28. The first period is probably too early for the nightjars to be back. Therefore, we will probably conduct our surveys in the second and third periods.
3. **Ruffed Grouse Drumming Counts:** Joe McGuiness reported that the Ruffed Grouse Society will be conducting drumming counts in Carter and Johnson Counties during the last two weeks of March. Debi Campbell and the Potters expressed interest in helping with these counts.
4. **Southern Appalachians Highlands Conservancy Bird Walks:** Chris Soto reported that SAHC will be conducting two bird walks at Hampton Creek Cove and they would like to have help from the club in leading these walks.

- a. The first walk will be scheduled for May 3, 4, or 5. May 4 is the Spring Count, which will limit club participation. Joe McGuiness is available on May 3.
 - b. The second walk is during the June Jamboree on June 15.
5. **Nominating Committee:** Dave Gardner asked for volunteers for the Nominating Committee. Chris Soto, Debi Campbell, and Jean Potter volunteered.
6. **Fall State Meeting:** Dave Gardner reported that TOS president, Michael Collins, requested a chapter to volunteer to host the Fall State Meeting. Dave said he would prefer to host the meeting in 2025, rather than 2024. After some discussion, Kim Stroud made a motion to host the TOS Fall State Meeting in 2025. The motion was seconded by Jean Potter. Thirteen people voted in favor of the motion and 2 people voted against it. The motion passed. Dave Gardner will contact Micheal Collins.
7. **Announcements:**
 - a. Fred Alsop reported that Bald Eagles were sitting on eggs.
 - b. Joe McGuiness reported that Unaka Mountain Road will not open until mid-May due to road maintenance work.

Recent Sightings:

1. Debi Campbell reported that Tree Swallows have returned to her back yard and the blue morph Snow Goose is still at Middlebrook Lake.

Presentation: Bryan Stevens showed a short video on the 11 most common warblers in Maine.

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by: Kim Stroud