

DRAFT Minutes
TOS Board of Directors Meeting
September 27, 2025

The BOD meeting was held at The Langston Center in Johnson City, TN. Friday night's bird walk and reception was held at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park. Field trips were scheduled to Unaka Mountain, Roan Mountain, Hampton Creek Cove and bird banding at Big Bald.

President Chris Welsh called the meeting to order at 3:57 pm. Thanks were extended to the Elizabethton Chapter for all their hard work on the weekend's meeting.

Secretary Cyndi Routledge determined there was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes – Pam Lasley made a motion to accept as written. Ron Hoff seconded. Passed unanimously.

Report of Officers and Directors-at-large:

- **VPs:**

East TN – No person has been appointed yet. Eastern chapters sent information for the record. All continue to participate in festivals and birding events to get the word out about birds and bird conservation. Kingsport to celebrate year 10 with record membership. Bristol Bird Club celebrating 75th year.

Middle TN – Steve Routledge – Radnor Lake walks in 49th year. Invitation extended to all to join NTOS for these walks. NTOS distributed 5 pairs of binoculars via their Conservation Grant to Montgomery County's Middle College Bird Alliance group.

West TN – Dick Preston –A report on The Pitts – Ensley Bottoms a long time important shorebird stopover and breeding territory; many changes taking place there. Dick will be meeting with facility manager to find out intent for the lagoons and property not being used and will report back in the spring.

- **Directors-at-Large:**

East TN –Susan Hubley – no report

Middle TN – Mac McWhirter – no report

West TN – Allan Trently – no report

- **Secretary** – Cyndi Routledge – asked that all updates of Officers and State Directors be sent to her for the webpage.

Announced TWRA's Tennessee Biodiversity Summit to be held on October 22, 2025 at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. All information can be found on TWRA website.

- **Treasurer** – Pam Lasley - TOS remains in excellent financial shape. BASED ON MEMBERSHIP YEAR, our membership **dollars** are running approximately 10% less than last year, \$1420. Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Memphis have significant drops in membership. We awarded \$10,612 in Grants this year. We have produced 2 editions of *The Migrant* this year so far.
Our Dividends are on par with last year at this time. Our investments have gained market value of approximately \$40,000 this year which was about the same as last year. Market Value of our investments was \$529,265 at September 25, 2025.
Full results will be presented at the Spring 2026 meeting.
- **Migrant Editor** – Bob Ford – Team is working on the Sept 2024 issue, meaning we have slipped to a full year behind. Content is needed for *The Migrant*. From book reviews to short notes, full articles, first state records.
Bob Ford has requested a possible meeting specifically about the future of *The Migrant*. Birding, record keeping etc. has changed quickly with eBird and high-quality cameras, but *The Migrant* hasn't really kept up with how to be interesting and relevant to current birders while still providing the place for important data and information to be stored for future birders/researchers. He will review of other state journals prior to this meeting.
Bob plans to continue through the Dec 2025 issue, 6 issues left. Ideally, the next editor can be found during this time and shadow the process.
- **TN Warbler Newsletter** – Theresa Graham looking for a replacement as soon as possible. Call for a volunteer at all Chapters. Possible candidate contact Chris Welsh.

Committee Reports

- TN Bird Record Committee – Graham Gerdeman – no report
- Conservation & Policy Committee – Dick Preston / Melinda Welton – no report
- Conservation Research Funding – Dr. Michael Collins – no report
- Website – Cyndi Routledge – Server migration and update took place successfully. Cyndi continues to coordinate with Amy Wilms on all updates and additions.
- Finance – Steve Routledge – no report
- Curator – Stefan Woltmann – no report
- TNBirds - Rob Biller – TOS has officially become the owner of the tn-birds freelist listserv.

OLD Business

- Joint meeting with Kentucky Ornithological Society will be held in the fall 2026, 3rd weekend in September. Cyndi Routledge has volunteered to coordinate along with Chris Welsh and the Kentucky group. A suggestion was made to stream keynote address for those who couldn't make it. KenLake State Park Resort was suggested as a place to

hold the meeting. Chris Welsh will continue to coordinate with KOS President as details will be forthcoming to both memberships. Ron Hoff made a motion that we contribute up to \$1500 for speaker and venue expenses for this joint meeting with KOS. Roy Knisbal seconded. Passed unanimously.

- It was announced that Liz Rutemeyer has taken over for Ron Hoff as State Compiler and transition went smoothly.
- Search continues for a volunteer candidate for East TN Vice President. Chris Welsh has heard from two candidates and will follow-up with them and appoint one soon.
- Search to replace Bob Ford as Migrant Editor continues...Chris Welsh has reached out to a few individuals without success. All Chapter are urged to announce at their meeting and anyone interested should contact Chris. A brief discussion took place about potentially paying the Migrant Editor as a last resort. All this and more to be discussed in the spring at the possible Migrant specific meeting Editor Bob Ford has requested.
- **Discover Birds Book** - 48,018 books distributed since 2011; ~900 books remain. Looking at possibly re-ordering again in 2026...depends on demand and grant money from TWRA.
- Discussion of moving The Migrant issues back on the TOS website continued from the Spring meeting. Cyndi Routledge reported on the state of SORA and concern was expressed about lack of current access to our issues. Dean Turley made a motion to have Amy Wilms add The Migrant issues to TOS website for fee of up to \$3000. Ron Hoff seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

New Business:

- Liability Insurance – Is it needed? Discussion took place as to need and cost. Pam Lasley will touch base with TOS member lawyers and bring back more information to the Spring meeting.
- Interest in winter meeting was expressed – looking for volunteer to coordinate and set the date. Once that has been determined it will be announced on the TOS webpage and on tn-birds.

General Announcements – Spring Meeting in Kingsport – May 1-3, 2026. Keynote speaker will be Sheri Williamson – author of North American Guide to Hummingbirds. Future meeting are set for: Memphis 2027; Knoxville 2028; Nashville 2029.

Chris Welsh announced that the Mississippi State Ornithological fall meeting - Oct. 17-19, 2025 for anyone interested in attending.

Ron Hoff made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dick Preston Seconded. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm