



WARIOTO WARBLER



CLARKSVILLE NATIONAL AUDUBON CHAPTER

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 7

APRIL 2007

WARIOTO AT A GLANCE

REGULAR MEETING: Thurs., April 5, 7:30 p.m., Sundquist Science Bldg, conference room, D126, APSU.

PROGRAM: "Bluebirds" with Duane Rice

FIELD TRIP: April 14 to the Bicentennial Trail in Ashland City. The bird hike is at 8:00 a.m. and a wildflower foray will begin at 10:00 a.m. Meet in the 8th St. parking lot on the APSU campus. Departure at 7:30 a.m. Details provided below.

BOARD MEETING: Sundquist Science Building, Biology Conference room, D126 at 7:00 p.m..

Visit our webpage at http://www.apsu.edu/schillers/Audubon/Warioto_Chapter.htm

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, Joe Schiller

A couple weeks ago I was at the Library to view the student art projects on display there. Stacey Segovia wrote a nice article in the Leaf Chronicle describing it. It is very inspiring to see how creative our young people can be. A couple of realizations occurred to me as I contemplated the various works. First, I realized that about half of the art was inspired in some way by nature such as a picture of a landscape or animal or weather phenomenon. One group of students drew pictures inspired by "letters describing vacation trips." I have no idea if the trips were real or imagined (but I think they were imagined). One picture portrayed various wildlife species that "James described in his letter to Skye:"

Dear Skye,

In Canda I saw many things. I went scuba diving and I saw lots of whales. I saw a big caribou. I saw an Artic Fox and Artic Hare. I saw a Bald Eagle. I saw a coyote. I saw a bison and a bobcat. I saw a beaver in the water. I saw a bird in the tree.

From James

James saw quite a collection of animals! Then I became very sad. It occurred to me that all of these animals are known to James, and even if James had not actually seen them in the wild on a real trip, he could have. However, unless Americans start to take serious action to reduce global warming it is likely that children like James will never see many species in the wild that today spark their imaginations. I realized that I was extremely fortunate. I had actually seen most of the animals on James' list in the wild! Ours will surely be the last generation to see the earth in anything approaching its original glory if we do not commit to change global warming. Some biologists fear as much as half of all earth's species could disappear in the next 50 years if current trends continue. What will children like James imagine then?

Oh, where have you been, my blue-eyed son?
Oh, where have you been, my darling young one?
I've stumbled on the side of twelve misty mountains,
I've walked and I've crawled on six crooked highways,
I've stepped in the middle of seven sad forests,
I've been out in front of a dozen dead oceans,
I've been ten thousand miles in the mouth of a graveyard,

And it's a hard, and it's a hard, it's a hard, and it's a hard,
And it's a hard rain's a-gonna fall.

Bob Dylan

PROGRAM REPORT, Sarah Johnson

April Program

Our speaker this month will be our very own Bluebird expert, Duane Rice. During his program he will display a properly mounted Bluebird box, tools used for monitoring. And House Sparrow control devices. He will show us books that he recommends and have literature on how and why to put up boxes. On top of all that great information, he will show us two videos and also a slide show of pictures! This is going to be a program packed with excellent and up to date information, given by a wonderfully dedicated bluebird lover!!!

March Program Review

Nita Heilman gave a wonderful presentation last month on middle Tennessee spring wildflowers. Her slide show and the description of each picture and flower displayed how passionate she is about enjoying and protecting our native plants. Not only did she show us her great skills as a flower photographer, but she also took the time to describe the nature around them and some of her most memorable experiences with certain flowers. The timing couldn't have been better for this spring wildflower program - thank you so much Nita, for inspiring us and teaching us more so we can better enjoy our Tennessee spring wildflowers this year!!!

FIELD TRIP REPORT, Daniel Moss

The March 17 trip to Haynes Bottoms Wildlife Management Area was attended by Nita Heilman, Amy Wallace, and Daniel Moss. Unfortunately our trip leader, Polly Rooker, was ill and could not attend. The 3 of us carpooled to the WMA and began birding even before we entered the site. We had a flurry of sparrows and other songbirds at the entrance that included White-crowned Sparrows, Song Sparrows, White-throated Sparrows, and Eastern Bluebirds. We slowly drove along the gravel road toward the bottoms stopping whenever we saw bird activity. Our next stop next at a barn and plowed field allowed us to see Eastern Phoebe, Field Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, and several woodpeckers. A Fox Sparrow, one of our better birds of the day, popped up in a fence row to allow good looks before it dropped to the ground out of sight. Another stop

along the Cumberland River edge produced a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers, Great Blue Heron, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and a Golden-crowned Kinglet. At the back ponds we encountered Wood Ducks, a single American Coot (which seemed to have no fear!), and a Belted Kingfisher. One of the other highlight birds of the day included several Tree Swallows performing aerial acrobats over the water.

We ended our bird watching around mid-day with a total species count of 37 birds. We missed Northern Harriers and Wild Turkeys, which were seen the day before. But all in all it was a wonderful trip bidding farewell to the winter birds and ushering in the few newly arrived migrants!

April 14 – The Bicentennial Trail in Ashland City is again on the spring field trip agenda. Daniel Moss, Polly Rooker and Barbara Wilbur will lead the group on a **bird walk and wildflower foray**. The group will depart the Eighth Street parking lot at 7:30 a.m. or you can meet at the Ashland City end of the trail at 8:00 a.m. A completion time has not been determined. **NOTE:** For those primarily interested in wildflowers a **second, later flower walk will begin at 10:00 a.m.** from the Ashland City end of the trail. Plan on enjoying the wonderful spring morning; mark your calendars now!

CONSERVATION LETTER, Joe Schiller

There are currently several bills pending in congress to address global warming. Here is a summary from the National Wildlife Federation's global Promise web page:

Climate Stewardship and Innovation Act of 2007. (S.280)

Introduced: 1/12/07

Latest Major Action: 1/12/07 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Lead Sponsors: Lieberman, McCain

Cosponsors: Obama, Clinton, Lincoln, Collins, Durbin, Snowe, Nelson

Description: Economy-wide greenhouse gas cap and trade: 2004 levels by 2012, 1990 levels by 2020, and 1/3 of 2004 levels by 2050.

Wildlife Funding: 10% of revenues from auctioned carbon credits will go to fund wildlife conservation. (\$500 mil-\$1.8 bil /year)

Climate Stewardship act of 2007. (H.R. 620)

Introduced: 1/22/07

Latest Major Action: 2/7/07 Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, and Oceans.

Lead Sponsors: Olver, Gilchrest

Cosponsors: 107 total, click [here](#) for the full list.

Description: Economy-wide greenhouse gas cap and trade: 15% below 2004 in 2020 and 70% below 1990 in 2050

Wildlife Funding: 10% of revenues from auctioned carbon credits will go to fund wildlife conservation. (\$500 mil-\$1.8 bil /year)

Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act of 2007. (S.309)

Introduced: 1/16/07

Latest Major Action: 1/16/07 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Lead Sponsor: Sanders

Cosponsors: 11 total, click [here](#) for the full list.

Description: Reduces U.S. emissions to 1990 levels by 2020; 1/3 of 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2030; 2/3 of 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2040; and 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

Wildlife Funding: The Administrator may allocate emission allowances, to individuals and entities (including fish and wildlife agencies) for use in carrying out projects to protect and restore ecosystems (including fish and wildlife) affected by climate change.

Safe Climate Act of 2006. (H.R.5642, 109th, to be reintroduced soon)

Introduced: 6/20/06

Latest Major Action: 7/17/06 Referred to House Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality.

Lead Sponsors: Waxman

Cosponsors: 113 total, click [here](#) for the full list.

Description: Economy wide GHG cap and trade; 2009 level cap starting 2010; 2%/yr cut 2011-2020; 5%/yr cut 2021-2050; Will reach 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

Wildlife Funding: Undetermined amount is to be invested in "mitigating harm to fish and wildlife habitat"

Keep America Competitive Global Warming Policy Act. (H.R. 5049, 109th)

Introduced: 3/29/06

Latest Major Action: 5/24/06 Referred to House Subcommittee on Education Reform.

Lead Sponsors: Udall, Petri

Cosponsors: None.

Description: Economy-wide greenhouse gas cap and trade. Will set cap level 3 years after passage of bill. Cap on the price of carbon dioxide emission credits at \$7 per ton.

Wildlife Funding: None. (Udall has said wildlife funding will be included when the bill is reintroduced in the 110th Congress)

The Electric Utility Cap and Trade Act. (S.317)

Introduced: 1/17/07

Latest Major Action: 1/17/07 Referred to Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Lead Sponsor: Feinstein

Cosponsors: Carper

Description: Program to regulate the emission of greenhouse gases from electric utilities with auctions that start at 15% and climbs 3% a year to 70% over time.

Wildlife Funding: After paying administrative expenses, 10% of the remaining Climate Action Trust Fund will go to fund fish and wildlife habitat (70% to the wildlife restoration fund under Pittman-Robertson and 30% to national programs). The amount in the Climate Action Trust Fund will grow as the percent of allowances auctioned grows from 15% in 2011 to 100% in 2036.

Global Warming Reduction Act of 2007. (S. 485)

Introduced:

Latest Major Action: 2/1/07 Referred to Senate Committee on Finance.

Lead Sponsors: Kerry

Cosponsors: Snowe, Kennedy

Description: Economy-wide emission cap-and-trade program freezes emissions in 2010 and then calls for a gradual reduction each year to 65 percent below 2000 emissions levels by 2050.

Wildlife Funding: It is the goal of the Act to "support activities that protect against and mitigate the impacts of climate change including damage to fish and wildlife habitat"

Clean Air Planning Act of 2006. (S. 2724, 109th)

Introduced: 5/4/06

Latest Major Action: 5/4/06 Referred to Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Lead Sponsor: Carper

Cosponsors: Alexander, Chafee, Gregg, Dodd, Graham, Feinstein

Description: 4-pollutant power plant bill, including CO2 cap and trade: 2006 levels by 2009, and 2001 levels by 2013, may be achieved using emissions offsets, empowers the EPA to lower the cap, but not for 20 years.

Wildlife Funding: None.

In general, the more recently the proposed legislation has been introduced, the more aggressively it addresses the problem, reflecting the growing sense of urgency created by the gradual accumulation of stronger scientific evidence of increasingly dire consequences from inaction. What is urgent is that strong legislation that gets signed into law emerge from this session of congress. The longer we take to begin to address global warming, the more difficult it becomes to correct.

SPRING FLING AT DUNBAR CAVE

Audubon will co-sponsor Spring Fling again this year. Other organizations involved in the events are Friends of Dunbar Cave, the Clarksville Chapter of Tennessee Trails Association, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and, of course, Dunbar Cave State Natural Area. The day-long event will take place on **April 28**. The program is still not finalized, so watch for a flyer late in April. Events will include a bird hike, backpacking with J.R. "Model T" Tate, a bluebird program with Duane Rice, a nature hike lead by Amy Wallace, two programs by SOAR (Save Our American Raptors), two snakes and reptile programs with Sherry and Donny Howell and Logan Snyder, a trail hike lead by Suva Bastin and canoeing on Swan Lake. I am still trying to fill in a couple of additional slots.

BIRDING WORKSHOP AT DUNBAR CAVE, SAT., MAY 12

Dunbar Cave State Natural Area and TWRA will have the second annual BEYOND BOW BIRDING WORKSHOP on Saturday, May 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Dunbar Cave. This workshop is for those 18 and older who are interested in learning to identify birds by sight and sound. It will consist of classroom work (slides and sounds) and a bird walk (some binoculars will be available, but bring your own if you have them). A mist net will be set up, and birds will be banded. In the afternoon there will be a backyard habitat class. The fee is \$20, which TWRA gives back to Dunbar Cave. Lunch is provided (included in registration fee), as well as a lot of freebies and door prizes. We hope that you will attend this wonderful program - last year was very successful and a lot of fun. (BOW stands for Becoming an Outdoor Woman, but we welcome men as well.) Come by the Natural Area and pick up a registration form, or call 648-5526 and we can mail you one.

NATURAL AREAS WEEK HIKE AND OTHER HIKE DURING THE YEAR

I received the following from Kevin Fitch, a biologist with the Natural Areas Program.

Friends,

Please pass the word and/or post these. And plan on attending one of these hikes

<http://state.tn.us/environment/na/pdf/naweek07.pdf>
<http://state.tn.us/environment/na/pdf/events.pdf>

I will be leading hikes in April for the NA week.

April
15 - Virgin Falls
17 - Laurel Snow
19 - Buggy Top/Carter Cave
21 - Collins Gulf/Savage Gulf

Hope to see you out and about,

Kevin

**WARIOTO AUDUBON SOCIETY
C/O STEVE HAMILTON, EDITOR
290 ARDMOOR DR.
CLARKSVILLE, TN 37043**

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ARTICLES AND INFORMATION FOR THE APRIL NEWSLETTER ARE DUE 18 APRIL.
MAIL TO: Steve Hamilton, 290 Ardmoor Dr., Clarksville, TN 37043 or *hamiltonsw@apsu.edu*

NEW MEMBER FORM

Yes, I would like to become a member of the National Audubon Society and the local chapter: Clarksville Warioto Audubon Society for the introductory rate of \$20.00.

I will receive six issues of National Audubon magazine, the Warioto Audubon society newsletter (9) issues, and help to protect America's Birds, rescue endangered wildlife and preserve vital habitat.

Please Print:

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