



# WARIOTO WARBLER



CLARKSVILLE NATIONAL AUDUBON CHAPTER

VOLUME 39, NUMBER 4

DECEMBER 2007

## WARIOTO AT A GLANCE

**REGULAR MEETING:** Thurs., Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m., Sundquist Science Bldg, conference room, D126, APSU.

**PROGRAM:** State of the Birds and the Upcoming CBC

**FIELD TRIP:** No field trip has been planned, in lieu of our participation in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count.

More information on this annual event is 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](http://www.apsu.edu/schillers/Audubon/Warioto_Chapter.htm)

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, Joe Schiller

At this time last year many of us were reveling in the dramatic changes that occurred in the 2006 elections. However, the narrow control of the House of Representatives and Senate won by the Democrats has not allowed them to move vitally needed energy and global warming legislation through congress as quickly as needed. There are two pieces of federal legislation that are working their way through congress. One is the Energy legislation passed by each house last summer that now must go to conference committee and the other is the America's Security Act of 2007 (S2191). Just this week the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued the last of its reports for this cycle of their work. The report is not reassuring. Just in the interval since this spring when the first of the reports was issued new information from ongoing scientific studies of global climate change has forced the IPCC to significantly alter their previous assessment and warn that the problem is getting much worse, much faster than thought. This is no time for political brinkmanship. It is time to pull out all the stops and pressure our federal representatives to pass strong legislation that makes a difference in the future of our planet, the planet we have an obligation to pass on to our heirs in a condition that affords them the same wonderful opportunities we had to live, work, play—in short, to prosper. In the spirit of the holiday giving season that is upon us, give the greatest gift anyone could give—your unrestrained effort to provide posterity a bright future.

### PROGRAM, Steve Hamilton

With the upcoming Christmas Bird Count and in the absence of other program ideas, Joe and I have decided to lead a discussion around the recently issued 2007 WatchList for United States Birds (<http://www.audubon.org/bird/stateofthebirds/index.html>). We hope to examine the state of some of our local birds in relation to this list, recent listing (previous Watch Lists) and our CBC records and maybe spring count records as well. Please come and participate in what we hope will be a lively discussion.

### AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DECEMBER 15

Saturday, December 15, Warioto Audubon will hold its 37th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). For the National Audubon Society this is CBC number 108! If you are unfamiliar with the CBC or want to refresh your memory about the history and structure of the CBC, I encourage you to visit National Audubon's web site at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/>. Also, there is a good preparatory item for documenting rare species for the CBC written by Dr. Stephen Stedman, Regional Editor for CBCs in Tennessee (*American Birds*) that you may review at: <http://iweb.ntech.edu/sstedman/CBCDocumentationSpeciesTN.htm>. Debbie Hamilton and Daniel Moss are CBC co-coordinators this year as Debbie prepares Daniel to take charge in the future. If you have any questions or wish to help in any way with this special chapter event, please call Debbie at [hamiltond@apsu.edu](mailto:hamiltond@apsu.edu) or Daniel at [dmoss5@earthlink.net](mailto:dmoss5@earthlink.net).

Our chapter contributes to the CBC by identifying and counting birds in the Clarksville area between dawn to dusk on the selected day. You may also do owling in the wee hours if you are so motivated. Our count circle, 15-mile in diameter, is centered near downtown, so your "owl prowl" records, "count week" records and "count day" observations must all be within that area.

Please come join us! You are encouraged to participate whether you consider yourself an expert birder or not. Spotting and tallying birds in concert with a more experienced birder makes an important contribution to the success of the count, and it helps you learn more about the Clarksville-area winter birds. Of course, if you are an experienced birder you should be out there! It appears there is some correlation between the number of birders participating and the number of species counted, i.e., the more eyes, the better the results.

FIELD COUNTERS should meet at Shoney's (2nd and Kraft Streets) at 6:00 a.m. where we will organize into groups that will count in assigned areas of the official count circle. At the end of the day (dusk) we will meet at the Biology Conference Room (D-125) of the Sundquist Science Building to enjoy a chili dinner and tally the day's results. You can park behind Trahern near the fountain area and enter the building at the double doors facing the Trahern Art Building. Parking is also available in the lot at 8th

and College streets. If you cannot join the outdoor group, you may still contribute by being a FEEDER COUNTER on the same day. Your feeder must be within the count circle. To be a feeder counter you need to do the following: (1) Record how much time you spend watching the feeder on December 15. (2) Record the largest number of individuals of a species seen at one time. For instance, if you see one Carolina Chickadee at the feeder, record "1." If later you see two chickadees, your count is then "2" and not the sum "3". If you never see more than 2 towhees at once over the course of the day, your final count will be "2." Within a few days after the count, call Sally Schiller at 387-4071 or e-mail her at [schillers@apsu.edu](mailto:schillers@apsu.edu) with your feeder results. Sally will also answer any feeder count questions before the count date. Sally will forward the data to Debbie and Daniel. Feeder counters are encouraged to join the post-count dinner the Biology Conference Room (D-125) of the Sundquist Science Building.

Remember, "count week" records can be included for the three days before and three days after the count date. So, watch and record birds from Wednesday, December 12 through Tuesday, December 18. If they were not seen on count day, they will be added to the count as a "count week" record.

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### ***CONSERVATION LETTER, Joe Schiller***

On August 4, the House passed HR 3221, the New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act. Related legislation, the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2007 (H.R. 2776), sets a renewable portfolio standard for all investor owned utilities and provides much needed tax incentives to spur renewable energy development and deployment. On June 21, 2007, the Senate passed H.R. 6, the Renewable Fuels, Consumer Protection, and Energy Efficiency Act of 2007, which will enhance energy efficiency, increase production of clean domestic biofuels, raise fuel economy standards, and achieve reductions in greenhouse gas emissions (both of Tennessee's Republican senators voted for this bill—Yeah!). Now these two bills must be reconciled in House-Senate Conference Committee which could produce a great bill or a bust depending on the outcome of what is kept in the final version. Already there have been rumors that the tax incentives for renewable energy, RPS, and the CAFÉ standards may be removed. The outcome of these bills figures importantly into the outcome of the Senate global warming bill pending before congress because its energy efficiency and renewable energy provisions will be critical to any effective global warming strategy. Please contact your representatives in congress and ask them to retain the renewable energy tax incentives, CAFÉ standards, and renewable portfolio standard

The National Audubon sent to Senators Lieberman (D-CT) and Warner (R-VA) on their global warming bill, America's Security Act of 2007 (S 2191). It is likely full committee action on this bill will resume when they return from Thanksgiving break, December 3 -- most likely December 5-6. Senator Lamar Alexander sits on this committee. Please call (202-224-3121) or email ([www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)) Senator Alexander and thank him for his past support of renewable energy legislation and ask him to support strengthening the America's Climate Security Act of 2007 (S. 2191) in the ways suggested in the following letter the National Audubon Society sent to the Committee:

The Honorable Joseph Lieberman  
United States Senate  
706 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Warner  
United States Senate  
225 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

November 1, 2007

Dear Senators Lieberman and Warner,

On behalf of Audubon's nearly one million members and supporters throughout the United States, we are writing to share our views and concerns in regard to the America's Climate Security Act of 2007 (S. 2191).

First and foremost, we would like to thank you for your leadership on the issue of global warming. As you know, global warming is one of the most urgent challenges of our time and has the potential to negatively reshape our world if we do not act now. The vast majority of scientists now say that we only have a brief window of opportunity to address the problem of global warming -- a decade at most — before it becomes too late to reverse the worst effects. Congressional action to address this critically important issue is long overdue, and we welcome your efforts to move the debate beyond skepticism and toward finding the necessary solutions.

We fully understand the difficulty of crafting legislation of this magnitude and appreciate the time and effort you have devoted to this important endeavor. We would like to thank you for making several changes to your original proposal in response to the suggestions made by Audubon and other environmental organizations. Specifically, we would highlight the improvements made to the near-term emission reduction targets and the phase out of free allowances to polluting sectors.

We also appreciate your willingness to add balanced and thoughtful bird and wildlife conservation funding to your climate change legislation. As written, the funding will be distributed to well established and successful wildlife conservation and resource management programs at the state and federal levels. The legislation recognizes that a wide array of species and habitats are threatened by global warming and distributes funds to agencies and programs with track records in conserving those species and habitats. We strongly support the focus and direction the legislation gives to the implementation of state wildlife conservation strategies, the central role of the Department of the Interior, and large scale ecosystem restoration in priority areas like the Everglades, Mississippi River, Great Lakes, and Long Island Sound. We believe the adaptation program could be strengthened by adding a component focusing on international wildlife adaptation, and we hope to work with you to find the right vehicle for delivering conservation benefits to imperiled species beyond our borders.

While this legislation represents an important first step toward developing a much-needed cap and trade system for global warming pollution, we believe that certain changes should be

made in order to ensure its success. As you begin to move this legislation forward in the Environment & Public Works Subcommittee and Full Committee, we urge you to consider to following recommendations:

**\*\*Expand coverage and strengthen the reduction targets for overall global warming pollution emissions. According to the best available science, we must reduce overall global warming emissions 15-20 percent below current levels by 2020, and 80 percent by 2050 in order to avoid the worst impacts of global warming. Improvements should be made to ensure that coverage and emission reduction targets are in line with these goals for total U.S. global warming emissions reductions.**

**\*\*Further limit the percentage of free allowances to polluting sectors and phase out free allowances over a shorter period of time. As written, the legislation provides too many free allowances to polluting sectors for too long. The legislation should be strengthened by substantially reducing the percentage of initial free allowances and phasing out such allowances sooner. As a result of such a change, additional resources should be used to provide assistance to low and middle income consumers.**

**\*\*Scientific review provision should be more stringent. In response to regular assessments conducted by the National Academy of Science, the Environmental Protection Agency should be authorized to require additional reductions of global warming pollution if such actions are deemed necessary.**

**\*\*Utilize auction revenues to provide assistance to developing nations. A share of the revenues raised through the auction of allowances should be used to provide assistance to developing nations, vulnerable peoples, and communities throughout the world.**

While we have additional concerns regarding specific aspects of the legislation, we hope you and other members of the committee will address the important issues raised above. We look forward to working with you, your staff, and other committee members to develop an effective and appropriate legislative solution that will achieve the necessary global warming pollution reductions, promote greater investment in clean, renewable energy and efficiency technologies, and protect our environment and the people who depend upon it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Betsy Loyless  
Senior Vice President, Public Policy

Justin Tatham  
Assistant Director, Government Relations

cc: Members of the Environment & Public Works Committee

## ***REMINDER – NO JANUARY MEETING***

Our first meeting of next year will take place on **February 7**, the first Thursday in.

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WARIOTO WARBLER NEWSLETTER is published nine times a year by the Warioto Chapter of the National Audubon Society, Clarksville, TN 37040. All National Audubon members in our area receive it, and nonmembers may subscribe to it at a subscription price of \$5.00 per year. Checks should be made payable to Warioto Audubon Chapter. Please notify us of any CHANGE OF ADDRESS, as this Newsletter is sent by bulk mail and cannot be forwarded.

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

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

**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:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks payable to National Audubon Society and send this coupon and your check to  
National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 51005, Boulder, Colorado 80323-1005

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