

MINUTES OF 1994 ANNUAL TOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND BUSINESS MEETING

The 79th Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Ornithological Society was held at the Holiday Inn in Johnson City on 14 May 1994. It was hosted by the Lee Herndon, Bristol, and Greeneville Chapters.

The minutes of the Fall 1993 Board of Directors meeting were approved, with two revisions: (1) The 40-acre Austin Springs of Bristol had been incorrectly reported as already acquired; the final purchase was still unsettled as of May 1994; (2) Monsanto is providing wildlife habitat enhancement on 5,000 acres at their Columbia plant site.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: There were no VICE PRESIDENTIAL or DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE REPORTS, except that East Tennessee Director-at-Large John Shumate thanked East Tennessee members and others for assisting with the recent completion of Rick Knight's 68-page book, *The Birds of Northeast Tennessee - An Annotated Checklist*.

TREASURER'S REPORT: George Payne, Jr. reported for the period of 23 October, 1993 - 11 May, 1994. The current operating ASSETS were \$44,517. There had been an INCOME of \$11,037 and LIABILITIES of \$4,032. The ENDOWMENT FUND, with interest funding publication of *The Migrant*, was \$63,689. Paid MEMBERSHIP was 803, compared to 641 in May 1993 and a final membership of 896 in 1993; some chapter memberships were still unreported.

CURATOR'S REPORT: Susan McWhirter reported on behalf of her husband, Associate Curator Mac McWhirter. She moved that the price of back issues of *The Migrant* be reduced from \$2.50 (as authorized in May 1993) to the original of \$1.00, plus shipping costs, in order to stimulate utilization of older issues. Rad Mayfield amended the motion to allow for a negotiated reduced price for orders of multiple copies. The amended motion passed.

Susan further encouraged that families of deceased members donate unwanted back issues of *The Migrant* to TOS via the Associate Curator, who stores back issues at Rhodes College in Memphis.

MIGRANT EDITOR Wallace Coffey advised that the September 1992 issue is almost ready for mailing. An index of published species has been computerized and will appear in the December 1992 issue. Morris Williams has accepted the position of Seasonal Editor, replacing Bob Ford, who had resigned the position.

In order to reduce excessive delays in mail processing, Wallace Coffey moved that TOS open a separate postal permit for *The Warbler* than that used for *The Migrant*, and that the Editor of *The Tennessee Warbler* be authorized to obtain a mailing permit at the post office of his/her convenience. It was amended that the type of permit be at the discretion of the newsletter editor, TOS President, and Treasurer. The amended motion passed.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Ken Dubke reported that James Brooks of the Lee Herndon Chapter has been nominated for President-Elect, subject to election at the membership's business meeting that night.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Barbara Finney advised that the Treasurer's books have been found to be in order. The Endowment Fund investment has also been reviewed and was found to be providing a steady and reliable income for support of *The Migrant*.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS COMMITTEE: President Bob Ford advised that the Atlas has been sent out for peer review at the discretion of U.T. Press. Secretary Bob Hatcher reported that Chairman Chuck Nicholson recently advised that the Atlas is scheduled for printing in early 1995.

RECORDS COMMITTEE: Rick Knight distributed revised criteria for adoption of records. Don Davidson reported the primary revisions to include:

— The Records Committee will change from three members and three alternates to five members and one alternate. The alternate will vote on records involving other Committee members.

— The makeup of the Committee will no longer be geographically restricted.

— An appeal process has been provided.

— A "provisional list" would be maintained for records for which documentation is convincing but inadequate for full acceptance.

Susan McWhirter's motion for acceptance of the revisions carried.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Ken Dubke has secured a \$1,000 donation to TOS for assisting the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) in the purchase of the 750-acre Armstrong Bend site, located at the northeast junction of the Hiwassee and Tennessee Rivers. This TOS partnership provided TWRA with added points for potential further federal funding.

Bob Hatcher reported that the legislature appropriated \$100,000 for TWRA's rare and nongame wildlife program for 1994-95. A special wildlife "vanity" license plate was authorized, with \$25 from each plate dedicated to TWRA's Watchable Wildlife Endowment Fund. After accumulations to \$500,000, earnings can be utilized for support of Tennessee's rare and nongame wildlife.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Candy Swan reported a proposal to form student chapters of TOS in school systems. Nearby regular TOS members would hopefully be available to lead them on birding tours. Don Davidson moved that the Committee work with the President, Treasurer, and any interested members in developing a procedure for involving student chapters, but without excessive servicing requirements. The motion carried.

PATCHES AND DECALS COMMITTEE: Rick Knight advised that Chairman Bill Bridgeforth had turned in remaining patches and decals, and was believed to be resigning this position.

EDITOR OF THE TENNESSEE WARBLER: President Bob Ford advised that participants of the TOS winter meeting had recommended changing from two to three issues per year. Susan McWhirter moved for this change. George Payne amended this to begin in 1995 in order that the three issues can be budgeted. The amended motion passed. Winter participants had also suggested some newsletter articles about: attracting wildlife, hints for local birding hot spots, and successful chapter projects.

Ken Dubke moved that the Editor, in consultation with the Treasurer, be authorized to purchase software for publishing the newsletter, not to exceed \$300. The motion passed.

PARTNERS IN FLIGHT: President Ford reported that Candy Swan is to lead a foray during Memorial Day Weekend, 1994 in Cumberland County, with focus on Catoosa Wildlife Management Area. Don Davidson is to lead a foray 18-19 June 1994 at Arnold Engineering Development Center in Franklin County.

TOS HISTORIAN: Bill Fowler requested information from each chapter concerning: charter date, lists of all known presidents, and current meeting dates/sites.

NEW BUSINESS: Bob Hatcher reported that former TOS Secretary John Robinson of California has requested USE OF THE TOS MAILING LIST for notifying members about his new "Lanius" software for maintaining personal bird sighting databases. Rad Mayfield moved for approval for sending him TOS member mailing labels, subject to: (1) a one-time use, (2) no transfer to others, and (3) reimbursement for postage and label costs. The motion passed.

Bob Ford reported the FALL 1994 SYMPOSIUM is proposed for western Middle Tennessee at a time and place to be determined.

Bob Ford reported a proposal for a supplemental EXPANDED TENNESSEE BIRD CHECKLIST to include seasonal abundance by species. Action was tabled to the Fall Meeting.

Bob Hatcher invited input for proposed REPRINTING OF THE STANDARD "ORANGE CARD" Tennessee bird checklist. Don Davidson volunteered the Records Committee to submit a list of recommended revisions.

GENERAL BUSINESS: Prior to a buffet dinner, TOS members had seen and/or heard on their field trips: a Saw-whet Owl, Alder and Least Flycatchers, Common Ravens, Black-throated Blue Warblers, and many others.

Fred Alsop opened the session with a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Lee Herndon Chapter. Mrs. Lee Herndon was honored for her 50 years of numerous contributions.

President Bob Ford presided during the business session. Committee chairmen or their representatives highlighted the reports and actions of the Directors' Meeting, as recorded above. Ken Dubke reported the nomination of James Brooks of the Lee Herndon Chapter as President-Elect. He was elected by acclamation.

Ken Dubke announced that the Distinguished Service Award recipient was Dr. David Pitts, ornithology professor at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Other credits included:

- was a member of TOS since 1965;
- published numerous professional and popular bird articles, specializing with Eastern Bluebirds;
- published his first *Migrant* article in 1972 concerning nesting Bank Swallows in Lake County;
- participated in most Reelfoot Christmas Bird Counts since 1971;
- was the first person in many years to summarize our nesting heron and egret colonies, with at least one update;
- conducted other research including grackles and Lark Sparrows;
- compiled species accounts of the birds of northwest Tennessee;
- served as symposium director for several fall TOS meetings; and
- served as Seasonal Editor and *Migrant* Editor for several years.

Bob Ford announced that Governor Ned McWherter had signed a resolution designating 14 May 1994 as International Migratory Bird Day in Tennessee.

The guest speaker for the evening was Dr. George A. Hall, Professor Emeritus of the University of West Virginia. He gave an interesting slide presentation concerning his many years of banding birds in the Appalachians.

Respectfully submitted,
BOB HATCHER, TOS Secretary