



WARIOTO WARBLER



CLARKSVILLE NATIONAL AUDUBON CHAPTER

VOLUME 40, NUMBER 2

OCTOBER 2008

WARIOTO AT A GLANCE

REGULAR MEETING: Thurs., Oct. 2, 7:30 p.m., Sundquist Science Bldg, conference room, D126, APSU.

PROGRAM: "The Mountain Top Removal Roadshow" by Mr. Dave Cooper (<http://www.mountainroadshow.com/>)

REFRESHMENTS: The Schillers will provide refreshments following the program. How appropriate!

FIELD TRIP: **OCTOBER 25, Cross Creek NWR, Dover, TN;** meet in the APSU's 8th St. lot at 7:00 a.m. or meet us
Cross Creeks visitors center at about 7:45 - see information 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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, *Barbara Wilbur*

What a wonderful start to the new Audubon year!! Chris's Labor Day field trip with terrific participation; Andy's great presentation highlighting the cutting edge bat research occurring at Dunbar Cave; Elvira and Gene's super refreshments; enthusiastic meeting attendance and participation; and last, but certainly not least, a good rain! What more could one ask for?

Primary topics for discussion during the business meeting were - increased attendance and membership participation. And, the consensus was... YOU be sure to talk up Audubon; YOU bring a friend, or even two to the next meeting. YOU and I must let the community know what's going on in Audubon, and at the same time WE must keep tuned to local projects and endeavors; watch to see how we can mesh, connect.

There's MUCH to be done, so let's really get started. In spite of it all, we CAN make a difference!!

CHAPTER PROGRAMS, *Kathy DeWein*

"The Mountaintop Removal Road Show" – This month Mr. Dave Cooper will update us on the plight of mountaintop removal in Appalachian Mountains. Dave is a volunteer and presents his program on his own dime. He travels the state to let the public know about the mountaintop removal technique and its impact on the local inhabitant's homeland. We are sometime unconscious of how much personal cost we subject these people to by just simple overuse of electricity that we presently get from coal. His effort has spread throughout the state to increase the awareness of this method of coal retrieval and the many ecological and social pitfalls that have resulted from our dependence on coal for our energy needs. Learn more about the roadshow at www.mountainroadshow.com

Last month, Dr. Andy Barrass from Austin Peay's Center for Field Biology gave a wonderful update to our members on the current research being done on the human impact of the bat population at Dunbar Cave. There are still many questions about their survival and what we need to do to help them keep a viable population. His graduate students have recorded much data and this will help in the solution. We want to thank Dr. Barrass for all his time and effort in coming to our meeting and letting us know about these species plights.

Upcoming programs:

November Potluck Banquet - "Important Bird Areas and the Yucatan" by Mr. Scott Somershoe, State Ornithologist, TN Wildlife Resources Agency

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

FIELD TRIPS, *Chris O'Bryan*

It is my hope that everyone had a great summer and the beginning of autumn has treated you well! Our next field trip will be held at beautiful **Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge** located four miles east of Dover in Stewart County on Saturday, **October 25th**. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the refuge was established in 1962 as a result of mitigation proceedings with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers when a portion of the Kentucky Woodlands NWR was inundated with the creation of the Lake Barkley Project. Its primary purpose is to provide feeding and resting habitat for migratory birds with an emphasis placed on providing habitat for wintering waterfowl. This trip will give us a great opportunity to observe migrating waterfowl this time of year. We will meet at the 8th Street Parking Lot adjacent to the Sundquist Science Center of APSU at **7:00am**. Those who wish to meet at the visitors center at Cross Creeks are welcome to do so by 7:45am.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DILEMMA

Debbie Hamilton, CBC count compiler for our chapter reports that the Audubon CBC dates go from Sunday, December 14 through Monday, January 5. This means that counts are to be held on a day on or between those dates. A look at the calendar shows that the only Saturdays in the time frame are December 20 and 27 and January 3. That is five days before Christmas, 2 days after and two days after New Year's Day.

We will need to discuss this at the upcoming October meeting.

CONSERVATION LETTER, *Joe Schiller*

Elections are fast approaching. By the time you receive this newsletter you may be able to early vote. Your votes have never been more important. We have had eight years of failed federal leadership on virtually every environmental problem imaginable. It

is time for a change. Here in Tennessee, mountaintop removal and other environmentally destructive methods of strip mining are poised to wreak havoc on our mountains, forests, streams, and wildlife as well as greatly contribute to further global warming which will also harm all the Earth's ecosystems. This month's program will feature Dave Cooper, a person who has traveled the country extensively, working tirelessly for years to inform the American public about the horrors of mountaintop removal mining. Please attend this month's program to learn from one of the most knowledgeable sources how we can end mountaintop removal. We have a local champion working on this cause as well. Senator Rosalind Kurita cosponsored a bill in the Tennessee legislature this year that would have placed much tighter control on strip mining generally and on mountaintop removal mining in particular in Tennessee. Senator Kurita has been a faithful friend to the environment during her tenure and had the highest conservation voting score in the state Senate in 2007 and 2008 and was awarded the outstanding conservation legislator of the year award by the Tennessee Conservation Voters. As you may have heard, Senator Kurita won the Democratic Primary election by 19 votes but Democratic Party bosses have overturned that election result and named Tim Barnes as the Democratic Party candidate on the November ballot. Please consider showing Senator Kurita your gratitude for all the great work she has done in the past on behalf of Tennessee's environment by supporting her write-in candidacy in the November election.

BirdLife International just released its 2008 report "State of the World's Birds" and the news is very discouraging. Although the report covers all birds of the world, it also reports that 20 of the most common North American Birds have experienced population declines of 50% or more in the past 20 years. You may wish to visit BirdLife International's web site, [OVERVIEW State of the World's Birds](#), to explore the report in more detail. Here is a quick summary:

In 2002 the world's governments made a commitment to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. State of the world's birds provides a progress report, based on birds. The messages are mixed. We know more, and have identified clearer actions, than in even our last assessment in 2004. Global awareness of the issues and their urgency is growing. Yet the state of the world's biodiversity, reflected by its birds, is still getting worse – and faster than ever. Birds are sounding the alarm: it's time to listen, and make real and positive changes.

Since the year 1500, we have lost over 150 bird species – an extinction rate far higher than the natural background. Today, one in eight bird species is threatened with global extinction, with 190 species Critically Endangered, and Red List assessments show that things are getting worse. Particularly alarming are sharp declines in many formerly common and widespread species. This is a signal of wider environmental problems, and of the erosion of biodiversity as a whole.

Humans are responsible for the threats to birds. Expanding and intensifying agriculture and forestry destroy and degrade habitats. Inadequately managed fisheries, ever-spreading infrastructure, invasive alien species, pollution and overexploitation all pose serious problems. Climate change, with impacts already visible, may be the most serious threat of

all. These threats have deeper causes, rooted in our failure to accord wild nature its true value.

We can conserve birds and biodiversity – if we have the will. Global environmental commitments are in place but now must be realized. Though we are not yet investing nearly enough, effective conservation is easily affordable, and (given the benefits) a bargain. Moving forward we need to link biodiversity more clearly to people's livelihoods and well-being, to build constituencies for change, and to look after both key sites and the wider landscape. Birds are showing the way, and also helping us to keep track of progress.

On a different note, October is *National Solar Month*! Typically October is a bright and sunny month here in Tennessee, and provides a great time for enjoying our beautiful fall colors. This year there are many beautiful solar homes in Tennessee that are participating in the *National Tour of Solar Homes* sponsored by the *American Solar Energy Society* on Saturday October 7. You can find a listing of Tennessee tours at [National Solar Tour](#). While the Schillers are not officially participating in the tour this year, although we are always glad to welcome people to our house (still the only fully solar house in Clarksville that we are aware of).

P.S. And now for a little unrepentant self-promotion (actually, just a heads up). KilowattOurs, the documentary film by Jeff Barrie (with a minor part played by yours truly) that explores solutions to our energy crises will air on Nashville's WNPT at 7:00P October 24. Please tell all your friends and family to watch this excellent program. At the following web site you can find much more info: [find-kilowatt-ours-on-public-TV-near-you](#)

Complete web links for those receiving print version of newsletter:
<http://www.biodiversityinfo.org/sowb/default.php?r=sowbhome>
http://ases.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=221&Itemid=58
<http://kilowattours.org/blog/2008/09/19/find-kilowatt-ours-on-public-tv-near-you/>

JOIN THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT: Count for Fun, Count for the Future, Feb. 13-16, 2009

New York, NY and Ithaca, NY - Bird and nature fans throughout North America are invited to join tens of thousands of everyday bird watchers for the 12th annual **Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)**, February 13-16, 2009. A joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, this **free event** is an opportunity for families, students, and people of all ages to discover the wonders of nature in backyards, schoolyards, and local parks, and, at the same time, make an important contribution to conservation. Participants count birds and report their sightings online at www.birdcount.org.

"The Great Backyard Bird Count benefits both birds and people. It's a great example of citizen science: Anyone who can identify even a few species can contribute to the body of knowledge that is used to inform conservation efforts to protect birds and biodiversity," said Audubon Education VP, Judy Braus. "Families, teachers, children and all those who take part in GBBC get a chance to improve their observation skills, enjoy nature, and have a great time counting for fun, counting for the future."

Anyone can take part, from novice bird watchers to experts, by counting birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and reporting their sightings online at www.birdcount.org. Participants can also explore what birds others are finding in their backyards-whether in their own neighborhood or thousands of miles away. Additional online resources include tips to help identify birds, a photo gallery, and special materials for educators.

The data these “citizen scientists” collect helps researchers understand bird population trends, information that is critical for effective conservation. Their efforts enable everyone to see what would otherwise be impossible: a comprehensive picture of where birds are in late winter and how their numbers and distribution compare with previous years. In 2008, participants submitted more than 85,000 checklists.

“The GBBC has become a vital link in the arsenal of continent-wide bird-monitoring projects,” said Cornell Lab of Ornithology director, John Fitzpatrick. “With more than a decade of data now in hand, the GBBC has documented the fine-grained details of late-winter bird distributions better than any project in history, including some truly striking changes just over the past decade.”



Each year, in addition to entering their tallies, participants submit thousands of digital images for the GBBC photo contest. Many are featured in the popular online gallery. Participants in the 2009 count are also invited to upload their bird videos to YouTube; some will also be featured on the GBBC web site. Visit www.birdcount.org to learn more.

Businesses, schools, nature clubs, Scout troops, and other community organizations interested in the GBBC can contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at (800) 843-2473 (outside the U.S., call (607) 254-2473), or Audubon at citizenscience@audubon.org or (215) 355-9588, ext 16.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is made possible, in part, by support from **Wild Birds Unlimited**.

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**

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**WARIOTO AUDUBON SOCIETY
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ARTICLES AND INFORMATION FOR THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER ARE DUE 17 OCTOBER.

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