

DRAFT
TOS Board of Directors Meeting
October 1, 2022

President Dr. Michael Collins called the meeting to order at 2:35 pm eastern time. The meeting was held at the MeadowView Inn in the Nolichucky Conference Room in Kingsport, TN. President Collins thanked the Kingsport Chapter for hosting the meeting and doing a wonderful job as always.

Secretary Cyndi Routledge determined there was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes – President Michael Collins recommended the group accept the minutes with corrections of 3 small typos. No one had any additional correction and the vote passed unanimously.

Reports of Officers and Directors-at-Large:

Vice Presidents:

- **East TN** – Chris Welsh – No report
- **Middle TN** – Cyndi Routledge for Danny Shelton - 43rd annual Wednesday morning Radnor walks started on September 21st and will continue thru Oct. 12th. Details on nashvillebirds.org NTOS will be hosting the 2023 Annual TOS Spring Meeting on April 28-30, 2023. We are honored to be able to hold the dinner and a few field trips at the home/farm of Albert Ganier III – The Green Door. We are also pleased to announce that Noah Stryker – ornithologist, and author of “Birding without Borders’an accounting of his year-long adventure to see as many birds in the world as possible will be our Keynote speaker at our dinner on Saturday night and join us for field trips through the weekend.
We want to officially thank Rick Blanton for his dedication to producing our newsletter, the NewsHawk these past 6 years. It’s especially poignant since he did all this volunteer work from Texas where he moved a few years ago.
Finally, a plague and bench (#20) was recently placed along the trail at Radnor Lake in honor of TOS. When visiting look for it and sit a bit.
- **West TN – Dick Preston** – Memphis Chapter gained 32 new members in a year. They have also returned to their permanent meeting location at St. George Episcopal Church.
Access for birders to the Ensley Bottoms (aka The Pits) continues Monday thru Friday till 5 pm and remains ‘iffy’ on Saturdays but do not plan on accessing on Sundays as the gate will be locked. Any problems or questions contact Dick Preston at dickpreston48@gmail.com
- **Directors-at-Large:**
 - East TN –Susan Hubley – No report
 - Middle TN – Mac McWhirter – No report
 - West TN – Allan Trently – No report
- **Secretary** – Cyndi Routledge – Reminded everyone to always be checking webpage – tnbirds.org for the most up-to-date information on our organization.

- Treasurer** – Pam Lasley – TOS remains in excellent financial shape, although not as rosy as this time last year because of the downturn in the Stock Market. Number of members as of September has increased roughly 4% (710 vs. 735) over 2021, but membership income is running about 13% (\$2,000) below our record-breaking last year (when it was up over 35%) because we had an unusual number of life members join last year. We awarded \$8900 in grants this year, up from \$3322 in 2021. We also completed our final \$5000 commitment to the Swan Conservation Trust for habitat conservation. The Migrant continues to be produced in a timely manner and we will have 4 editions completed by the end of the year. We produced our last hard-copy *Tennessee Warbler* in the Spring. We will reap a savings of around \$3,000 per year by producing and sending these digitally. We paid for a run of Discover Birds Activity Books at \$2,000, matching TWRA funds. All other expenses were routine.

Investments: While our dividends are running slightly higher than this time last year, our market value has declined dramatically. Our value on 9/22/22 was \$379,745 down from \$472,039 at the beginning of the year. We've withdrawn \$15,000 from our Money Market account this year and decrease in market value was roughly \$77,000. Our 10-and 5-year rates of return are still a positive 7.8% and 7.0%, respectively, however our 1-year ROR is a negative 11.2%

The Finance Committee in concert with Mac is keeping a close eye our investments and have determined that holding the course is the wisest way to proceed with the information we have at hand currently.

The full results of 2022 will be presented at the Spring 2023 meeting.
- Migrant** – Editor – Bob Ford - has not been successful in finding a new editor for The Season Report or the Editors for the Regions that are vacant. He continues to explore options both short and long term. Ideas (or volunteers!) are welcome, people can contact him at 731-432-7995 or editorthemigrant@gmail.com. There may be a delay in the publication of the next issue as we continue to figure out what to do for The Season Report.
- TN Warbler Newsletter** – Theresa Graham – Announced that he is happy to continue to produce the Warbler.

Committee Reports

- TN Bird Record Committee** – no report
- Conservation & Policy Committee** – Dick Preston / Melinda Welton –Membership urged to continue to contact our two Tennessee Senators regarding the “Recovering America’s Wildlife Act” – All information on TOS webpage – tnbirds.org
- Conservation Research Funding** – Dr. Michael Collins – One position to fill on committee. If interested contact President Collins. Grant awards will be announced in Spring in 2023.
- Website** – Cyndi Routledge – Amy Wilms continues to update webpages for tnbirds.org, nasvillebirds.org and the Memphis chapter.

SORA is not accepting new journals. New journals (not on SORA) will be available on the tnbirds.org site and a page has been developed. Further work is in progress.

Work on template for chapter webpages is in progress. Information has been requested to build and support chapters interested in integrating with the TOS main site.

Chapters are welcome to contact Amy (wilmsab@gmail.com) for further details and instructions. Photos will be requested.

- **Finance** – Dick Preston – Chair Dick Preston commended Pam Lasley for all her work and prompt communication regarding all financials.
- **Curator** – Stefan Woltmann – No report
- **TNBird** - Rob Biller and Dave Worley – All is well. Those wishing to subscribe or unsubscribe must do it themselves.

Old Business - None

New Business -

- Financial market changes and continued uncertainty in returns might warrant reducing TOS funding for Conservation & Research grants from \$20k to \$15k. Discussion of pros and cons of decreasing funding occurred. Decision was made to leave it as it is for now.
- Should TOS pay for the speaker fee for the spring meetings so that local chapters do not absorb a financial cost when agreeing to host a statewide meeting? Discussion took place on the pros and cons on subsidizing spring meetings. Susan Hubley made a motion to provide up to \$2500 to the Chapter hosting the Annual Spring meeting and up to \$500 to the Chapter hosting the annual Fall meeting. Dick Preston seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.
- Discussion to reprint TOS Field Cards. Pam Lasley made a motion to print new field cards in eBird order. Seconded by Rick Knight. Passed unanimously. Contact Ron Hoff by November 15, 2022, with number of cards needed.

General Announcements –

- DISCOVER BIRD ACTIVITY BOOK - 1550 books were distributed since the spring 2022 meeting. The books continue to be popular with summer camps, home schoolers and younger grade levels in TN. We have had a total contribution of \$300 from recipients to assist with postage in general.
- Reminder to membership to report any 'winter hummingbirds' in Tennessee to Cyndi Routledge or Mark Armstrong.

Pam Lasley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Steve Routledge. Pass unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:58 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Cyndi Routledge, Secretary