



# WARIOTO WARBLER



## CLARKSVILLE NATIONAL AUDUBON CHAPTER

VOLUME 38, NUMBER 6

MARCH 2007

### WARIOTO AT A GLANCE

**REGULAR MEETING:** Thurs., March 1, 7:30 p.m., Sundquist Science Bldg, conference room, D126, APSU.

**PROGRAM:** "Spring Wildflower Slide Show" with Nita Heilman of Warioto Audubon and Nashville TOS.

**HOSPITALITY:** Debbie and Steve Hamilton will provide refreshments following the program.

**FIELD TRIP:** March 17 to Haynes Bottom Wildlife Mgmt. Area with Polly Rooker leading. Meet in the 8<sup>th</sup> St. parking lot on the APSU campus. Departure at **8:30 a.m.** See details below

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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.apsu.edu/schillers/Audubon/Warioto_Chapter.htm)

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, Joe Schiller

Every president's letter I compose starts out with last year's letter for the same month. This not only provides me with a convenient template to facilitate composing the letter, but it also provides a little perspective. It turns out this year I could probably have recycled last year's letter unedited. We had a little snow on the Great Back Yard bird count last year and I reported "the cold snowy weather should have been a real boon to the feeder counts, but not so good for counting vultures." I also went on to comment on how rare snow seems to have become around here lately. Guess I spoke a little too soon. While the weather and bird counting conditions may have been similar last year, the political landscape could not have been much different (see the Conservation Letter below).

wildlife and habitat. She gave us a wonderful mix of information and statistics from Audubon and other sources as well as her personal experiences and feelings. Her stories and passion were a great inspiration that she used throughout her presentation to encourage us and show us all that we can help to protect these important natural areas and their inhabitants! Taldi will be sending us more information to be sure that we all have copies of the information she had available that night.

### FIELD TRIP REPORT

The field trip to Radnor Lake Schedule for February 17 was cancelled due to poor weather.

**March 17** – Polly Rooker will lead a field trip to **TWRA's Haynes Bottom Wildlife Management Area** in western Montgomery County. Plan to meet in the Eighth Street parking lot and depart the APSU campus at **8:30 a.m.** The trip will conclude **NO LATER** than 1:00 p.m. The outing will be primarily riding, stopping, looking and listening with a minimum of walking. So, everyone should make a special effort to participate in this field trip.

**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!

### PROGRAM REPORT, Sarah Johnson

#### March Program:

One of our members, **Nita Heilman**, will be presenting a **slide show and talk about spring wildflowers**. She will focus mostly on middle Tennessee species that occur in a river bottom or on bluffs. She also may include a few mountain species. This will be an excellent way for everyone to prepare for the spring wildflower season that will soon be upon us! Please invite any of your family and friends who are interested in learning more about spring wildflowers – this is a great opportunity to learn about all those early bloomers you may find on your land or when you take your first spring hike this year!

#### February Program Review:

**From the Black Oystercatcher to Black Gold: Challenges and Opportunities in Alaska.** Taldi Walters, Alaska Field Coordinator, from National Audubon Society's Washington DC Policy Office, gave a fantastic presentation to a crowded room last month. She did a meticulous job providing us with great information before and throughout her program. Taldi did an excellent job putting together her slideshow by using each slide as launching point. With each one full of vivid photographs, she could explain in great detail and with infectious enthusiasm the importance of protecting Alaska's

### CONSERVATION LETTER, Joe Schiller

Two weeks ago, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released the first in a series of several reports it will publish this year. While we here at Audubon have been convinced of the reality of global warming, as have almost all serious close observers of nature, for some time, the just released IPCC report

no longer leaves any room for skepticism. They said in very direct language that it is a certainty that human caused global warming is and will continue happening. While almost all reasonable people accept the IPCC report (and even some unreasonable people), it is obvious to me that most people have not yet really come to terms with the implications of that reality. Just today I was reading a Los Angeles Times report about rising sea levels in the Bay of Bengal ([Climate Change Lap's at Bangladesh's Shores](#), Henry Chu, February 21, 2007) and its effects on Bangladeshi farmers. The report stated "If sea levels continue to rise at their present rate, by the time Biswas, 35, retires from his job as a teacher, the only home he has known will be swamped, overrun by the ocean with the force of an unstoppable army." If that statement sounds alarmist to you, you might be surprised to learn that it is actually understated. The fact is, the ocean *is* going to rise at least that much as a result of the climate warming and thermal expansion of sea water already built into the global climate system as a result of our current carbon dioxide emissions. The use of the word "if" by the reporter illustrates that the urgency of the situation has not completely registered and there is still an element of unjustified optimism in his report. If you remove all the "ifs" from the report, then what it really says is (I paraphrase):

When sea level rises by a foot, probably around 2040, 12% of Bangladesh's 150 million people will have been rendered homeless. When sea level rises 3 feet, probably around the end of the century, 25% of Bangladesh, which is about the size of Iowa, will be submerged, and 30 million, mostly very poor farmers displaced.

Similar scenarios will play out in low-lying areas around the world, including, but not limited to the Mekong, Nile, and Mississippi Deltas, and thousands of low lying islands. In almost all of these places the overwhelming majority of the climate refugees will be very poor, will have contributed very little to causing global warming, and will have received almost none of the benefits. Americans on the other hand, have caused most of the global warming (>25%), and have benefitted the most by achieving one of the highest standards of living in the entire history of humanity. Americans will not escape all the painful consequences, but our wealth may help us mitigate some of them. In the coming months, years, and decades as we implement policies to avert global catastrophe (yes, the appropriate word *is* catastrophe) we will be asked to sacrifice a little in the form of slightly more expensive cars, homes, and appliances that reduce greenhouse gas production. As we debate whether to do these things, self-serving, opportunistic politicians will certainly try to make political hay out of the "unfair sacrifices" being asked of Americans. When this happens, and it almost certainly will, please remember the sacrifices that Biswas and millions of poor people around the world have already been condemned to make no matter what we do. Also remember the scenario I describe above is the optimistic one; if we do not respond quickly and effectively, it **will** be much worse!

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### **WHOOPERS WEEPING FOLLOWING WILD WEATHER**

Perhaps having fun with the vernacular name of *Grus americana*, the Whooping Crane, is inappropriate after the recent news from Florida. In fact, many of us were dismayed to hear about the loss of 17 of the 18 chicks from the "Class of 2006." These birds were killed in storms that ravaged central Florida in the late hours of

February 1 and the early hours of February 2. Per first-year protocols, the chicks were kept in pens to help protect the naive birds from predation. Unfortunately, the enclosures could not protect them from these severe storms that also killed several Florida residents and caused millions of dollars in damage. The cause of death for these young birds remains to be discovered, but I find the following on the Operation Migration web page, <http://www.operationmigration.org/> (go to the "In the Field" link on the left or "field journal" link to the right).

We wanted to let you know that the deaths of the chicks in the Class of 2006 is being investigated. All the remains have been collected for freezing, pending necropsy. At this point the cause of their demise is still unknown, although either a wind driven tidal surge, or lightning strikes reported nearby are suspected.

Of course, there was much celebration when they learned that one bird, #615 had survived and is now keeping company with Sandhill Cranes. To support recovery from this loss and help in development of the Class of 2007, there is a "Remember the Class of 2006" campaign <http://www.operationmigration.org/rememberingclass06.html>

This catastrophe highlights the need to continue efforts in restoring populations of America's tallest bird. It is my view that additional flocks need to be established in other locations. Because the existing flocks are either residents in or migrate to Gulf Coastal areas, they are vulnerable to severe weather in the form of hurricanes and severe thunderstorms with tornado and severe winds. Of course, this has been a goal since recovery efforts began with the Port Aransas flock. The success with the eastern flock now wintering in Florida demonstrates that the rearing and migration training techniques using ultra light aircraft is a workable solution for restoring new migratory flocks of this majestic bird. Of course, if you have read Joe's Conservation Letter, you realize that all coastal populations are increasing and inevitably going to be affected by rising ocean levels. Along with rising sea levels, global climate change models also predict more severe weather such as more and increased intensity of hurricanes and severe thunderstorms.

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### **NESTWATCH FACILITATORS CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP**

**Hosted by: Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology with:  
Caldwell County Elementary School  
Kentucky Division of Forestry, Pennyriple Forest  
Kentucky Environmental Education Projects (KEEP) Inc.**

**Location:** Western Kentucky – Pennyriple Forest Nursery  
Headquarters near Pennyriple Forest State Resort Park seven miles  
south of Dawson Springs, KY

**When:** March 10, 2007 Workshop time: 9 am – 3 pm

Participants will be instructed on how to facilitate training for groups and individuals on the use of the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's (CLO) new NestWatch citizen science project and interactive data entry site. NestWatch is a unique opportunity for individuals, students, and groups to collect and enter data via the Internet in order to document bird-nesting biology. Information

collected will become part of a large national database available for researchers, students and individuals to view and explore.

The new NestWatch web site is a work in progress. Workshop participants will help shape the site for future use. For more NestWatch information visit:

[http://www.birds.cornell.edu/Publications/Birdscope/Summer2006/nest\\_egg.html](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/Publications/Birdscope/Summer2006/nest_egg.html)

Ms. Tina Phillips, CLO will facilitate hands-on NestWatch sessions. Ms. Phillips will also introduce newly developed teaching materials from BirdSleuth, the Lab's newest inquiry-based curriculum. Ed Ray, Director, Kentucky Environmental Education Projects (KEEP) Inc./Ky Bluebird Society VP-Education Director and Tammie Sanders, Caldwell County Elementary School teacher will present KY Bluebirds and Ospreys -Education Opportunities. Jim Bryan, Forester, will lead a field event featuring forests management practices beneficial to wildlife.

Workshop includes: Nest Watch Training Materials, CLO NestWatch Trainer Certificate, opportunities to learn about and participate in KEEP, Inc. and Ky Bluebird Society projects, a woodland hike introducing forestry habitat management practices, breakfast and lunch and dorm style rooms for participants traveling long distances (bring a sleeping bag).

There is no charge for participants but pre-registration is required. To register by February 25, 2007 or for more information please e-mail:

Tammie Sanders at [tammie.sanders@caldwell.kyschools.us](mailto:tammie.sanders@caldwell.kyschools.us) or Ed Ray at [edrayosprey@yahoo.com](mailto:edrayosprey@yahoo.com)

## 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** \_\_\_\_\_

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**WARIOTO AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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**ARTICLES AND INFORMATION FOR THE APRIL NEWSLETTER ARE DUE 23 MARCH.**  
MAIL TO: Steve Hamilton, 290 Ardmoor Dr., Clarksville, TN 37043 or *hamiltonsw@apsu.edu*