



WARIOTO WARBLER



CLARKSVILLE NATIONAL AUDUBON CHAPTER

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 9

JUNE 2007

WARIOTO AT A GLANCE

NO MEETING OR FIELD TRIP IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE. Watch for the July newsletter announcing details for the annual July picnic as well as results from the spring bird count.

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

JULY POTLUCK PICNIC

The date and location for the annual July Potluck Picnic has not been determined. Scheduling conflicts at Dunbar Cave SNA may prevent us from using that location this year. Watch for information in the July newsletter.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, Joe Schiller

This week the wealthy industrialized countries of the world will meet in Germany for their annual G8 summit. This year the G8 is chaired by German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Like Tony Blair, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, who was last year's chair, she is running into a brick wall in trying to obtain any kind of meaningful commitment from the Bush administration to agree to effective greenhouse gas reduction targets. Without participation by the US, Japan is unwilling to commit. One difference this year is the presence of a bipartisan congressional committee led by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. I guess this represents some progress, but the administration position demonstrates once again that it will have to be forced, kicking and screaming into any meaningful action to avert global catastrophe. This means **you** will have to engage your congressional delegation on the issue and urge them to craft legislation the fills the leadership breach so conspicuously absent from the administration.

"Saving the world is not a spectator sport." Lester Brown

PROGRAM REPORT

May Program Review - Duane Rice continues his April program by leading a small group of members in building bluebird boxes. Sarah Johnson had pre-cut the wood for the boxes and she supplied screws, etc. for their construction. Unfortunately, Sarah was not able to attend the meeting. The group put together five boxes that will be deployed at Port Royal State Park. It was a lot of fun as we shared stories and fumble through the carpentry.

NO JUNE PROGRAM.

SPRING BIRD COUNT, MAY 12

The spring count was held on an absolutely beautiful day. I will report the results of this year's count in the July newsletter.

FIELD TRIP REPORT, Daniel Moss

In lieu of a June field trip, Daniel has forward the following information on the Southeastern Nightjar Survey.

Southeastern U.S. Nightjar Survey Network

A region-wide network of conservation minded citizens working together to improve our understanding of the population distribution and trends of Whip-poor-wills and Chuck-will's Widows.

The Whip-poor-will and Chuck-will's Widow are two of the most enigmatic birds in North America. Very little is known on basic aspects of their biology, habitat use, and population status due to their cryptically nocturnal lifestyle.

In recent years, conservationists and the general public have come to share a general sense that populations of these Nightjars are dramatically declining. However, prior to this program, there was no widespread, long term monitoring strategy to gather vital population information. Gaining an understanding on the precise magnitude and scale of population changes are critical if we are to plot a course for conservation.

The Southeastern Nightjar Survey is a new and powerful annual monitoring strategy, coordinated by The Center for Conservation Biology, to collect information on population distribution and trends of Whip-poor-wills and Chuck-will's Widows over large regions. Nightjar survey routes are distributed throughout ten southeastern US states including; Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. The success of this program relies entirely on volunteer participation.

Nocturnal behaviors of Whip-poor-wills and Chuck-will's Widows are influenced strongly by moonlight. Activities such as calling and foraging increase under bright moonlight conditions and it is thought that breeding may actually be timed with the lunar schedule. We have designed protocols for this survey to take advantage of these behaviors by conducting surveys only during bright moonlit nights so detection rates will be higher and more consistent.

The Southeastern Nightjar Survey is easy to perform and will not take much more than one hour to complete. It is conducted like the USGS Breeding Bird Survey except for special modifications to accommodate Nightjars. Volunteers conduct roadside counts at night, when the moon is equal or greater than 50 % illuminated, by driving and stopping at 10 points along a predetermined 9-mile route. At each point, the observer counts all Whip-poor-wills or Chuck-will's Widows heard or seen during a 6-minute period. No artificial broadcast of the species call is used.

Please consider adopting a Nightjar Survey Route, your participation is key to the success of the program. To get involved click here.

<http://www.ccb-wm.org/nightjar/nightjar.htm>

CONSERVATION LETTER, Joe Schiller

Every spring the good people working on eliminating mountaintop removal mining go to Washington DC to lobby congress on the issue. One of their main legislative goals is passage of the Clean Water Protection Act (H.R. 2169) sponsored by congressman Frank Palone and Christopher Shays. This year, 16 new cosponsors were recruited onto the bill bringing the total to 77. Unfortunately, congressman Jim Cooper remains the lone Tennessee cosponsor. Please keep the pressure on other Tennessee representatives to join in cosponsoring this vital legislation. Here is a web site where you can learn more and take action: <http://www.appvoices.org/index.php?/mtr/cwpa/>

SPRING FLING AT DUNBAR CAVE

Spring Fling was a great success again this year. It was sponsored by Warioto Audubon, Friends of Dunbar Cave, the Clarksville Chapter of Tennessee Trails Association and TWRA. While there was a slight bit of early (pre-program) rain, the day turned out to be absolutely beautiful and attendance was very good.

DUANE RICE RECOGNIZED FOR BLUEBIRD WORK

Duane Rice, a local Audubon leader, was recognized for his work in bluebird conservation. The certificate of appreciation, awarded at Dunbar Cave SNA's Spring Fling, was given to Duane by Polly Rooker, Non-game Biologist for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Recently Duane had given a program at the Warioto Audubon meeting and also had given a program at Spring Fling.



The following description was written to Polly by Duane's wife Neta. It describes how he became interested in and impassioned by bluebirds.

Duane's interest in birds began at a young age. His mother is an avid birdwatcher and introduced him to their wonders. As with most youngsters however, he did not develop this interest until later in life. So you never know when something like a little talk at Dunbar Cave might spark a lifelong interest later.

He started "watching" birds in the 1980's during walks at Radnor Lake, etc. Duane's passion for and work with bluebirds began to develop when we moved from the city to our current address at Knox Road in 1998. He started with one to three houses on our property, and we now have eight. He was so excited about the opportunity to attract bluebirds to our yard that he put up a house the first day we moved in and got its first visitor the next morning. What joy!!!

After caring for our little blue friends for several years, he became concerned that it would become increasingly difficult for them to overcome, on their own, such threats as house sparrows and other predators. It became his passion to help bluebird numbers continue to increase. It was during the late 1990's that he became involved with the Tennessee Bluebird Trails group; and also began reporting bluebird data to the Cornell Ornithological group. His love for all birds, but especially bluebirds, continues through today as you know.

His vision for a bluebird trail in essence began in 2003 when he had a chance meeting with Eugene Albright who lived within a few miles of our home. Eugene had some farm land with several bluebird houses along his fence line. He was gracious and very happy to have Duane monitor his houses. Later that same year he approached Mr. and Mrs. McNeese who lived in our area as well and asked to monitor their houses too. They also were happy to let him do so. These people have become special friends to Duane over the years, and share in his love of the bluebirds. The success and inspiration of their houses along with ours gave him the desire to pursue the vision of a trail further. It was in 2005 that his dream of a bluebird trail from our home to Clarksville was realized. In February of 2005 he sent letters to those in that area who already had bluebird houses on their property and within the next month two others had joined in, bringing the landlord count to five. Then in April of 2005 he approached Wal-Mart about sponsoring the portion of the trail at Rotary Park, they accepted, and the trail was begun in earnest. By the end of 2005 there were eight landlords, including him, with a total of 34 houses.

When our daughter Carrie asked him why he wanted to do this he responded, "Because I love you, and I love the birds. I'd like for them to be around to share with future generations to enjoy and appreciate."

As of 2007, the trail now has 13 landlords, including Rotary Park, with 58 houses providing homes for our favorite cavity nesters. He devotes numerous hours throughout the nesting season; and indeed all year by planning for the next season. I can't even begin to count how many hours he invests. He does everything from monitoring, cleaning out old nests, repairing and putting up boxes, installing predator



baffles, to documenting data for Cornell. Duane is now also moving into the realm of educating others about bluebirds through lectures, and has received very favorable responses from those efforts.

Not only have the bluebirds been blessed by his presence, efforts, and devotion; but he has as well. This love of God's little creatures has brought him into contact with many people that he would not have otherwise known. His winning personality coupled with his passion for birds has enriched the nature in our area and formed lasting friendships; all of which will prosper many blessings for years to come.

Thank you for recognizing his dedication.

Neta Rice

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ARTICLES AND INFORMATION FOR THE JULY NEWSLETTER ARE DUE 18 JUNE.
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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Make Checks payable to National Audubon Society and send this coupon and your check to
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