

2026 TOS Director Election

- Ballot Enclosed
- Select one candidate for each position
- Mark your ballot
- Mail to TOS
- Instructions below
- Due **APRIL 21, 2026**



www.texasbirds.org

March 27, 2026

Dear Texas Ornithological Society Member:

The bylaws of the Texas Ornithological Society require that elections be held annually. Directors of the TOS Board serve three-year terms and each year the terms of four of the twelve directors expire. The 2026 ballot of those expiring board positions and qualified candidates appears on page 3 of this letter. You may also write in an alternate nominee for each position if you desire. Your vote will elect directors to these Board positions. The Board will then elect officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) at its first meeting after the election.

The election of board members by TOS members and the election of officers by the Board are held each year in the March/April time frame. This year election results will be announced and the new directors and officers will be introduced at our annual meeting at the Birding the Border event on April 30, 2026.

On the next page you will find the biographical information on the TOS members who are interested in representing you on the Board of Directors. Please take the time to read the material on the candidates, complete the ballot and mail it back to us. **Your mailed ballot should be postmarked by APRIL 14, 2026**, to assure that we receive it in time to be counted. Mail **ONLY** the ballot sheet to us in your envelope. **Please put your return address on your envelope** so we can verify your TOS membership.

If you prefer, you may vote online by April 21 at:

<https://texasbirds.app.neoncrm.com/survey.jsp?surveyId=2&>

Thank you for taking the time to review this material and vote. Feel free to contact Kelly Smith at TOSregion1@gmail.com or (512) 534-5612 if you have any questions. Your vote is very important in this election.

Kelly Smith, Chair

Byron Stone, Committee Member

TOS Nominating Committee

Candidate for Director At-Large 2: Lynn Thompson

I have been a member of TOS since 2001, attending my first meeting in Ft. Davis. Since retiring as a public librarian at the New Braunfels Public Library, I've been chasing birds around Texas and eleven other states. Helping to plan our annual birding weekends and the board retreats as a member of TOS's Planning Committee has been satisfying. When not birding, I am the chair of the New Braunfels Cemetery Committee, researching and writing scripts for the annual cemetery "Soul Searching" tour.



Candidate for Region 1 Director: Kelly Smith

Kelly has been active in the birding and conservation community for many years and is currently serving on the Board of TOS as the Region 1 Director, seeking a second term. Kelly also chairs the Nominations, Elections, and Awards Committee.

Before joining TOS, Kelly volunteered with or served on the boards of several nature and birding organizations, including the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival and the Balcones Songbird Festival. She has also been involved with the South Texas Border Chapter Texas Master Naturalists, Friends of the Wildlife Corridor, Friends of Balcones Canyonlands NWR, and Texas Pelagics. She has also spent years assisting raptor and songbird banding projects in the Lower RGV, worked as a Program Manager for Quinta Mazatlan World Birding Center, and as the Conservation and Outreach Director for the American Birding Association.



Her first introduction to TOS was an invitation from Steve Gross to attend the 2012 Amarillo Winter Meeting, where she added Golden Eagle and Northern Shrike to her life list. When not volunteering or working in the birding community, Kelly enjoys hiking and kayaking around San Antonio and scuba diving in the Caribbean.

Candidate for Region 2 Director: Ron Huebner

I grew up in Bryan, Texas where my friends and I were obsessed with the natural world, wandering the local creeks and the Brazos River, cattle tanks and trails daily and driving our mothers crazy with snakes, lizards, and any other critters that found their way into our pockets.

I found my way to the University of Austin where I graduated with a degree in Radio, Television and Film partly due to my fascination with nature documentaries. It was a good career choice to fuel my inquisitive nature, but I never lost my fascination with nature and when I moved to Houston in 2012 for work, I found myself drawn to birding with a capital "B."

Sheer luck and providence found me birding in the company of many legendary Texas birders whose generosity I can never repay. I am not a great birder, but what I lack in talent I tend to make up with enthusiasm. In my first year of birding, I did three Christmas Bird Counts. The next year I participated in nine and the next I did 11. Because I have been mentored so thoughtfully by so many birders for so long, I feel the need to repay our community in whatever way I can.



Candidate for Region 4 Director: Pamela Pipes

I studied biology at UT Permian Basin, earning both bachelor's and master's degrees. A plant collection required for a college botany course introduced me to the incredible diversity of flowering plants in Texas. It also led me to the field guide section of the bookstore in search of a guide to flowering plants, where I discovered Roger Tory Peterson's Birds of Texas. With a cheap pair of binoculars and Birds of Texas in hand, I was a birder! Ten years later, my husband Chris joined me, and we've been birding together ever since.

Chris and I relocated to Alpine in 2008 and to Fort Davis in 2010. I retired from Sul Ross State University in 2021 as University Registrar, concluding a career in higher education begun at UTPB thirty-two years prior.

Chris and I are Texas Master Naturalists in the Tierra Grande Chapter, devote time and resources to the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, the Big Bend chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, the Davis Mountains Preserve (a Nature Conservancy property), the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society, and the Davis Mountains Hummingbird Celebration.

I have served as the Region 4 Director for the Texas Ornithological Society since 2023 and with your support look forward to continuing in this role for another term!



OFFICIAL 2026 BALLOT – TOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Please note:

- Only current TOS members can vote - **ONE VOTE PER MEMBERSHIP**
- Ballots must be postmarked by **APRIL 14, 2026**.
- For each annual election under TOS Bylaws, four of the twelve directors are elected for three-year terms. This year the terms for the following four director positions are expiring: At-Large Director 2, Region 1 Director, Region 2 Director and Region 4 Director.
- Officers are elected by the Board at the first board meeting after the election.

DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE BALLOT OR IT WILL BE REJECTED.

At-Large Director

At-Large Director 2: (Three-year term: May 2026-May 2029)

Lynn Thompson *

_____ (write in)

Regional Directors (All members vote for all regions.)

Region 1 Director - Panhandle: (Three-year term: May 2026-May 2029)

Kelly Smith *

_____ (write in)

Region 2 Director – North Central: (Three-year term: May 2026-May 2029)

Ron Huebner *

_____ (write in)

Region 4 Director – West Texas: (Three-year term: May 2026-May 2029)

Pamela Pipes *

_____ (write in)

*Incumbent

VOTER INSTRUCTIONS: 2026 BALLOT – TOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Separate this ballot sheet from the cover letter and bios and mark your choices. **DO NOT PUT YOUR NAME ON THIS BALLOT. One ballot per membership.**
2. Place the ballot in your envelope. Stamp and address the envelope and print your return address on the envelope. **Your return address will be used to verify your membership.**
3. Mail your ballot to the address below, **postmarked by APRIL 14, 2026.**

Mail ballot to:

**TOS Election Committee, c/o Judy Kestner
4437 Clear Fork Dr.
Corpus Christi, TX 78410**

(Remember to include your return address on the envelope!)