

## **NTOS Meeting Minutes – March 19, 2026**

### **Welcome**

- The meeting Opened by Cyndi Routledge, our President, acknowledging visitors and encouraging them to join NTOS.
- She also expressed thanks to all for understanding why we cancelled the Feb. meeting and extended additional thanks to all the volunteers who helped get Radnor back open and safe.

### **Secretary- Kathy Ware**

- Secretary noted that the February meeting was canceled due to inclement weather, which caused Radnor State Park to be closed to visitors and precluded usage of the Visitor's Center. Hence, there are no February Meeting Minutes.
- Secretary asked for a motion to accept the January meeting minutes. A Motion was made by Steve Routledge and seconded by Pam Lashley.
- The Vote to accept the January Meeting Minutes was unanimous.

### **Treasurer's and Membership Report - Pam Lasley**

- Pam Lasley presented a brief Treasurer's and Membership Report and encouraged all members to renew their membership via the web site by paying their 2026 Dues.
- Checking Account Balance is currently \$7780.33
- The Conservation Fund has a current balance of \$10,321.30
- New Members
  - Erica Chappell
  - Kristy Robinson
  - Trayte and Leslie Peters
  - Lunne Holliday
  - Cecilia Dodd
  - Sarah Fremont
  - Sara Straughn
  - Charlie Arnott

### **Field Trip(s) – Cyndi Routledge**

January field trip to Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge was initially rescheduled and then ultimately cancelled due to inclement weather.

There were two scheduled field trips in February. The first one took place on February 14<sup>th</sup> to Lincoln County - Fowler Rd Irrigation Pond - beginning at 7:30 am.

The second field trip took place on Feb 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm at Cornelia Fort Airpark (part of Shelby Park and Bottoms) in Davidson County. This field trip was very well attended – more than 40 people enjoyed the festivities!

The March field trip is set for Saturday, the 21<sup>st</sup> to Lytle/Ravenwood Park in Davidson County. Attendees are asked to meet at 7 am near the playground.

The April field trip is set for April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Gossett Tract of Harpeth River State Park Kingston Springs.

For any questions, contact Shelley Smith at [wkusmith@gmail.com](mailto:wkusmith@gmail.com) and include “NTOS Field Trip” in the subject line.

### **Wednesday Morning Bird Walks at Radnor**

Wednesday morning Radnor Lake bird walks will begin on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Meet up time is 7:30 am in the west parking lot near the kiosk. Many thanks to volunteers Danny Shelton, Richard Connors, Mary Fitzgerald and Melinda Welton for stepping up to each lead a Radnor Lake Wednesday morning walk, April 22 and 29, as well as May 6 and 13.

All this information and as well as meet up details for all field trips can be found in the calendar on the NTOS webpage, which has an address of [www.nashvillebirds.org](http://www.nashvillebirds.org). Feel free to share this information via your personal social media.

### **Old Business – Cyndi Routledge**

- A reminder that the 2026 Great Backyard Bird Count took place on February 13-16<sup>th</sup>. Overall, this 29<sup>th</sup> annual count reports that over 1 million people participated worldwide. There were 8,208 species reported and more than 911,000 checklists.

- A reminder that we are seeking applications or ideas for the NTOS yearly Conservation Grant – we award one each year and are seeking suggestions from our membership for 2026. The NTOS Bylaws stipulate that a grant must be awarded each year, so we take this responsibility seriously and are always happy to have a member suggest a worthy recipient.
- The 2Q NewsHawk will be posted to our webpage first of April. So look for an email announcement. The next deadline for the 3Q newsletter will be June 15<sup>th</sup>. Chapter members are encouraged to submit articles for publishing – all ideas and articles are appreciated and will be given due consideration.
- A reminder to subscribe to the new NTOS Instagram page. Shelley Smith and Pam Lasley are doing a great job of reporting events there. Lots of great information is available on a more time-sensitive basis, so members are encouraged to “follow” and check regularly.
- The spring count will take place on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Barbara Harris will be coordinating. Spring and Fall counts encompass ALL of Davidson County so if you live within and can't get out to count an area you can do a feeder count. However, you need to contact Barbara so she's aware of the area in which you plan to report your count! She has begun to contact area leaders and a few of our more seasoned leaders from past years will be out of town. Therefore, if you can help, please contact Barbara.
- TOS Annual Spring State meeting will take place in Kingsport on May 1 – just around the corner. The keynote speaker for the event is Sheri Williamson, a hummingbird expert, author, naturalist and all-around fabulous guest. Registration information has been posted on the TOS page under Events and will be included in the upcoming Warbler. Deadline to register is April 10<sup>th</sup> and the block of rooms at the host hotel will be held until April 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Business:**

- The annual TOS fall meeting will be a JOINT meeting between Kentucky (KOS) and TOS, September 18-20<sup>th</sup>. Host hotel is KenLake

State Park Resort. Keynote speaker for the event is Cin-Ty Lee and illustrator Andy Birch. They are authors of and experts on North American Flycatchers. They'll speak on Saturday night at Lake Barkley Convention Center. There will not be a dinner – just a reception to take place during this event. Field trips to local hotspots will take place on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Separate BOD meetings for each organization will take place during the weekend as well. Stay tuned for more information as this special joint event comes together. An announcement from TOS President Chris Welsh is forthcoming.

- Long time member Mary Zimmerman was doing some cleaning out and came across some bird sighting records for Davidson County that she had been collecting when there was talk of an NTOS publication on the birds of the Nashville area. Nothing has been done with the data since eBird burst onto the scene. We are looking for someone who might be interested in entering these sightings into eBird under historical data. If you think you might be interested or know of someone who might be, please let me know and we can put you in touch with Mary to get the items.
- The Keep Walton Ferry Green is looking for a volunteer to lead a beginner birding walk at the Sumner County Master Gardener plant sale and spring festival at Memorial Park in Hendersonville on April 25th from 10-11am. This walk is intended for all ages and all skill levels, but especially for those just starting to learn about birding. The hour-long walk is paved, relatively flat and involves staying on the park paths. Please contact Aprele Griffin at [keepwaltonferrygreen@gmail.com](mailto:keepwaltonferrygreen@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering to lead this walk.  
This is a group of community members that have gathered to save green space on the Walton Ferry peninsula from future development. For more information visit: <https://keepwaltonferrygreen.org/>
- A Loretta Zweig contacted me looking for a possible 'bird buddy' to go birding with her and her husband when they're visiting Nashville from California, May 19-25. If anyone is interested in being a host I can provide you with her email address: [lorettazw@gmail.com](mailto:lorettazw@gmail.com) and put you directly in contact with them to coordinate.

## **Program – Tim Ryan, Vice President**

- Tim introduced himself to the group and made a request for members to share presentation topics of interest and suggestions for future programs/guest speakers.
- He then introduced our guest speaker, Graham Gerdeman, who made a fabulous presentation on birding Northern Argentina, from Altiplano to Ibera. The photos were breathtaking and the commentary entertaining. Most in attendance were floored by Graham's photography and asked many questions. Spoiler – Graham is a professional Photographer as well as a seasoned birder. What a treat it was to have him share his birding adventure and jaw-dropping scenes and species with us.

The meeting was generally adjourned around 8:30.