



WARIOTO WARBLER



CLARKSVILLE NATIONAL AUDUBON CHAPTER

VOLUME 41, NUMBER 1

SEPTEMBER 2009

WARIOTO AT A GLANCE

REGULAR MEETING: Thurs., Sept. 3, 7:30 p.m., Sundquist Science Bldg, conference room, D126, APSU.

PROGRAM: "Integrated Resource Plan: TVA's Environmental and Energy Future" by Randall Johnson, TVA.

FIELD TRIP: Saturday, **SEPTEMBER 26**; Fall migrants at **Dunbar Cave** and sod fields on Old Russellville Pike, meet in the APSU's 8th St. lot adjacent to Trahern at 7:00 a.m.: more 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, *Kathy DeWein*

Well here we are back from a relaxing summer and ready to save the world. My summer was filled with travel and one of the places was Wyoming. I saw the "Blue Sky" country from an Audubon perspective as well as sportsman's view. They weren't that far apart as I found out. Sportsmen have a great deal to do with conservation through their fees in licenses and equipment. In Tennessee alone this amounts to \$1.3 billion as a matter of fact. This is for jobs, salaries, federal taxes and ripple effects. We as Audubon members get the benefits of using the lands set aside for walks and camping. It's kind of a symbiotic relationship. I wish you could have seen the wonders of the mountain streams, moose in the forest, pronghorn antelope, chiselers (ground squirrels), ravens, and the Sandhill Cranes that woke us at 6 a.m. each morning like clockwork. Of course, with the beauty also came the gas fields that were in the middle of the antelope wintering range. Why were they there? We want to be energy independent. These are our public lands.

Let's try each month to make an effort to bring a new person or two to see how we are trying to conserve the environment as well as learn about other programs. See you soon.

CHAPTER PROGRAMS, *Michelle Rogers*

September Program:

Randall Johnson of TVA will present "Integrated Resource Plan: TVA's Environmental and Energy Future." On June 15, 2009 TVA kicked off an 18 month long project to prepare a new Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) entitled TVA's Environmental and Energy Future. The purpose of the IRP is to develop a flexible portfolio of supply and demand side options that TVA can use to meet the valley's electrical demand needs for the next 20 years. The portfolios developed will be evaluated for several criteria including capital and fuel costs, reliability, possible environmental impacts including climate change, compliance with existing and anticipated future regulations, and other factors.

Previous Program:

June 4, 2009 - Reverend Patrick Smith, Executive Director of Mission Clarksville, presented "The Food Initiative," a program which employs teenagers to grow fruits and vegetables for local hunger relief organizations including The Salvation Army and Loaves and Fishes. Beyond that, this program seeks to nurture

personal growth in the individuals who participate and create a bond between youth from diverse backgrounds. This summer, The Food Initiative will have a total of 22 participants. Mission Clarksville also sponsors related youth programs, The Edge (leadership and team-building) and Into the Wild (outdoor adventure).

Chris Davis, a high school student who is currently participating in The Food Initiative, also spoke. His participation is sponsored by a local radio station, which is a good fit because Chris is interested in a possible career in broadcast media.

Upcoming programs:

October 1 – Dwayne Estes, APSU, "Cedar Glades and Xeric Barrens." Dr. Estes will discuss this unusual habitat with many unique species. The Chapter is planning a field trip to a local glade and barrens on a Saturday in October.

November 5 – **Potluck Banquet** – TBA

December – Charles Cook of C-Bees, "Beekeeping and Colony Collapse Disorder." Visit the Montgomery County Beekeeping Association online at <http://mcbaonline.ning.com>.

January – No meeting

February 5 – Randy Hedgepath, "Wildflowers and Folklore (with an ornithological twist)."

March 4 – TBA

April 1 – Diann Nance, "Herbs that Attract Birds and Bees."

May 6 – TBA

June 3 – TBA

Editor's Note: If you have program suggestions and can provide some assistance with making contacts, please let Michelle know. Her e-mail address is rogersm@apsu.edu.

FIELD TRIPS, *Daniel Moss and Chris O'Bryan*

It is our hope that you all had a great summer and are ready for the fall birding season to begin! Our September field trip will take place on Saturday the 26th at 7:00am. We will meet at the parking lot adjacent to Trahern building and 8th Street of the APSU campus. (The staff parking lot at the corner of 8th and College streets is now a construction site.). You can view a map of campus at <http://www.apsu.edu/map/>. The trip will start off by going to Dunbar Cave, where we will walk a few of the nature trails in search of those illusive summer/fall warblers. Then, if all goes well, we will make our way to a sod field. This field is a flat bottomland in the bend of the Red River. It is at the very south end

of Old Russellville Pk. There are several areas to pull off of the road to look for birds. We are not sure if this area has been birded before, but there appears to be potential for shorebirds as well as other possible finds. Hope to see you there!

CONSERVATION LETTER, Joe Schiller

This spring Tennessee Senator Lamar Alexander announced his opposition to mountaintop removal mining and his intent to pass legislation to curtail it. See this web article for a good summary: <http://washingtonindependent.com/49008/congress-takes-on-mountaintop-mining>. This is a very significant development in the struggle to end mountaintop removal mining. Along with Governor Bredesen and his Deputy Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Paul Sloan, Tennesseans can claim with pride that they were the first southern Appalachian state where coal mining is a significant industry to “just say no” to mountaintop removal.

However, much still needs to be accomplished at both the state and federal level. Future governors may not be as committed to protecting the state from mountaintop removal as has been Governor Bredesen. This past state legislative session, the first in which the Republican Party was in the majority since reconstruction, was a near disaster. Good bills such as the Tennessee Scenic Vistas Protection Act which would have outright banned mountaintop removal in Tennessee failed to gain passage once again, along with other good legislations such as the Tennessee Bottle Bill. Worse, many very bad environmental laws were very narrowly averted. Thank goodness our elected representatives were so distracted by the important issue of allowing guns in parks, bars, schools and churches!

At the federal level, Senator Alexander has cosponsored a bill with Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), S696, The Appalachian Restoration Act, to redefine mine waste dumped into streams as waste instead of fill, and outlaw the practice. This would severely curtail, if not completely end mountaintop removal mining in Appalachia. Passage of S696 will be difficult so please take the time to thank Senator Alexander for his efforts so far and encourage him to move forward boldly. Also please write Senator Corker and ask him to support this bill and his fellow Tennessee senator on this legislation. It is very important that our state and federal representatives continue to hear from us that it is time for our energy to come from a 21st century technology such as wind and solar and energy efficiency, not the 19th Century technology of coal that wreaks so much environmental damage in its consumption.

Another piece of landmark environmental legislation, the senate climate change bill, is taking shape in the senate and will be introduced in September. Earlier this year the house passed a very weak global climate change bill that relies on a cap and trade system to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Various environmental and scientific organizations are working feverishly to encourage the senate to introduce a bill that is stronger than the house bill and that eliminates some of its major flaws such as taking away the EPA's right to regulate greenhouse gasses and giving hundreds of billions of subsidies to the fossil fuel industries.

One of the tired old canards you will hear leveled at any global climate change bill that makes it to the senate floor is that we cannot afford to impose the cost of reducing global warming on our weak economy. Ignoring for the moment that this is like a person who is bleeding to death worrying about the cost of a tourniquet, the fact is that the economy must transform into a post carbon economy for two other undeniable reasons. First, the supply of carbon-based energy is finite and will start to decline a lot sooner than most people realize. Second, if we do not undertake this transformation now, we will be ceding the 21st century to the Chinese.

The Chinese you say? I know you have heard about how much global warming gasses the Chinese are causing. It is true, after a hundred years of us leading the world in greenhouse gas production, the Chinese have finally caught up and overtaken us (but take solace Americans, we still produce more per person than almost any other country on earth, but the 1.2 billion Chinese outnumber us 4 to 1). But here are some other things the Chinese have caught up and overtaken us in as well:

- ✓ China now manufactures 1/3 of the world's solar cells, more than six times what the USA makes, and soon to be more than any other country.
- ✓ China has more solar hot water installed than any other country.
- ✓ China has doubled its wind power generation every one of the past four years and is now installing one windmill every hour.
- ✓ China met its initial renewable energy target of 10% one decade ahead of schedule and will soon announce a target of 20% by 2020 the same as the clean and green Europeans. (By the way, the energy bill referred to above that will be so hard to pass in this country only requires 15% renewable energy by 2020 and has lots of wiggle room—kind of really makes one proud to be an American, huh.)
- ✓ Oh yeah, you remember that landmark fuel efficiency legislation the U.S. passed this year? It still will not get us to the current Chinese fuel efficiency standards.

And because congress fiddled while the earth burned here is some of the economic hardship the Chinese will experience for being so green:

- ✓ China will be the first country to bring full mass production of all electric automobiles to market in the fall.
- ✓ Those “clean coal” plants the Republicans are always promising, guess where we will be buying them if we ever build any, that's right—China!
- ✓ China is now building windfarms in Texas and expanding to every other part of the world it can.

For a more complete (and depressing) summary see the following Christian Science Monitor article, “China's Green Leap Forward:”

<http://features.csmonitor.com/environment/2009/08/10/china%E2%80%99s-green-leap-forward/>. If reading this article does not make you angry, and maybe even a little ashamed at how congress dawdles on this issue, I guess you just don't care if we become a second rate economic power. However, if it does make you angry, share that with your elected representatives as well.

OUR 2009-2010 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

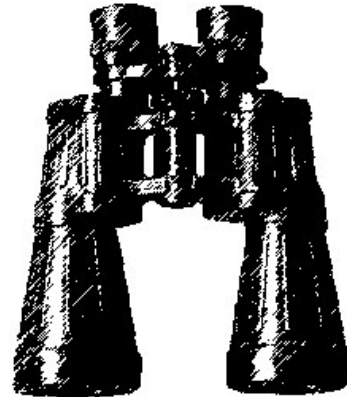
A REMINDER: The following officers and committee Chairs were elected by acclamation at the May membership meeting.

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 & Gene Baker	
Secretary:	Barbara Wilbur	

BIRD WATCHING CONTINUES TO BE POPULAR IN U.S.

In an e-mail recently received from National Audubon, I was pleased to read that birdwatching, according to a recent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report, continues to be a popular activity for about 20% of American. This percentage has held steady since 1996. There is lots of good news in this. First, given our diverse national perspectives, to have about 48 million Americans that agree on something is significant. Second, even as we hear about

Americans not getting out and spending more time with digital/electronic entertainment, it is pleasing to know that – like most of us – feeding, watching, counting, and even traveling to see birds still holds great interest. Thirdly, the report states “that birdwatchers contributed **\$36 billion to the U.S. economy in 2006** alone, the most recent year for which economic data are available.” Now that’s a nice stimulus package! And finally, I think we can safely assume that these nearly 50 birdwatchers are more aware of their environment because of the birdwatching activities. I am sure if you read this report you will find lots of other wonderful pluses I have not mentioned. The report, “an addendum to the 2006 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation” can be viewed (although not easily found) at: http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/NationalSurvey/2006_Survey.htm.





Audubon

Warioto Audubon Society is a Chapter of National Audubon Society, Inc.

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 OCTOBER NEWSLETTER ARE DUE 18 SEPTEMBER.

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 _____

Address _____

City _____, State _____ Zip _____

Make Checks payable to National Audubon Society and send this coupon and your check to
National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 422250 Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250

C9ZV510Z

**WARIOTO AUDUBON SOCIETY
C/O STEVE HAMILTON, EDITOR
3040 SNARDON MILL RD.
ALLENSVILLE, KY 42204**