



WARIOTO WARBLER



CLARKSVILLE NATIONAL AUDUBON CHAPTER

VOLUME 40, NUMBER 9

June 2009

WARIOTO AT A GLANCE

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

PROGRAM: Janet Haase of Mission: Clarksville will show a film about and discuss the **Food Initiative** which is a community gardening concept involving teenagers. Weblink: <http://www.missionclarksville.org/7.html>

HOSPITALITY: Barbara Wilbur will provide light refreshments following the program.

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

How many of us ever thought we'd live to see a live, in the wild, Whooping Crane – **any where?** And, who ever dreamed we'd have the opportunity to watch Whooping Cranes leisurely feeding on crayfish just down the road in the Cumberland River flood plain of Davidson County? Many of us have visited Bell's Bend in Davidson County during the past two winters to view the majestic Whooping Cranes that have wintered there. Several of our members have visited the Bell's Bend Park with its solar-powered nature center, great hiking trails and picnic area. What a wonderful, unspoiled area with such a treasure trove of diverse nature! Some of us have met and talked with George West, a local landowner/sod farmer and turnip producer, who treasures the unspoiled, undeveloped, dead-end road community.

And now enter – the May Town Center, a multi-billion dollar development with shopping center, high rise hotel, office buildings and housing! Location? **Bell's Bend!**

Many of the residents are working hard to oppose the development, but most are not financially able to launch major opposition to the four billion dollar proposal. They have organized and are working diligently to fight the developer and consenting landowner. The latest efforts include the communities of Bell's Bend and Scottsboro organizing their Citizen Gardeners to form a Citizen Supported Agriculture (CSA) organization. There are currently three fairly large projects in progress: the Sulfur Creek Garden specializing in tomatoes, beans, squash and more; the Whooping Crane Garden with potatoes and onions, and Ellen's Melons and Berries that includes watermelons and pumpkins.

As neighbors we are being encouraged to lend a hand, voice our thoughts concerning this development. If you have not visited the area please do so at your earliest convenience. See for yourself what natural beauty and richness awaits you at the end (almost) of the road. Stop at the Nature Center, visit with Jill Neblett, a naturalist there who is the granddaughter of one of our founding members, Priscilla Weathersby. Get to know the area and know what stands to be lost by development.

Become personally acquainted with Bell's Bend and then – register your concerns. Visit the "Keep It Country" website at <http://www.bellsbend.org> for a list of addresses to write, or contact Amy Potter at apotter597@yahoo.com.

Let me close by extending a special, special thanks to all those who were so thoughtful following my fall and surgery! It is truly wonderful to have friends. Thank you so much!!

Additionally, thank you ever so much for your support this year in Audubon! We have such great members and it has been a pleasure to work with you this year. We have had a good year!

Finally, thanks to both the nominating committee for a job well done, as well as to those of you who agreed to serve as officers and directors next year. We have a great year ahead!

CHAPTER PROGRAMS, Kathy DeWein

June Program: Janet Haase of Mission: Clarksville will show a film about and discuss the **Food Initiative** which is a community gardening concept involving teenagers. Weblink: <http://www.missionclarksville.org/7.html>

Last month: Polly Rooker, Nongame Biologist for TWRA, gave a much appreciated report of the Loggerhead Shrike in Tennessee. She made it apparent that our mowing of habitat to the edge and removal of barbed wire were two of the greatest concerns to its low numbers. The Shrike needs these areas to hunt and impale its small rodent, bird and insect food so it can debone the meal. Osage Orange trees are also less abundant because of their thorns on the land owner's property. This little bird has shown great ability when it comes to capturing and impaling even good size birds. All it needs from us is to leave a little of the edge with barbed wire. Osage Orange or locust so it can have a place to hold its meal while it eats.

WARIOTO AUDUBON OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2009-2010

The following are the 2009-10 officers and board members elected by acclamation at the May membership meeting. Thanks to all who have agreed to server Warioto Audubon for the coming year.

President:	Kathy Dewein	Board Members:
Programs:	Michelle Rogers	Sally Schiller
Field Trips:	Daniel Moss & Chris O'Bryan	Marilyn Rachlin
Newsletter:	Steve Hamilton	Duane Rice
Memberships:	Debbie Hamilton	Amy Wallace
Conservation:	Joe Schiller	Bill Milliken
Treasurer:	Gloria Milliken	Paul Schwab
Hospitality:	Elvira Roberts & Gene Baker	
Secretary:	Barbara Wilbur	

CONSERVATION LETTER, Joe Schiller

The U.S. congress is currently working on several pieces of legislation with important implications for the future of our planet (I know that sounds like hyperbole, but I believe it is true). First, the carbon cap and trade bill is working through the House of Representatives and has already successfully passed out of a couple key committees. Unfortunately, the provisions have been somewhat weakened in the process. First, the target for emissions reductions by 2020 was lowered from 20% to 17%. This is a problem because even 20% is probably an insufficient goal for reducing the risk of catastrophic climate change. Also, the legislation now calls for giving away 85% of the emissions and auctioning only 15%. Talk about an incentive for congressional corruption! Just imagine how lobbyist will swarm congressional candidates with promises of campaign contributions for those billion dollar carbon credit handouts. This is why a tax would be a far simpler, fairer, and more transparent solution to putting a price on carbon. Remember, that is the whole point, too put a price on carbon! You cannot put a price on that which you give away free (duh!). Unfortunately, a carbon tax seems out of the running for now, though I believe in the next few years congress will be forced to reconsider one when the inadequacy of their current efforts become apparent. However, part of a loaf is still better than no loaf. Passage of a carbon cap and trade bill in this session would be a huge psychological milestone. I guess Winston Churchill was right when he said *"You can always count on Americans to do the right thing - after they've tried everything else."*

Even the cap and trade bill is turning into a pork project. This is not stopping Republicans from labeling it a "light switch tax." Republicans, and some Democrats from fossil fuel producing states, are trying to kill any cap and trade legislation on the grounds that it will make energy, and everything made using energy too expensive and thus the US will lose jobs. To where, I ask? The Europeans have already set a higher goal of 20%. To China you say? Guess what, China is spending six times as much on its green stimulus plan than the U.S. as a proportion of GDP. China has already set a goal of 20% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020 and is on a pace to exceed that. Chinese solar panel manufacturers have set a goal of producing solar panels at a cost that will be competitive with electricity generated from coal by 2012! What do these politicians think that will do for jobs in our economy?

There are three legislative proposals that would mandate a portion of electricity sold by utilities be produced by renewable energy. Multiple analyses by different groups have demonstrated that all would have little effect on electricity prices and likely would lower them! A proposal by Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.) calls for 20 percent renewables by 2021, but allows energy efficiency to meet as much as one-quarter (5 percent) of the goal. Another,

introduced by Rep. Edward Markey (D-Mass.) requires 25 percent renewables by 2025. A third proposal, introduced by Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) also requires 25 percent renewables by 2025, but utilities could meet one-fifth (5 percent) of the requirement through energy efficiency. The Energy Information Agency and the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) analyzed the effect of the Waxman 25% by 2025 bill and found that through 2030, the standard's impact on cumulative electric and natural gas bills would range from a marginal increase of 0.2 percent (\$8.4 billion) to a slight savings of 0.1 percent (\$2.5 billion). A March UCS analysis of the stronger 25-percent renewable standard with no option to include efficiency to meet the requirement found that ratepayers would save \$64.3 billion on their electric and natural gas bills by 2025. Between 2010 and 2030, electric rates would be as much as 7.6 percent lower than they would be without the renewables standard. This puts to the lie the complaint many legislators are using to excuse their opposition to global warming and renewable energy legislation.

Another bill introduced by an unlikely champion, Lisa Murkowski, is companion legislation to a bill introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Rep. Jay Inslee, D-Wash., that would authorize as much as \$250 million a year to promote ocean research – one of the technologies being pushed for expansion by the Obama Administration. While Ocean energy today is just beginning to be deployed in a few parts of the world, it has tremendous potential for contributing energy security and reducing global climate change. The bill known as "The Marine Renewable Energy Promotion Act of 2009 and a companion tax provision" would expand federal research of marine energy provide a variety of additional incentives to encourage new wave, current, tidal and thermal ocean energy device invention and deployment.

And lastly, a bill proposed by Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), the Renewable Energy Alternative Production Act (S.1094), also known as the REAP Act, would amend Section 45 of the Internal Revenue Code to allow production tax credits for non-electric renewable energy. This would make a tremendous contribution to the deployment of technologies used to generate heat energy for manufacturing and processing such as heating water for bottling facilities.

It is not clear what the final form of these legislative proposals will be if they make it all the way through the sausage making process, but one thing is clear, all the vested interests will be at the trough vying to get the terms they want to make the most money. It is essential that the American public keep their legislators on a tight leash and insist that their interests represented first. This means you will have to get involved and communicate to your elected representatives that you are watching, you know what they are up to, and you will hold them accountable!

SPRING BIRD COUNT

The 2009 Warioto Audubon spring bird count took place on Saturday, May 9. Elaine Foust served as compiler this year, with assistance for longtime compiler Gloria Milliken. They report, "With bad weather in the morning and the small number of participants, we feel that the count was a success! Bad weather may have played a role in the sightings of the **Glossy Ibis** and **Cattle Egret** that more than likely would not have been seen in Montgomery County. Only one Loggerhead Shrike was spotted but that is a plus for our expanding urbanized area and loss of shrike habitat." There were only 13 observers in 7 parties. Field observers were Elaine Foust (compiler), Steve and Debbie

Hamilton, Bill and Gloria Milliken, Sallie Noel, Duane Rice, Polly Rooker, Joe and Sally Schiller, Amy Wallace, Barbara Wilbur, and Stanley York.

Temperatures range from a low of 57 to a high of 73°F, with “severe storms after midnight and early into morning, then ending in scattered showers, finally clearing to mostly sunny by 2:30 PM” Elaine has provided the following record of effort: Party hrs. by car – 16.08, party hrs. by foot – 14.33, party hours at feeder – 2.0, party mi. by car – 178.0, party mi. on foot – 8.0, hrs. owling – 1.0, mi. owling – 12. The count recorded 2717 birds in 115 species.

So that you can compare this count to the 2008 count, I have **bolded** the species found this year, but not last year and ~~struck through~~ those found in 2007, but not seen in this year’s count.

Canada Goose	28	Least Flycatcher	1	Palm Warbler	4
Wood Duck	4	Eastern Phoebe	16	Bay-breasted Warbler	1
Mallard	38	Great Crested Flycatcher	25	Blackpoll Warbler	3
Wild Turkey	35	Eastern Kingbird	58	Cerulean Warbler	5
Northern Bobwhite	14	Loggerhead Shrike	1	Black-and-white Warbler	1
American Bittern	1	White-eyed Vireo	10	American Redstart	2
Great Blue Heron	21	Yellow-throated Vireo	4	Prothonotary Warbler	4
Cattle Egret	1	Warbling Vireo	4	Worm-eating Warbler	1
Great Egret	3	Philadelphia Vireo	2	Canada Warbler	2
Snowy Egret	1	Red-eyed Vireo	19	Ovenbird	2
Green Heron	1	Blue Jay	27	Louisiana Waterthrush	2
Glossy ibis	1	American Crow	73	Kentucky Warbler	4
Black-crowned Night Heron	1	Horned Lark	4	Mourning Warbler	1
Black Vulture	15	Purple Martin	50	Common Yellowthroat	16
Turkey Vulture	33	Cliff Swallow	200	Hooded Warbler	5
Osprey	2	Tree Swallow	6	Wilson’s Warbler	1
Bald Eagle	1	N. Rough-winged Swallow	10	Yellow-breasted Chat	24
Northern Harrier	1	Barn Swallow	18	Summer Tanager	27
Cooper’s Hawk	3	Carolina Chickadee	33	Scarlet Tanager	3
Red-shouldered Hawk	4	Tufted Titmouse	44	Eastern Towhee	56
Broad-winged Hawk	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	7	Chipping Sparrow	27
Red-tailed Hawk	2	Carolina Wren	54	Field Sparrow	71
American Kestrel	3	House Wren	14	Vesper Sparrow	2
Killdeer	20	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	34	Savannah Sparrow	3
Greater Yellowlegs	9	Eastern Bluebird	82	Grasshopper Sparrow	6
Lesser Yellowlegs	4	Veery	5	Song Sparrow	9
Solitary Sandpiper	1	Gray-cheeked Thrush	2	Swamp Sparrow	4
Spotted Sandpiper	2	Swainson’s Thrush	6	White-throated Sparrow	2
Semipalmated Plover	9	Wood Thrush	16	White-crowned Sparrow	6
American Woodcock	2	American Robin	96	Northern Cardinal	119
Rock Pigeon	3	Gray Catbird	7	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	14
Mourning Dove	96	Northern Mockingbird	71	Blue Grosbeak	10
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	4	Brown Thrasher	21	Indigo Bunting	50
Eastern Screech Owl	1	European Starling	120	Dickcissel	60
Great horned Owl	1	Cedar Waxwing	131	Bobolink	52
Barred Owl	6	Blue-winged Warbler	2	Red-winged Blackbird	72
Common Nighthawk	9	Tennessee Warbler	22	Eastern Meadowlark	58
Chuck-will’s-widow	1	Nashville Warbler	3	Common Grackle	88
Whip-poor-will	3	Orange-crowned Warbler	1	Brown-headed Cowbird	49
Chimney Swift	34	Northern Parula	8	Orchard Oriole	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	8	Yellow Warbler	3	Baltimore Oriole	4
Belted Kingfisher	3	Chestnut-sided Warbler	5	Purple Finch	1
Red-headed Woodpecker	4	Magnolia Warbler	11	House Finch	46
Red-bellied Woodpecker	23	Cape May Warbler	4	Pine Siskin	2
Downy Woodpecker	7	Yellow-rumped Warbler	12	American Goldfinch	58
Hairy Woodpecker	5	Black-throated Green Warbler	2	House Sparrow	42
Northern Flicker	1	Blackburnian Warbler	2	-----	
Pileated Woodpecker	13	Yellow-throated Warbler	13	TOTAL INDIVIDUALS –	2717
Eastern Wood-Peepee	27	Pine Warbler	3	TOTAL SPECIES –	115
Acadian Flycatcher	12	Prairie Warbler	3		

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, and nonmembers may subscribe to it at a subscription price of \$5.00 per year. Checks should be made payable to Warioto Audubon Chapter. Please notify us of any CHANGE OF ADDRESS,.

ARTICLES AND INFORMATION FOR THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER ARE DUE 14 AUGUST.

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 _____

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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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WARIOTO AUDUBON SUMMER POTLUCK PICNIC – JULY 18, DUNBAR CAVE, 6:00 P.M. – Add it to your calendar

WARIOTO AUDUBON SOCIETY
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