



WARIOTO WARBLER

National
Audubon
Society



CLARKSVILLE NATIONAL AUDUBON CHAPTER

VOLUME 40, NUMBER 8

May 2009

WARIOTO AT A GLANCE

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

PROGRAM: Polly Rooker, TWRA Wildlife Biologist, will present, *Is it too Late to Save the Loggerhead Shrike?*

SPRING BIRD COUNT: May 9; see message below.

SPRING FLING at Dunbar Cave State Natural Area: May 9; see message below and 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

Barbara is unable to entertain us this month with words of wit and wisdom, at least via this vehicle. While on a Monday, April 20 outing at Montgomery Bell State Park, she fell and broke her wrist. The healing process will require surgery. I am sure she will welcome your well-wishes.

CHAPTER PROGRAMS, Kathy DeWein

May Program: Polly Rooker, TWRA Wildlife Biologist, will present, *Is it too Late to Save the Loggerhead Shrike?* at the May Audubon meeting.

TWRA is collecting data on middle Tennessee's population of Loggerhead Shrikes. It is presently listed as in Need of Management. The Breeding Bird Survey has shown a decrease in its numbers of 7.0% per year from 1966 to 1991. These declines may be due to the loss of habitat and the over use of pesticides.

Montgomery county is one of nine Middle Tennessee counties where Loggerhead Shrikes were historically common are being surveyed in an effort to determine the density of the population and the habitat preferences.

Hopefully the data will be used to manage and protect critical habitats for this species.

Can we save this species here in Tennessee or will this species go the way of many other species of birds.

Last month: Dr. Greg Butcher, Director of Conservation for the National Audubon Society, presented *Birds and Climate Change*, an analysis of 40 years of Christmas Bird Count data at our April meeting. The results suggest that the population centers of for 177 of 305 North American birds have shifted their range northward. These results are strongly correlated with rising average January temperatures. Populations of grassland bird species were the only that weren't moving as much as other types. Questions arise as to what is preventing this move. It appears that little suitable grassland habitat exists for these species to follow the warning winter trends. Dr. Butcher also provided an analysis of CBC results from Tennessee and Kentucky. While the results are not as dramatic, the TN-KY patterns are very similar to the continental trends. Discussion continued at the social that followed the meeting. Dr. Butcher was scheduled to present a more in-depth analysis

on Friday, April 3rd at the APSU Center for Field Biology's symposium at LBL.

SPRING BIRD COUNT, MAY 9, Elaine Foust

Our annual spring bird count will take place on Saturday, May 9 in celebration of International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD). For more on IMBD, visit <http://www.fws.gov/birds/imbd/>.

The spring count tallies species and numbers of individuals much like the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). You must keep a record of your activity on the count. That is, record distance traveled on foot and in the car and time in and out of the car just as you would for the CBC. Unlike the CBC, there are **no count week records**.

The count is organized differently from the Christmas Bird Count: (1) We do not meet at Shoney's, (2) we do not have a post-count meeting, and (3) we are not restricted to the 15-mile count circle, only by the **county boundaries**. While it is an all-day count, you are not required to put in a full eight hours as you are with the CBC. It is organized as follows: (1) **You MUST call Gloria Milliken (931-358-2998) in advance to select your count areas/locations.** You pick the areas/locations where you plan to count and she makes sure there is not an overlap or duplication of efforts with other birders. **Gloria may be able to direct you to an area or pair you with someone.** (2) **Call Gloria or email Elaine Foust (Elaine.Foust@TN.Gov) and report the results** of your count. Gloria will compile and submit Warioto's results. (3) The count is **restricted to Montgomery County**. If you have any questions about the count, call Gloria at the number provided above.

SPRING FLING AT DUNBAR CAVE, MAY 9, Steve Hamilton

Due to scheduling "issues" this year, we (I) have two of Warioto Audubon's flagship events on May 9th, **Spring Bird Count** and **Spring Fling**. Some of us will be attempting to do both as best we can.

Spring Fling will have much of the same program as last year. A flyer is enclosed with the U.S. Mail version and is posted on the Warioto Audubon web site for those of you receiving this via e-mail (http://www.apsu.edu/schillers/Audubon/Warioto_Chapter.htm, see the link at the bottom of this Webpage).

We could use help with the day's program, so please volunteer to help with programs and monitoring the Warioto Audubon table.

**WARIOTO AUDUBON OFFICER & BOARD NOMINEES
FOR 2009-2010, Sally Schiller**

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

The nominating committee is seeking volunteers to fill several key positions on the Warioto Audubon Board for 2009-2010. Please consider giving some of your time to the organization this year. If you have questions about duties of any of the vacant positions you may call Sally Schiller at 387-4071 after 4 PM.

CONSERVATION LETTER, Joe Schiller

I just returned from a trip to Washington DC with a student group that was competing in a national sustainable design competition sponsored by the US EPA called P3 (People, Prosperity, and the Planet). The new EPA director, Susan Jackson, addressed the opening session. We were visited by hundreds of people during the weekend Earth Week activities on the mall. The students did a great job describing their research on solar biodiesel and hydrogen production to the public and the judges. On our last day we and the University of Tennessee teams were invited to have breakfast with Senators Alexander and Corker. Although we did not win the competition, it was a wonderful and fun experience all around. We also had the chance to visit many monuments and museums in between all of the formal activities. There is tremendous energy in Washington right now. The ideas presented by the student teams at the P3 event were sensational, there were many renewable and alternative technologies displayed, and everyone was inspired. All the pieces are in place for transforming the US energy and environmental policies in ways we have all dreamed of, but until recently, seemed a distant prospect. However, this will not happen without all of us being more involved than ever.

The need for this revolution has never been more urgent. On the flight to DC we flew across eastern Kentucky and southern West Virginia. Mountaintop removal mines were visible everywhere and as far as one could see. I could not help wondering how many of the passengers on the flight even recognized the great tragedy that was spread out below them. How many understood they were flying over the most extreme example of ecological destruction in

the history of the planet? You can learn more about mountaintop removal at this web site:

<http://www.ilovemountains.org/resources/#mtrcwpa>. I made sure to thank Senator Alexander for his recent position statement that mountaintop removal mining must end. I asked both him and senator Corker to work across the aisle to develop strong renewable energy and greenhouse gas reduction legislation. Many of you may already be aware that the State of Tennessee Scenic Vistas Protection Act legislation was killed in committee again this year. Please let your representatives know of your support for this legislation and your displeasure with its failure. The single most important federal legislation that would help to end mountaintop removal mining and protect Tennessee's mountains is the Clean Water Protection Act sponsored by Representative Frank Pallone (D-NJ). This "Act" is actually an amendment to the CWA that would explicitly prohibit the dumping of mine waste into streams. You can learn more about this legislation and send an email to our representatives at his site:

<http://www.appvoices.org/index.php?/mtr/cwpa/>. While the bill currently has 146 cosponsors, including, Representative Jim Cooper, Bart Gordon, and Steve Cohen, Representative Tanner has still not cosponsored. Please write him and other Tennessee representatives urging them to cosponsor and support this legislation.

The new Republican dominated state legislature is proposing three very bad water quality bills. SB 0632 by *Southerland. (HB 1615 by *McCord.) amends the States Clean Water rules to omit man made, human altered, and natural streams that do not convey water all year from protection by the state. TDEC has pointed out that passage of this bill could cause the state to be out of compliance with federal water quality rules and to forfeit \$2,000,000 of federal assistance

(<http://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/billinfo/BillSummaryArchive.aspx?BillNumber=HB1615&ga=106>). HB 0941 by *Ferguson, Niceley. (SB 1335 by *Yager.) requires TDEC provide a 24 hour notice before conducting water quality inspections at public or private utilities and municipalities

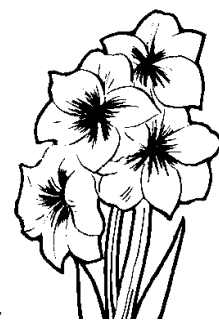
(<http://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/billinfo/BillSummaryArchive.aspx?BillNumber=HB0941&ga=106>). Another proposal on the Hill this year would take away a person's right to file a nuisance lawsuit if a neighbor with a state permit pollutes their property. One would mandate that the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation could not respond to a report of water pollution if it were made anonymously. Sorry, I have not yet found the bill numbers and summaries for these. See a pattern emerging here yet? Contact your local representatives (Barnes, Pitts, Johnson) whom I believe are not predisposed to support these bills and make sure you register your opposition to these bills that would weaken water protection in Tennessee.



Spring Fling

at Dunbar Cave State Park

Saturday, May 9, 2009



Sponsored by: Friends of Dunbar Cave
Tennessee Trails Association

Warioto Audubon Chapter
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

ALL ACTIVITIES BEGIN AT THE VISITOR CENTER AND ARE FREE OF CHARGE.
SOME PROGRAMS MAY OVERLAP TIMES; EVENT WILL BE HELD RAIN OR SHINE.

Children must be supervised by an adult.

7:00-8:30 am – Early Morning Bird Hike

Hike the trails at the park; watch and identify birds with members of the Warioto Audubon Chapter. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them.

8:45-9:45 am – Backpacking with Tennessee Trail Association

Bob Lyon, an experienced backpacker and long-distance hiker, will demonstrate the needed equipment for backpacking, day hiking and camping.

8:45-10:15 am – Wildflower/Plant Walk

Amy Wallace, the park's naturalist, will lead you on a hike to appreciate the abundant wild flowers & other plants found in the park.

10:00-11:00 am – Raptors with SOAR, Inc.

Save Our American Raptors will give an educational program showing various native birds of prey. They will tell about each bird and its personal history, describe its species and how it fits into the natural world. Several of the birds are flighted which should make for some lively audience encounters.

11:15 am-12:15 pm – Native Amphibians and Reptile

Nathan Parker, APSU naturalist, will present a program on some of our local native salamanders, frogs and snakes.

11:15 am-12:15 pm – The Story of Dunbar Cave

Enjoy this new 14 minute film developed by the Friends of Dunbar Cave and Austin Peay's Department of Communication. The film will be shown several times.

12:30-1:30 pm – Urban Wildlife

Bettina Bowers-Schwan of Walden's Puddle Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center will discuss some of the animals that you will find living in your town or community. Live animals will be displayed.

12:30-1:30 pm – Raptors with SOAR, Inc.

Save Our American Raptors will provide an educational program showing various birds of prey.

1:45-2:45 pm – Snakes and Reptiles

Sherry and Donny Howell, local reptile experts, show you native and exotic snakes and other reptiles. Learn why these gentle creatures are so important to our ecology.

1:45-2:45 pm – Bluebirds in your Backyard

Duane Rice, local Audubon Society leader and bluebird expert will talk about how to host Eastern Bluebirds around your home and property.

2:45-3:45 pm – Trail Hike with Suva Bastin

Suva Bastin, member of Clarksville's Tennessee Trails Association, will lead us on a hike on the park's trails. She can provide valuable pointers for day-hiking in our region.

2:45-4:45 pm – Canoeing

Enjoy the beauty of Swan Lake and Dunbar Cave State Natural Area from a canoe. Canoes, paddle and life jackets provided for brief excursions on the lake. Sign-up will begin earlier in the day.

For More Information Contact: David Boen, 931-920-5390

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 JUNE NEWSLETTER ARE DUE 15 MAY.

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

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