

**June Minutes**  
**Lee & Lois Herndon Chapter of TOS**

**Location:** Northeast State at Elizabethton and Zoom

**Date:** September 3, 2024

**Attendance:** 13 people attended in person and 2 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 June meeting. David Irick made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Scott Turner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Dave Gardner reported that the current balance is \$5,058.90.

**Old Business:**

1. **Summer Counts:** Rick Knight reported that 114 species were found on the Carter County Summer Count and 109 species were located on the Unicoi Summer Count, which is about average.
2. **Western Washington County Field Trip:** Dave Gardner reported that seventeen people attended the field trip. The kites put on a good display with 11 Mississippi Kites and two Swallow-tailed Kites making appearances.
3. **Fall State Meeting:** Kim Stroud asked the committee to meet after the meeting.
4. **Meeting Location:** Dave Gardner reported that we will continue meeting at Northeast State at Elizabethton for the rest of the fall semester. He spoke with the D.P. Culp Center at ETSU and Carter County Parks & Rec. Those are possible meeting sites; however, they do cost money.
5. **Scouting Trip:** Dave Gardner reported that the scouting trip to the coast of North Carolina, which was planned for August, was cancelled due to a hurricane. We planned to reschedule the trip for October 11 to 14, but that is the first weekend of deer season. Dave discussed the possibility of rescheduling the trip for sometime after October 25. He also asked if anyone else was interested in joining the scouting party.
6. **Calendars:** Bryan Stevens said that he would need to have pictures for the calendar within the next two weeks.
7. **Unaka Mountain Road:** Dave Gardner reported that Unaka Mountain Road is now open.

**New Business:**

1. **Roan Mountain Fall Naturalist Rally:** Dave Gardner said that the Fall Roan Mountain Naturalist Rally will be held this weekend. There are three bird walks. Debi Campbell and Joe McGuinness will lead walks at 8:30 am on Saturday and Joe will lead another walk at 9:00 am on Sunday.

2. **Senior Citizen Program:** Dave Gardner was contacted by Jessica Thomas from the Johnson City Senior Citizen Center. She asked if someone would be interested in presenting a program on beginning birding to a group of seniors sometime in October. She suggested that October 24 would be a good date. Chris Soto said she and Joe created a program for SAHC and she suggested that they might be able to do it. She also suggested that Roy Knispel has done programs like this.
3. **USDA Forest Service Volunteer Agreement:** Dave Gardner said that Joe McGuinness reported that it is time to renew the volunteer agreement with the US Forest Service. Last year the club logged 280.5 volunteer hours with the Forest Service. Kim Stroud made a motion to renew the agreement and Brookie Potter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
4. **September Field Trip:** Dave Gardner asked if there was interest in a September Field Trip. Joe McGuinness would not be able to lead it. Between the Naturalist Rally and the Fall Count, club members showed little interest in adding another event to the calendar.
5. **Fall Count:** Dave Gardner reported that the club will conduct the Fall 5-county Bird Count on Saturday, September 28. A list of party areas and leaders was discussed. Rick Knight asked party leaders to track weather conditions and the number of field hours during both the day and night. Rick also asked that the data for each party be set to him for compilation via email.
6. **November Meeting:** Dave Gardner said that the November meeting falls on election day and wanted to know if we should move the meeting. Most people seemed to want to keep the normal meeting date.
7. **Website:** Scott Turner reported that he is keeping the website updated with events and recent count data.

#### **Recent Sightings:**

1. Rick Knight reported seeing three Avocets, Sanderlings, Semipalmated Plovers, Forster's, Common, and Black Terns at Musick's Campground.
2. Scott Turner had a Blue Grossbeak at Taylor Bridge Rd.
3. Brookie Potter reported that there were lots of shorebirds at Rankin Bottoms including White Pelicans, Avocets, Silt, Baird's, and White-Rumped Sandpipers. He also reported six Blue-winged Teal at Rasor's Farm.
4. David Irick had a Magnolia and Tennessee Warbler in their yard on Sunday.

**Presentation:** Brayden Paulk presented an interesting program on "Microfishing".

**Meeting Adjourned:** The meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm

**Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:** Kim Stroud