



WARIOTO WARBLER



CLARKSVILLE NATIONAL AUDUBON CHAPTER

VOLUME 39, NUMBER 7

APRIL 2008

WARIOTO AT A GLANCE

REGULAR MEETING: Thurs., April 3, 7:30 p.m., Sundquist Science Bldg, conference room, D126, APSU.

PROGRAM: State of Tennessee's Birds, by Scott Somershoe, TWRA State Ornithologist

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

Its spring wildflower and warbler time in Tennessee again. This Saturday, March 28, the APSU student chapter of the Wildlife Society is participating in a "Bioblitz" in Ashland City. It should be a fine day to come out and look for birds, flowers, and every other living thing you can find and identify. Here are directions to the **Cumberland River Bicentennial Trail** where the blitz is happening.

To Bicentennial Trail from Clarksville

Take N Riverside Dr./ US-41A Bypass/TN-12/ TN-13/ TN-76. Make a RIGHT onto Ashland City Rd/ TN-12. Continue to follow TN-12 for approximately 21 miles and turn right on Chapmansboro Road. This will be the last right before you get to the "Welcome to Ashland City" sign. (There is another Chapmansboro Rd. on your right approximately 6 miles before you get to the second. Do not take this one.) There will be a small sign indicating Sycamore Creek Recreational Area and the main entrance to the trail will be on your right-hand side.

PROGRAM: STATE OF TENNESSEE'S BIRDS

Scott Somershoe, TWRA State Ornithologist, will discuss a series of topics about the "State of Tennessee's Birds." First, he will briefly discuss research that he has conducted in Louisiana, what he learned, and how he is making changes in point counts across Tennessee.

He is using point counts to specifically ask questions about management impacts on birds. Second, he will discuss results of Mid-winter Bald Eagle surveys conducted across Tennessee since 1986. Third, he will summarize a series of bird projects for birds in Tennessee, including Henslow's Sparrows, eagle and Osprey monitoring, and a statewide Wading Bird survey in 2008. He will also show preliminary results of an analysis of the effects of the April 2007 freeze on birds detected on point counts. Finally, he will share some pictures of some birds of the Rio Grande River valley, including two particularly rare species that he observed on a recent trip there.

CONSERVATION LETTER, Joe Schiller

One of the most interesting trends to develop in the movement to reduce global warming is the campaign to stop building new coal fired power plants. This week a new battle in this effort was joined when governor Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas vetoed a state

energy bill that was crafted by state legislators specifically to skirt the denial of a permit to build two huge new coal burning power plants in western Kansas. The bill was meant to override the state environmental agency's ruling that denied the permit for the new plants. Some sort of compromise may eventually be reached, but it does not appear that the legislature has the votes to override the veto. Hopefully November's elections will strengthen the governor's position. If this happens one can safely conclude that public determination to act on global warming has arrived in the heartland. Various sources estimate that more than 40 planned coal fired power plants have been canceled or delayed because of growing public recognition that building all these plants will make it exceedingly difficult to achieve meaningful reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Meanwhile, several "global warming" bills are pending in the US congress. While they vary in their approach, everyone of them seeks to place a price on carbon which will further shift the economic advantages from coal to other fuels for generating electricity, including renewable energy. The US congress is also considering legislation to extend the tax incentives for renewable energy production and it is critical that they do so ASAP. These tax incentives would result in the creation of tens of thousands of high paying "green collar jobs at a time when our economy is teetering on the edge of recession. Both Tennessee senators could provide pivotal votes on these bills if they can be persuaded to support them. While Senator Alexander has been hostile to wind energy, he has been supportive of solar and other renewables. I do not think Senator Corker has established much of a voting record on these issues yet. Please consider writing both our senators to ask them to support this legislation. A separate letter on each bill would be best.

AUDUBON OFFICER NOMINATION

See the March Warioto Warbler for 08-09 chapter nominees <http://www.apsu.edu/schillers/Audubon/NewsLetters/2008%20MARCH.pdf>. Since that newsletter, Barbara Wilbur has been nominated for the position of president. Additional nominations from the membership are welcome. Elections will be held by voice vote at the May 1 meeting.

GO DARK FOR BIRDS AND GLOBAL WARMING

Earth Hour, which originated last year in Sydney, Australia, is now a global event. For one hour on Saturday, March 29, everyone is asked to turn off their lights from 8-9:00 pm local time. Audubon is already doing its part through our Lights Out

programs. Lights Out encourages building owners to turn off their lights to help birds avoid building collisions during migration, which account for millions of birds deaths each year. Saving energy and reducing greenhouse gas pollution responsible for global warming is icing on the cake. You can find out more about Lights Out at --

http://audubonaction.org/ct/Gps783M1UXqP/lights_out.

Cities, communities, neighborhoods, and families around the world will join in literally turning off the lights for one hour to raise awareness about global warming and to press for action and solutions now. As part of this campaign, lights will be turned off at iconic buildings and national landmarks around the world, and local businesses and restaurants are also encouraged to turn off their lights. So, light a few candles and enjoy an hour without electric lights. For more information on how you can help us win the fight to reduce global warming pollution, contact audubonaction@audubon.org.

IMPORTANT NEWS ITEM AS WE GO TO PRESS, Joe Schiller

Some important legislation, House Bill 3348 and Senate Bill 3822 slipped in completely under my radar. It is currently in the senate environment and conservation subcommittee. I can't believe I did not hear of it sooner. If this bill survives, it will represent a dramatic improvement to the mining situation at present in Tennessee. Although I have not read the complete bill, and the devil is always in the details, it appears this bill would reassert the 100' Stream Buffer Zone in Tennessee and prohibit any new surface mining until a new comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). It also seems to prohibit mountaintop Removal and "cross ridge" mining in Tennessee, but I will need to check on the details of this. There is also a potential loophole in the form of the variance to allow surface mining "to improve the quality of streams previously disturbed by mining." You would be amazed at what some people consider an improvement in the quality of streams. Regardless, this bill certainly deserves strong support and I intend to contact Senator Kurita immediate and thank her for cosponsoring it and encourage her to try to get it passed. I would urge everyone to do the same for their State Representatives and Senators whether they are cosponsors or not.

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

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. Please notify us of any CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

ARTICLES AND INFORMATION FOR THE MAY NEWSLETTER ARE DUE 18 APRIL.

MAIL TO: Steve Hamilton, 3040 Snardon Mill Rd., Allensville, KY 42204 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:

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

**V51
7XCH**