



WARIOTO WARBLER



CLARKSVILLE NATIONAL AUDUBON CHAPTER

VOLUME 40, NUMBER 4

DECEMBER 2008

WARIOTO AT A GLANCE

REGULAR MEETING: Thurs., Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m., Sundquist Science Bldg, conference room, D126, APSU.

PROGRAM: "Corps of Engineers Water Management in the Cumberland River Basin" by Mr. Richard Tippit, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

FIELD TRIP: A trip to Radnor Lake State Natural Area, Saturday, December 13. Meet in the APSU's 8th St. lot at 7:00 a.m. or meet us near the park visitors center at about 8:00.

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, Barbara Wilbur

Since most of us are "outdoorsy," the idea of "No Child Left Inside" may seem a bit strange to us. But, I recently attended an interesting lecture in Nashville by author Richard Louv who wrote *Last Child in the Woods*. For this volume he received the 2008 Audubon Medal. From a body of studies he concludes direct exposure to nature is essential for a child's healthy physical and emotional development. And, the most recent studies indicate there is a growing body of evidence linking the lack of nature in children's lives to the rise in obesity, attention disorders and depression.

Some of Louv's comments can be taken to heart by our Audubon chapter. His suggestions for helping get children outside included: (1) help green your city; (2) protect open space; (3) provide wildlife opportunities and encourage teenagers to volunteer; (4) help naturalize parks; (5) as a conservation organization provide outdoor opportunities for children and youth; (6) provide speakers/presenters for various organizations promoting the idea of getting children outside. The list goes on.

Additional information is available at the following website, <http://richardlovu.com>, or you might like to check out his blog, *Field Notes from the Future*. Plus, I'll be glad to lend my volume of *Last Child in the Woods*.

The discussion was unbelievably distressing to me, the environmental conservation teacher of yesteryear. But then, when I look around at many of today's children and the untold hours spent in front of television, the computer, and electronic games, I have to acknowledge that "times have certainly changed."

All this to say that we, the Warioto Audubon chapter, have a challenge, a mission if we care to accept it. Let's seriously think, work on a way to reach at least some of these children and get them outside! Are you willing to help? What do you suggest?

All officers: Please bring your copy of the chapter by-laws to the December meeting. We will briefly discuss some items.

CHAPTER PROGRAMS, Kathy DeWein

Last month: Scott Somershoe, TWRA state ornithologist, gave an update on the status of Bald Eagles in Tennessee. While the numbers are confusing he plans to sort out the data for future reports. He also showed a Watchable Wildlife website that he is developing. The site will help new as well as seasoned birders with identification issues. He concluded his program with a visit to Sian Ka'an's biosphere. Those in attendance saw some brilliant colors of the Neotropical birds in the area. He also breached the issue of tourist over-loving the area and causing some ecological damage. Trash from cruise ships litters the beaches in the area causing damage to the nearby reefs. Over-development to ensure the local economy also has an impact on the local environment. The possibility of starting "Lights Out" in Tennessee was also discussed. Simply turning out light at night during migration can save bird window impact deaths of the migrants not to mention energy costs. Of course, the meal was outstandingly delicious! Thanks to all who attended and contributed to the success of our annual potluck banquet.

December Program: Richard Tippit will present a program entitled "Corps of Engineers Water Management in the Cumberland River Basin." Richard is a biologist for the Corp in the water management section. He also does field days at the Corp's dam sites for school in their area. He will tell us how the water conservation program helps birds in the area.

Upcoming programs:

February: Blaine Hyle, Certified Wildlife Biologist with USDA Wildlife Services will talk about protecting endangered species.

FIELD TRIPS, Chris O'Bryan

Our next field trip is schedule for **December 13th**. This trip will be to **Radnor Lake** in Nashville. It is our hope to observe some wintering avifauna at this state natural area. The park provides a great variety of habitats including a lake, riparian and mature upland woods. This will be a great "tune-up" for the Christmas bird count. Please join us at **7am** at the 8th Street parking lot adjacent to the Sundquist Science Complex of APSU.

AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT JANUARY 3

'We are in dire need of counters! Please donate one day a year for the birds!!' - Debbie Hamilton

Because of the window of opportunity is *Sunday, December 14, 2008 to Monday, January 5, 2009*, the only Saturdays were December 20, 27 or **January 3**. Chapter leaders selected the latter. This will be Warioto Audubon 38th Christmas Bird Count (CBC). For the National Audubon Society it's 109 CBC! If you are not familiar 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 [Audubon 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: [CBCDocumentationSpeciesTN](#). Debbie Hamilton is the CBC coordinators this year. If you have any questions or wish to help in any way with this special chapter event, please call Debbie at hamiltond@apsu.edu.

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 prowling" 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. See [APSU campus map](#) for assistance in locating the building and the parking lot.

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 January 3**. (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 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 31 through Tuesday, January 6**. If they were not seen on count day, they will be added to the count as a "count week" record.

Links:

Audubon CBC - <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html>
CBCDocumentationSpeciesTN - <http://iweb.tntech.edu/sstedman/CBCDocumentationSpeciesTN.htm>
APSU campus map - <http://www.apsu.edu/map/>

CONSERVATION LETTER, Joe Schiller

Joe will be back with you in the February newsletter. Be assured that he is happy about the outcome of the national elections but disappointed, at least in part, about some local outcomes. -- Editor.

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 _____

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City _____, State _____ Zip _____

Make Checks payable to National Audubon Society and send this coupon and your check to
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7XCH

**WARIOTO AUDUBON SOCIETY
C/O STEVE HAMILTON, EDITOR
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ARTICLES AND INFORMATION FOR THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER ARE DUE 19 JANUARY.

MAIL TO: Steve Hamilton, 3040 Snardon Mill Rd., Allensville, KY 42204 or *hamiltonsw@apsu.edu*