

**DRAFT Minutes**  
**TOS Board of Directors Meeting**  
**April 29, 2023**

The Annual Spring meeting was held April 28-30, 2023, and hosted by the Nashville Chapter. The host hotel was the Hampton Inn in Ashland City, Tennessee where the Friday night reception was held. Field trips were to The Green Door Gourmet, Beaman Park, Bells Bend Park, Bicentennial Trail, and Narrows of the Harpeth SNA/Cheatham WMA. The Board of Directors meeting was held at the Outdoor Center of Bells Bend. The Saturday evening banquet and annual meeting was held at the Green Door Gourmet, a farm to table venue owned by grandson of TOS founder Albert Ganier and his wife Sylvia.

President Michael Collins called the meeting to order at 1:31 pm.

Secretary, Cyndi Routledge confirmed there was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes – Mac McWhirter made a motion to accept Minutes upon correction of a few typos. Pam Lasley seconded. Passed unanimously.

**Reports of Officers and Directors-at-Large:**

- VPs: East TN – Chris Welsh – No report
- Middle TN – Danny Shelton – Membership continues to grow within the Nashville Chapter which is now up to over 175. NTOS continues to offer spring and fall migration walks at Radnor Lake State Park. NTOS joined as a partner with Middle TN Conservation Organizations and Metro Parks and applied for and recently received designation as a USFWS Urban Treaty City. The signing ceremony will take place on May 13, 2023, at Shelby Bottom Nature Center during Migratory Bird Day Celebrations. All are invited to attend. For more information on this initiative contact Melinda Welton.
- West TN – Dick Preston – The Memphis Chapter reports an increase in membership, now totaling 157 which represents 250 individuals. Memphis Treasurer notes the majority of new memberships came via the TOS website using PayPal. Joanie Webb joins as new State Director. The Memphis Chapter provided nearly \$5000 in grants to Mid-South Raptor Veterinary Center, Hatchie Wildlife Refuge and Delta Wind Birds. An additional grant went to Lynn Hui a student at Collierville High School in Shelby County who started a bird club and plans to place bluebird boxes around the school campus. Memphis Chapter continues to monitor and maintain 75 bluebird boxes mostly at Hatchie Wildlife Refuge and 10 Barn Owl nest boxes in Shelby County. The Chapter also distributed 300 Discover Bird Activity books.

**Directors-at-Large:**

- East TN –Susan Hubley – October 6<sup>th</sup> Paco Magrigal will be back to make a presentation in Kingsport. Details will appear on the TOS webpage.
- Middle TN – Mac McWhirter – No report
- West TN – Allan Trently - absent

- Secretary – Cyndi Routledge – No report

Treasurer – Pam Lasley - Assets for the Society at the end of 2022 were \$385,018 including cash of \$3,240 and fair market value of our Vanguard investments at \$381,736. Our investments had a very rough year, with a loss in market value of \$92,766. We transferred \$15,000 to our operating checking account this year. The reserve for Migrants to be printed reflects three issues were outstanding for 2022 at estimated current costs. The Conservation Reserve was reduced by \$5,000 to show the last of two payments of a grant to the Swan Conservation Trust.

Non-investment revenue for the year was \$15,002 for memberships and subscriptions and \$727 from contributions. Total expenses were \$31,074. Publications and communications at \$13,220 are our largest expense and includes 3 issues of *The Migrant*, the last hard copy edition of *The Tennessee Warbler*, website maintenance contract, and beginning expenses related to the integration of our local websites with the state. We awarded \$8,900 in research and conservation grants plus the final \$5,000 to the Swan Conservation Trust noted above. Insurance was the same as last year at \$997. Overall, the net expenses over revenues was \$90,630, however excluding loss of investments market value, our net “income” was \$2,135

Our investments had a very challenging year. Dividends and interest for 2022 were \$17,463. While we feel our asset mix is a sound one for the long term, our market value declined significantly, as did all markets in 2022. S&P benchmark fell 18% last year. Investment performance was (16.3%) loss for 1 year return, 3 year annualized is 3.3%, 5 year is 5.3% and 10 year annualized return on investments is 7.4%. Our portfolio mix is 56% stocks, 37% bonds and 8% short term reserves.

Total individual membership increased an overall 5.6 % to 732, and we loss one institutional subscription. Bristol, Memphis and Nashville have had the largest percentage increase. At Large, Herndon, and Knoxville are down in 2022. Total memberships stand at 748

As required by the Constitution, an examination of the 2022 financial records was performed. The Finance Committee (S Routledge, Pyles, Preston) has performed this exam and will give a report during the meeting.

### **2023:**

TOS remains in excellent financial shape. Revenues, expenses and publications are running as expected, with Individual memberships roughly the same as last year.

The Conservation and Research Fund has funded \$2,255 in grants this year out of a budgeted \$20,000. *The Migrant* publications are running at their scheduled pace and *The Tennessee Warbler* e-mail roll-out has been successful overall. There are still members that either do not have an e-mail or have not provided one, but all publications are available on the TOS website. Unfortunately, our MailChimp subscription is no longer free, rather we are paying \$29 per month for this service.

At the end of the first quarter, our Vanguard investment account has increased in value by \$21,109 but we have transferred \$10,000 to our operating account. Our investment profile has historically weathered downturns in the market and I expect this will be true for this current

challenging economic climate. The full results of 2023 will be presented at the Spring 2022 meeting.

- Migrant – Editor – Bob Ford not present but sent the following report: The Migrant remains on track with publications. The September 2022 issue was published and mailed, and the December 2022 issue is under review. We have articles and notes for two more issues. The Season Report has been lacking in the last few issues but will soon start up again. The plan is to publish in one article many of the notable birds seen in 2022 and restart the Seasons report for 2023. Bob noted that the Seasons report will be a different format and shorter to better compliment other sources of information that have become available in recent years such as eBird. As always articles and notes are needed for future Migrant issues. Book reviews are also appreciated. Contact Bob Ford for more information about appropriate topics or writing style. [Editorthemigrant@gmail.com](mailto:Editorthemigrant@gmail.com) Discussion deferred to Conservation and Research Funding committee discussion. Dick Preston reported that Graham Gerdeman has volunteered to coordinate and publish the summary for the Seasons Report. Still in search of a Middle and East TN volunteer.

Susan McWhirter had questions about grant requirements for presentation of articles and presentations. Michael asked to defer this question to Conservation and Research Funding committee report/discussion.

- TN Warbler Newsletter – Theresa Graham – Next deadline for news is August 31, 2023.

### **Committee Reports**

- TN Bird Record Committee – Graham Gerdeman – Absent; No report
- Cons. & Policy Committee – Dick Preston / Melinda Welton – No report. Avian flu variant has taken a huge toll on California Condors in Arizona. This Committee continues to respond to Action Alerts put out by the American Bird Conservancy. Call to encourage individual members of TOS to subscribe to ABC Alerts and respond when prompted.
- Conservation Research Funding – Dr. Michael Collins – Two grants were awarded. One to Warner Park to study NSWO in winter and another to Venezuela for research and educational awareness. At this point Michael address Susan McWhirter's deferred question and a discussion took place. Ultimately it was decided that TOS grant recipients will be asked to submit a report and that such will be published in the Warbler to highlight the research and programs TOS supports through these grants.
- TOS Website – Cyndi Routledge – A good bit of forward progress has taken place on the TOS website regarding efforts to move the chapter sites to the TOS website including existing sites moved to one server, eliminating separate costs to each Chapter, domain names have been moved to one company for consistency, Bristol Chapter has been trained to to update their page, Lebanon Chapter is ready to launch. Directions to add events has been distributed to each Chapter. All other updates are done as needed by Amy Wilms. Completed sites include the main TOS site, Kingsport Chapter, Buffalo River, Memphis, Nashville, Memphis and Knoxville. Elizabethton Bird Club is working on their content. Amy is waiting for Highland Rim and Chattanooga to make contact

with her to start the process. Once all Chapter sites have been completed an additional menu will be added to the TOS page to link all the Chapters. All questions with regard should be directed to Cyndi Routledge and Amy Wilms.

- Finance – Dick Preston – Finance Committee met and performed the audit using Best Standard Practices. Barbara Pyle, Dick Preston and Steve Routledge reported that all was found to be in good order. Many thanks to Pam Lasley for all her hard work.
- Curator – Stefan Woltmann – No report
- TNBird - Rob Biller and Dave Worley – No report

Old Business – None brought forward.

New Business – None brought forward.

### **General Announcements**

- 1) TOS is looking for a chapter to host the Fall 2023 meeting. Chattanooga tentatively volunteered and confirmation will follow once they discuss it with their BOD. Knoxville President, Chris Welsh announced that KTOS will host the Annual Spring 2024 meeting.
- 2) Discover Bird Activity Books - Cyndi Routledge - With the latest 6000 books printed and paid for thru a joint grant between TOS and TWRA a total of 47,000 books have been printed since 2011. 41,465 books have been distributed to date. Cyndi continues to be the point of contact for distribution and coordination of these books and this project.
- 3) Ron Hoff announced that Common Mergansers have started breeding in Tennessee again. Photos have been taken of eggs and a nest this spring.
- 4) Knoxville President, Chris Welsh requested ideas and recommendations to increase membership and communication with members from those who have seen an increase at their Chapters.
- 5) New field cards are available through Ron Hoff of Knoxville.
- 6) David Hanni of Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has requested historic field cards that have not already been entered in eBird. Members were asked to turn any old field cards that need entering contact David at [David.Hanni@tn.gov](mailto:David.Hanni@tn.gov)

Steve Routledge made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Susan Hubley. Passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:12 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Cyndi Routledge, Secretary

**TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**DRAFT**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL SPRING MEETING**  
**April 29, 2023**

The Annual Spring business meeting was held at The Green Door Gourmet in Ashland City, Tennessee.

The meeting was called to order by President Dr. Michael Collins at 6:52 pm. Michael thanked the Ganier Family for hosting the evening's event at their farm, welcomed our guest and Keynote Speaker Noah Strycker and thanked the Nashville Chapter for a wonderful weekend meeting.

Secretary Cyndi Routledge confirmed that a quorum had been met and was present.

President Michael Collins then briefed the membership on the following items:

- TOS remains in a strong financial position, and he thanked Pam Lasley and Mac McWhirter for their work to help the organization remain solvent in order to continue to work for conservation and birds in Tennessee.
- The Fall 2023 meeting has tentatively been scheduled for Chattanooga pending approval by the Chapter's BOD.
- The Annual Spring 2024 meeting will be hosted by the Knoxville Chapter, date to be determined.
- TOS grant recipients will be asked to submit a report and that will be published in the Warbler in order to keep the membership aware of the research and programs TOS supports.

President Michael Collins presented the following Slate of Nominees to serve TOS for the next 2-year term:

President – Michael Collins  
Secretary – Cyndi Routledge  
Treasurer – Pam Lasley  
VP - East TN – Chris Welsh  
VP Middle TN – Steve Routledge  
VP West TN – Dick Preston

Director's at Large:  
East TN - Susan Hubley  
Middle TN - Mac McWhirter  
West TN -Allan Trently

President Collins called for any additional nominations from the floor. Having none, Dick Preston made a motion to accept the slate as presented. Melinda Welton seconded. Passed unanimously. President Collins thanked and welcomed those members who volunteered to serve.

President Collins called for any additional comments or questions. Having none, Steve Routledge moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Betty Bailey. Pass unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cyndi Routledge, Secretary