



# WARIOTO WARBLER



## CLARKSVILLE NATIONAL AUDUBON CHAPTER

VOLUME 39, NUMBER 5

FEBRUARY 2008

### WARIOTO AT A GLANCE

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

**PROGRAM:** "Wildlife and Nature Photography: Going Digital" presented by Larry Safko, of Third Eye Photography, Clarksville.

**FIELD TRIP:** No field trip has been planned, in lieu of our participation in the "Great Back Yard 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*

This month is an important one for the environment. It is very possible that by the end of the month the Democratic and Republican candidates for President will have been determined by the primary elections. On the democratic side, both Senator Clinton and Senator Obama each have good environmental voting records and strong environmental policy positions. On the Republican side, Senator McCain is clearly a better friend to the environment than Mitt Romney. Senator McCain has voted against drilling for oil in ANWR as well as cosponsoring strong (at the time) global warming legislation with Sen. Joe Lieberman. Please use your right and privilege to vote to make a difference for the environment.

This year's Great Back Yard Bird Count will take place Feb. 15-18. To participate all you have to do is to watch birds for at least fifteen minutes and count the greatest number of individual birds you see in each species. You can count in as many places as you like, and you can count on each of the four days of the count. You can do this alone, with friends, or even throw a count party. You can just count the birds in your own backyard, or walk around your neighborhood, or go to any number of birdy places to count.

### *PROGRAM, Steve Hamilton*

I have asked Larry Safko of Third Eye Photography to speak to us about use of digital equipment in nature photography. Later this month, Feb. 23, Larry will give a digital photography class. If you don't know Larry Safko for his fine nature photos, you may know him from his fascinating "Toadal Vision" show at the Customs House Museum. Please join us for what will be an interesting and informative presentation.

### *POSTPONED CBC TALLIES 65 SPECIES, Debbie Hamilton*

Warioto Audubon had 15 participants involved in the field count and 3 feeder-counters on a mostly sunny, but chilly day. This count, the 108<sup>th</sup> CBC, was our chapter's 37<sup>th</sup>. The number of hours spent counting was equal to the average (53 party hours for

the last 10 years), but the number of species (65) was down compared to the average for the last 10 years (71). While the number of species was low, it was not as lowest in a recent counts. The 102<sup>nd</sup> CBC in 2001 recorded only 63 species. (A detailed list will be provided next month).

The weather was very cooperative on December 29. It was a chilly day (high = 44°F) which would cause the birds to be on the move seeking food, but a mostly sunny day so visibility was great. However, for whatever reason, we didn't find several species that we normally expect such as Wood Duck, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Brown Thrasher. Golden-Crowned Kinglet and Brown Creeper have been counted on every one of the past 36 counts making it really odd not to count even one this year.

Having a group of counters in a boat was a nice addition to this CBC. We want to thank Larry Safko and Logan Snyder for enduring some very chilly conditions on the Cumberland River. They counted two mature bald eagles among others. Also, a particularly large section of the count with probably the best birding in the count circle was covered by only two people which probably helped to account for the lower than normal number of species (65) and a relatively low number of individual birds.

Cedar Waxwings might be a good indicator that weather conditions had not been severe enough in the north to drive the large flocks south. They were especially low on this count with only 6 reported.

We should be proud of our Warioto chapter for being one of the few counts in Tennessee that has counted consistently for 37 years. We gained 5 new counters this year and we hope that they will continue to participate. It is important that we add on to the core bunch of field counters and keep our contribution to the CBC alive and well.

Field counters were Suva Bastin, Elaine Foust, Debbie & Steve Hamilton, Sandy Janus, Gloria & Bill Milliken, Daniel Moss, Mike O'Malley, Duane Rice, Polly Rooker, Larry Safko, Joe Schiller, Paul Schwab, Logan Snyder, and Barbara Wilbur. Sally Schiller, Kathy DeWein and Nita Heilman contributed through feeder counts.

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**CONSERVATION LETTER, Joe Schiller**

During the last week of January, a nationwide event called "Focus the Nation" was launched. Two APSU student groups Students Organized to Advance Renewable Energy and XEM (the Chemistry society) sponsored two events. A screening of a live webcast called the 2% solution, a nationwide discussion of global warming solutions, and a discussion between APSU students and state Senator Rosalind Kurita about how students can get involved in promoting environmental legislation in the Tennessee Legislature. Unfortunately, the web cast drew so much interest that the host web server was overwhelmed and we were not able to view the live program. Anyone interested in viewing this program can still do so on earth day television at: <http://www.earthdaytv.net/>. The next day we awoke to sleet, snow and rain that resulted in the closing of the university and cancellation of Sen. Kurita's event so we are looking at a possible time to reschedule. Keep an eye on the news for an

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announcement. The goal of both of these events is to raise the issue of global warming in the current presidential campaign. You can advance this goal as well by raising the issue with the presidential campaigns, the media (letters to the editor), and your state elected officials.

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**THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT**

As "President for Life" Schiller mentioned, the Great Backyard Bird Count is held Presidents' Day weekend, February 15-18 (Friday to Monday). In lieu of a field trip this month, we are throwing our support behind participation in the GBBC. For detail on the GBBC participation please visit the website <<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/press>> and follow the procedures given there. This site is also used to submit your data. There is no local or state compiler. Also, this site will provide information on past results, ways of making this a family, school or group-type event. I know several local teachers have used this as an educational event.

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**ARTICLES AND INFORMATION FOR THE MARCH NEWSLETTER ARE DUE 18 FEBRUARY.**

**MAIL TO: Steve Hamilton, 290 Ardmoor Dr., Clarksville, TN 37043 or [hamiltonsw@apsu.edu](mailto: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.

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