Texas Colonial Waterbird Society Annual Meeting Minutes – November 17-18, 2021

Business Meeting

1. Officially vote on new Upper Texas Coast Coordinator (Houston Audubon) – David Newstead put forth a motion to accept this, Woody Woodrow seconded. There were no dissenters, motion passed.
2. Official vote on updates to constitution including:
3. Add TAMU-K, Texas State, HAS, and GCBO to voting members – David Newstead put forth a motion to accept this, Trey Barron seconded. There were no dissenters, motion passed.
4. Change TAMU – CC Center for Coastal Studies membership to just TAMU-CC. combined with 2.a.
5. Modify constitution so changes to it can be made at any yearly meeting not just the biennial symposium – Richard Gibbons proposed this, Dale Gawlik seconded, no dissenters, motion passed
6. Officially remove colonial from the society’s name, motioned by Trey Barron (TPWD), Clay Green (Texas State) seconds, no dissenters, motion passed.
7. Suggest timelines for submission of count data to compilers, last year we set end of June for this, there was discussion about whether we can have an automated reminder for people to send in their data, Amanda said we can do this through the website, it is helpful to have a pre-survey zoom meeting to coordinate things, discussion on making sure we keep electronic copy of all datasheets, compilers need to coordinate with Amanda on what they want in there.
8. Set a deadline for compilers to complete their summaries prior to the annual meeting – last year we set this date as November 1, changed to summaries completed by August 1 so compilers can share data for comparison purposes
9. Discussion and election, if appropriate, of officers - current constitution calls for a chairman, chairman-elect, secretary and editor. We have chairman and chairman-elect. Decided to follow through with secretary. Sue will follow through with a request for nominations and then with voting members for official vote. We are leaving editor in the constitution and debate its function in the future.
10. Discussion of the use of Robert’s Rules for business meetings here forth. This is already in the constitution so we just need to commit to follow them.

General meeting

The following presentations were given on Wednesday.

* Upper Texas Coast Region Summary – Richard Gibbons (Houston Audubon)
* Central Texas Coast Region Summary – Brent Ortego (TPWD retired)
* Lower Texas Coast Region Summary – Jonathon Moczygemba (USFWS)
* Shorebird Community Structure During Spring in the Laguna Madre - Jason Loghry (TAMUK)
* Migration Ecology of Buff-breasted Sandpipers through the Coastal Plain – Tara Rodkey (TAMUK)
* Colonial Waterbirds as an Outreach Gateway to Coastal Conservation – open discussion led by Dale Gawlik, Woody Woodrow promoted a motion to form a group led by Dale to investigate this, Clay Green seconded. Dale will work to form a group and report back to board in a month
* American Oystercatcher Island Restoration in Jones Bay – Haille Leija (Galveston Bay Foundation) & Susan Heath (Gulf Coast Bird Observatory)
* Additional discussion/clean up – Dale is coordinating the local committee for The Waterbird Society meeting next fall in Corpus Christi. Clay Green asks do we want to have our meeting in conjunction with that and have a symposium or workshop? Suggested that we have a one day meeting right before the big meeting.

The following presentations were given on Thursday.

* Island Restoration in Nueces Bay – a half century of decline and a bright future! – Justin LeClair (CBBEP)
* Daily and Seasonal Movements of Brown Pelicans in the Bahia Grande Wetland Complex – Andrew Birt (Texas A&M Transportation Institute)
* Breeding Phenology of Eastern Willets Derived from Geolocator Data – Jennifer Wilson (USFWS, Texas MidCoast National Wildlife Refuge Complex)
* Inland Colonial Waterbird Nesting Colonies – Brent Ortego (TPWD retired)
* Evaluation of Small Unmanned Aerial Systems for Monitoring Waterbird Nest Abundance and Survival – Rostam Mirzadi (Harte Research Institute)
* Surveys with drones – Chester Island Drone Monitoring – Hank Arnold (Audubon TX)
* Beach Nesting Birds 2020-2021 – Kristen Vale (American Bird Conservancy)
* Oyster Reef Mapping in the Galveston Bay System – Amanda Hackney (Black Cat GIS)
* Changing Effects of Urbanization on Species with Large Home Ranges – Katherine Shlepr (Florida Atlantic University)
* Additional discussion – 2022 count period set for May 16 – May 29.