

**TOS Board of Directors Meeting
October 14, 2023**

Vice President (West), Dick Preston called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm eastern time. The meeting was held at the Baylor School Chapel in Chattanooga, TN. VP Dick Preston thanked the Chattanooga Chapter for hosting the weekend meeting and doing a wonderful job.

Secretary Cyndi Routledge determined there was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes – Motion was made by Steve Routledge to approve the Spring 2023 BOD Minutes and General Meeting Minutes as written. Seconded by Chris Welsh. Approved unanimously.

Reports of Officers and Directors-at-Large:

President - Michael Collins is in Ecuador teaching. Dick Preston was present and will conduct the meeting. Dick reported no report from Michael other than he's doing well and having a good time.

Vice Presidents:

- **East TN** – Chris Welsh – Knoxville and Chattanooga had a successful joint field trip to Seven Islands recently. The spring meeting will be held by the Knoxville Chapter on April 26-28, 2024 at The Ramsey House. The primary hotel will be The Hampton at the Strawberry Plains exit. Keynote Speaker – Tiffany Kirsten. Finally, a Young Birders Club has been jointly formed by Knoxville TOS, Iams Nature Center and Seven Islands State Park.
- **Middle TN** – Steve Routledge – no report
- **West TN** – Dick Preston – Memphis Chapter member, Dr. Kelly Miller, University of Memphis, has started a window collision monitoring program at the University in conjunction with Bird Safe Memphis. Bird Safe Memphis wants to know which buildings on campus are causing collision risks so mitigation can begin to reduce the risk. Several MTOS members have joined in on the efforts.
Chapter members continue placing, monitoring and maintaining nest boxes for Eastern Bluebirds, Barn Owls and Purple Martins.

Secretary - Cyndi Routledge – Request for any updates of officers, State Directors etc....for TOS webpage. Please send in an email to me.

Treasurer – Pam Lasley – TOS remains in excellent financial shape. Our Membership dollars and dividends on investments are running roughly the same as last year. We unfortunately have only awarded \$2735 in Grants this year. We had a larger than normal run of Discover Birds Activity books which are flying out the door. We have produced 3 editions of The Migrant this year. The annual cost of printing and mailing The Tennessee Warbler is now gone (\$3500), but we are now paying \$29 a month for MailChimp to distribute The Warbler electronically. The new stipend for TOS meetings enabled Nashville to invite a world-class speaker for the Spring Meeting. Our investments have regained roughly half of what we lost last year in Market Value although the third quarter was a bit disappointing. Full financial results will be presented at the Spring 2024 meeting in Knoxville. TOS would also like to extend

a personal thank you to the families of John Richard Hay III and Robert Maynard from leaving bequests to TOS in their respective wills. TOS received \$6000 in total from these families.

Directors-at-Large:

East TN –Susan Hubley – No report
Middle TN – Mac McWhirter – No report
West TN – Allan Trently – No report

- Curator – Stefan Woltmann – no report

Migrant – Editor – Bob Ford – Susan McWhirter reported on Bob’s behalf. The Migrant remains generally on schedule with publication and mailing approximately 6 months after the issue date. The March 2023 issue of The Migrant is at the printer now and should be mailed soon. In this issue we have The Season report once again. Graham Gerdeman has stepped up to be state-wide editor as well as the middle Tennessee regional editor. Other regional editors are Dick Preston (west TN), Bruce Dralle (Cumberland Plateau/Highland Rim), and Rick Knight (Eastern Mountains). There are some changes to The Season Report with more changes to follow. Graham is open to feedback on the report and encourages those with ideas to contact him. Many thanks to Graham and the regional editors for their work. All of the issues of The Migrant are available on the Searchable Ornithological Research Archives (SORA) network. SORA has been housed at the University of New Mexico but is moving to the University of South Florida. On behalf of TOS, we have agreed to an MOU that moves The Migrant there for archiving on SORA. The Migrant needs articles and Round Table Notes, book reviews, and other content for publication. If you have an idea of something you would like to contribute, but don’t know if it’s appropriate or how to write it, please contact me. In addition to Round Table Notes and longer articles, there are a number of recent events that deserve an article in The Migrant. Bob is looking for anyone interested in compiling the 2023 “Limpkin Invasion” or Hurricane Idalia’s Flamingo sightings.

TN Warbler Newsletter – Theresa Graham – no report. Next deadline is November 15, 2023.

Webmaster – Cyndi Routledge reporting for Amy Wilms – Much progress has taken place on the TOS website. Efforts to move the chapter sites to the TOS pages continue.

Completed Items:

- Existing sites have been moved to one server, thus eliminating the separate costs per chapter
- Domain names have been moved to one company for consistency
- Bristol chapter has been trained to update their webpage
- Lebanon chapter is ready to launch, waiting on confirmation from Chapter.
- Lee and Lois Herndon initial page is built and ready to add additional content which needs to be provided by the Chapter.
- Directions to add events to the community calendar is complete
- Updates to all pages are completed as needed
- The email for the records committee is now working correctly.

Sites completed include:

- Main TOS
- Kingsport
- Buffalo River

- Memphis
- Nashville
- Knoxville
- Lebanon (waiting for Chapter approval)

Sites in Development and waiting to make contact

- Elizabethton Bird Club (contact has been made and content will be updated soon)
- Highland Rim (please send contact information for this chapter)
- Chattanooga will make contact this month.

Next Steps

- A menu will be added to the TOS page to link to all chapters. This is in progress
- Adding any additional publications to the site.

Committee Reports

- **Conservation Research Funding** – Dr. Michael Collins – no report
- **Finance** – Dick Preston – no report. Next Audit will be handled in spring 2024. ●

Bird Records - Graham Gerdeman absent – no report

- **Conservation Policy** – Dick Preston and Melinda Welton – Two critical bills of interest have been introduced into the US House of Representatives. First Federal Save Buildings Act of 2023 introduced in June. H.R. 3781. Second bill is the Migratory Birds of The America’s Conservation Enhancement Act H.R. 4389 – This act would extend the Neotropical Migratory Conservation Act for 5 years. TOS Membership is encouraged to contact their local Representative with regard. Neonicotinoids – work continues to get these chemicals banned which will take an act of Congress. But many other restrictions can be put in place in the meantime. Urban Bird Treaty City – Nashville has recently been certified as such. Melinda Welton and Cyndi Routledge are representing TOS in this effort. TWRA is reviewing its list of endangered and threatened birds as they work towards producing State Wildlife Act Plan. Anyone interested in this process should contact David Hanni at TWRA.

Old Business – None brought forward.

New Business -

- President Elect – The person needs to be announced at the Spring 2024 meeting. In accordance with Constitution and rotation system it is time for someone from the ‘east’ to hold the office. VP Dick Preston asked those Chapter to start asking folks.
- Cyndi Routledge proposed an increase in Webmaster Amy Wilm’s contract due to the amount of increased work with Chapter consolidation. Melinda Welton made a motion that we increase Webmaster Amy Wilm’s annual contract to \$2400 a year. Steve Routledge seconded. A discussion took place and the vote then Passed unanimously. Ken Oeser made a motion to pay Amy Wilms a \$500 bonus for the additional work she completed this calendar year that was outside of our contractual agreement with her. Melinda Welton seconded. A discussion took place and the motion passed by majority vote.

General Announcements –

- Wings of Winter – After a valiant effort by The Friends of TNWR to restart, the Festival has unfortunately come to an end.
- Discover Birds Activity Books – Since September 1, 2023, 1400 additional books to 18 different schools, camps and organizations have been distributed. This brings the total distribution since inception to 42,865 books to date. Cyndi Routledge continues to be the point of contact for distribution and coordination of these books, as well as securing continued funding of this project.
- Southeastern Avian Research – A non-profit established by Cyndi Routledge in 2014 to study and protect neotropical migrants presented a report on this year’s activities, including number of hummingbirds banded, number of return hummingbirds as well as number of TOS volunteers and time spent in the field.
- Questions were asked about a winter TOS Meeting by Susan McWhirter. Any Chapter is invited to organize since there is no meeting.
- Discussion of the TOS Constitution and needed updates took place. This subject will be moved to Old Business and discussed at the Spring 2024 meeting.

No other questions or announcements were put forward, so Pam Lasley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Chris Welsh. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:26 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Cyndi Routledge, Secretary