

MINUTES OF THE 1998 SPRING MEETING
TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY DIRECTORS

The Spring meeting of the Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS) was held on 1-3 May 1998 in Nashville. The meeting was hosted by the Nashville Chapter. Several field trips were taken to local points of interest, and a banquet was held on Saturday night for those members attending the meeting. The meeting was called to order by TOS President Susan McWhirter. Secretary Knox Martin reported a quorum present. Copies of the minutes of the Fall meeting were made available to those present for review. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Van Harris with a second by Harriette Spiegel. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote of those present.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS. West Tennessee Vice President Bob Ford reported that The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science is moving along with the project of putting all of TOS member Ben B. Coffey's birding records on computer; at least \$3,000 is still needed to complete this project. There was no report from Middle Tennessee. East Tennessee Vice President Ron Hoff reported that osprey nesting platforms are still being erected, with at least four new ones in 1998; some of the platforms put up in the past are currently being used by osprey.

DIRECTORS AT LARGE. No reports.

SECRETARY'S REPORT. Knox Martin requested that all chapter officers supply him with names and addresses of all chapter officers well before the state meetings. This is especially true if there have been changes in officers since the last state meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Treasurer David Trently presented the following report: Total income from all areas was \$32,658.55. Total expenses were \$12,880.82. Total operating assets, including savings, checking, stamps, and the Dean Witter Trust Liquid Asset Fund was \$49,080.14. Anticipated liabilities were \$53,100. The Endowment Fund contained 8896.724 shares @ \$19.55 for a total of \$173,930.95, making the total assets (Operating Assets plus Endowment Fund) \$223,011.09.

CURATOR'S REPORT. No report.

MIGRANT EDITOR Dev Joslin reported that the June 1997 issue had been mailed. The September 1997 issue is about to go to press and should be out by late June. The final issue should be out soon after that. More articles are needed for future issues, so send them to Dev. It is about time to issue a new membership directory. This is usually done every three years, but it has been almost 10 years since the last directory was published in 1989. The next directory should also include E-Mail addresses. All information should be turned in to local chapter treasurers. The 1994-1996 issues of *The Migrant* are at the printers. The 1994 annual issue has been printed. It is hoped that all issues will be mailed by the Fall meeting. Special thanks go to Martha Waldron, Carolyn Bullock, Richard Lewis, Bob Ford, and Rick Knight for all their work.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE. Chuck Nicholson introduced Chris Sloan, the President-elect for next year who will be officially nominated at the banquet. If

anyone would like to volunteer to be an officer, see either Chuck or one of the other members of the committee, Carolyn Bullock or Mary Zimmerman.

FINANCE COMMITTEE. George Payne reported that everything was in order with the TOS finances. Due to the amount of money in the Endowment Fund, it might be wise in the future to diversify.

PROJECT FUNDING & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE. Bob Hatcher had some new proposals for the Katherine Goodpasture Memorial Grant. There were seven applicants for grants in 1997, but so far in 1998 there have been none. As a result, the following recommendations were made. The deadline for applications will be extended until 18 May. Awards will be increased from the current \$250 to \$300, and all information concerning the grant will be posted on the TOS website. Since the funding for the grant comes from donations made to the Nashville TOS Chapter in memory of chapter member Katherine Goodpasture, it is probably best to save it for now with the Nashville Chapter. In the future, it might be possible to combine the fund with the Project Funding & Conservation Committee and make a state-wide award or some other conservation award. Project Funding & Conservation Committee members could meet with the members of the Katherine Goodpasture Grant Committee and try to iron out some guidelines for future committee funding. TOS President Susan McWhirter nominated Gaynell Perry of Memphis, Melinda Welton of Nashville, and Frank Bills of Knoxville as new members of the Project Funding & Conservation Committee. A motion was made from the floor by Ron Hoff and seconded by Betty Reed Campbell to approve the nominations. The vote was unanimous. Melinda Welton reported on the meeting of the Conservation Committee. The committee recommended that the TOS become a charter member of the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, a group of states that help monitor bird migrations around the Gulf of Mexico. Tennessee would become the first member-state not bordered on the Gulf. There is a one-time fee of \$150 to join. A motion was made by Melinda Welton and seconded by Dev Joslin for the TOS to join. The vote was unanimous. George Mayfield reported on the current status of the Endangered Species Act. It is currently up for renewal and there are several bills currently under review. Two are the Kemp-Thorne Bill #1180 (Negative), and the Miller Bill HR2351 (Positive). Write your representatives and senators about your opinions of these bills. There is also a problem concerning the number of towers being put up around the state. Studies need to be started that will look at the problems of bird collisions with these towers. The FCC also needs an Environmental Impact Statement. A motion was made by Virginia Reynolds and seconded by Chuck Nicholson that called for each chapter to adopt a tower and monitor it for bird kills. Melinda was asked to draw up guidelines for the collection of data from the various collectors at each tower. The vote was unanimous.

TENNESSEE BREEDING BIRD ATLAS. Chuck Nicholson reported that the Atlas was done and that he was resigning as chairman of the committee. He suggested that the TOS begin looking into the possibility of doing another Atlas in a few years, possibly in a combined effort with neighboring states.

TENNESSEE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE. Chairman Chris Sloan, speaking for committee members Paul Hertzell, Dick Preston, Kevin Calhoun, and Linda Northrop, pointed out that it was their opinion that the BRC was not up to par with

similar committees around the country. It was necessary to expand its responsibilities from the current voting on first, second and third state sightings of birds to a more important function of monitoring bird population trends in the state. Seasonal status reports of unusual bird species will now be looked at more carefully. ALL records will now be looked at, no matter how common the bird (cardinal in your yard, for example). The committee will be expanded from the current five members to six, two from each grand division of the state. Votes on a specific record will now be five out of six instead of the previous unanimous vote. Due to the increased responsibilities of the committee, members will be allowed to serve two consecutive terms instead of the current one term on the committee, followed by one term off the committee. This is important due to the fact that the increased responsibilities of the committee require more knowledgeable members who will need the option of longer terms of membership. A motion was made by Chris Sloan and seconded by Harriette Spiegel to accept the above changes to the BRC. The floor was then opened up for discussion. The motion was to accept the proposed changes "as is." The vote was by a show of hands of directors. The vote was 11 in favor of the motion and five (5) opposed. After more discussion, a motion was made by Virginia Reynolds and seconded by Dev Joslin to print all of the proposed changes in the *Warbler*. The vote from the floor was unanimous in favor.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS COMMITTEE. Virginia Reynolds introduced several proposals for changes and /or amendments to the TOS Constitution. They were: 1. Article V, Section 5: "The TBRC shall be a standing committee. Members shall be appointed by the President. Procedures of this committee shall be approved by the Board of Directors." Virginia Reynolds made a motion to adopt these changes. The motion was seconded by Chris Sloan. The vote was unanimous to adopt the changes. 2. Article X of the Bylaws. Changes to the Bylaws would be the same as changes to the Constitution. Virginia Reynolds made a motion to adopt the changes. The motion was seconded by Forrest Priddy. The vote was unanimous to adopt the changes. Virginia Reynolds then made a motion to print the above changes in *The Migrant*. The motion was seconded by Jim Campbell and passed by unanimous vote.

COLLATERAL COMMITTEE. No word from Bill Bridgeforth on decals. Patches are available for \$2.50 each. TOS Directories are available at \$3.50 each.

PARTNERS IN FLIGHT. Bob Ford reported that, thanks to Dolly Ann Myers and Ron Hoff, a slide projector has been donated to send to the Annabelle Dod Bird Club in the Dominican Republic. Dev Joslin reported on a possible field trip by TOS to the Dominican Republic in February 1999. See Bob Ford or Dev Joslin for details. Janet Troop of TWRA is working on a worldwide program concerning "Important Bird Areas." If you have a favorite spot in Tennessee to submit for consideration, see Janet for an application. Bob Ford reported that Tennessee Congressman Tanner submitted to the USF & WS a \$2 million rider for Partners in Flight. A letter of thanks from TOS will be sent to the congressman.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE. No report.

TENNESSEE WARBLER. More articles are needed, especially from the various chapters. The next deadline is 30 June 1998. Ron Hoff volunteered to put the *Warbler* on e-mail. Check with Theresa Graham if you are interested.

OLD BUSINESS

Ron Hoff reported on the upcoming International Migratory Bird Day on 9 May. Be sure to keep track of hours spent on foot and hours in the car, mileage on foot and mileage in the car, etc. Be sure to turn in cards.

The Fall meeting was to be hosted by the Lebanon Chapter. However, they have reported that, due to several factors, they will be unable to host the meeting. Susan McWhirter has made arrangements to have the Fall meeting at Paris Landing State Park in Paris, Tennessee, on 31 October and 1 November 1998. If any other chapter would like to host this meeting, please see Susan. David Pitts has agreed to chair the paper sessions. Fall meetings are usually pretty simple affairs, so a smaller chapter should be able to host one. Also, most meeting expenses are paid for by the state TOS if registration fees do not cover all the costs. See David Pitts if you have ideas for a paper presentation.

The Spring 1999 meeting will be held at Reelfoot Lake State Park with headquarters at Air Park. The dates are 30 April and 1-2 May. More details are available from Dick Preston.

Respectfully submitted,
KNOX MARTIN, Secretary