



# WARIOTO WARBLER

National  
Audubon  
Society



## CLARKSVILLE NATIONAL AUDUBON CHAPTER

VOLUME 40, NUMBER 6

March 2009

### WARIOTO AT A GLANCE

**REGULAR MEETING:** Thurs., March 5, 7:30 p.m., Sundquist Science Bldg, conference room, D126, APSU.

**PROGRAM:** Tom Payne, local butterfly enthusiast will discuss the **World of Butterflies**.

**FIELD TRIP:** "We will have no field trip for the month of March. I will keep you posted on April field trip plans.

**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, *Barbara Wilbur*

The crocus and old-fashioned "buttercups" are blooming, the birds are beginning to sing, and trees are budding. But... for now all that seems a bit premature. As I write this, it's dark, cold and windy with snowflakes quietly hurrying past. So, why are early signs of spring so exciting, so encouraging to so many of us? Each of us can readily answer the question personally, but ... for starters I'll enumerate some of my top reasons for being excited about these signs of spring.

It's great to dig in the dirt, get your hands dirty, grow things, and if spring is just around the corner then I'll be digging SOON!!! If you dig in the dirt then it's pretty much understood – you like to grow things: flowers, tomatoes, asparagus, peppers, corn, cucumbers, whatever. It's just fun to plant seeds or seedlings and watch the plants grow, mature and produce. And who doesn't like to harvest the produce, especially the tomatoes!

Some of us are excellent birders, others of us are fair birders but most all of us love birds; love to see them, love to hear them, love to feed them and love to learn a new one. So, with the coming of spring comes revved up bird activity and lots of us will be out listening and looking more than ever.

But, perhaps one of the most important facets of the coming of spring is – HOPE. These early signs of spring give us hope; hope that winter and the cold, blustery days are past; hope that this will be a super productive season; hope that with the increasing daylight hours we can spend more time outside; hope that this will be a good year!

Just think – spring is right around the corner! Let's savor that thought and what the coming of another spring signifies: an awakening, a new life, another chance. Enjoy!

### CHAPTER PROGRAMS, *Kathy DeWein*

**March Program:** Tom Payne, a long time butterfly enthusiast, will inform Clarksville residents about the world of butterflies at the March Warioto Audubon meeting March 5th. Tom will cover the butterfly's history, local species, exotics, food sources, methods of collection and conservation. His program will include color photographs and his butterfly collection.

**Last month:** Blaine Hyle from USDA presented a program to the February Audubon meeting that covered "Wildlife- Human

Conflict." His program helps manage and regulate nuisance animals with the public they encounter. Their program also deals with predation of crops, damage to fisheries, airport bird encounters, disease transmission and emergency responses to wildlife. The USDA also gives free advice on how to assist in wildlife-human encounters. We were also presented with the current raccoon rabies control prevention methods and Avian Influenza surveillance techniques. A short review of the Atwater's Prairie Chicken, Golden-cheeked Warbler, California Least Tern, and Snowy Plover current endangered protection plan was explained. An increase in Black Vulture's predation on cattle was also discussed.

**April Program:** Dr. Greg Butcher, Director of Conservation for the National Audubon Society, will talk about the report on shifts in bird population that are being attributed to global warming. Dr. Butcher co-authored a report with other Audubon Scientist that evaluates shifts in the Christmas Bird Counts and how these may reveal changes brought on by global warming. More information will be provided in the April newsletter.

<http://www.audubon.org/news/pressroom/Leaders/Butcher.html>

### FIELD TRIPS, *Chris O'Bryan*

We will have no field trip for the month of March. I will keep you posted on April field trip plans.

### CONSERVATION LETTER, *Joe Schiller*

The \$787 billion economic stimulus plan will be law by the time you receive this newsletter. I thought many of you would be interested to know what provisions it contains of interest to Audubon members. First, it contains \$45 billion for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. The bill allocates more than \$13 billion to make federal buildings and public housing more energy efficient. It also contains another \$10 billion to modernize the electric grid and install smart meters in homes. This too will increase efficiency and is likely to also give a boost to extending the electric grid to the windiest and sunniest parts of the country and connecting it to population centers. This would be a major benefit to renewable energy expansion. Another \$20 billion is allocated to tax incentives to promote wind, solar, and other renewable energy technologies. The bill provides up to a \$7500 tax rebate to purchasers of plug-in hybrid vehicles. There is another \$18 billion for environmental projects such as clean water systems, pollution cleanup, and flood control (not necessarily good environmental spending, depending on what is meant by "flood control").

What about the bad stuff. Fortunately, \$50 billion dollars Robert Bennett, R-Utah, had inserted into the senate version of the bill was eliminated in conference (good thing he was going to vote against the bill no matter what—or it might still be in there). Unfortunately, \$2 billion for research into “carbon capture and sequestration, a.k.a., “clean coal,” survived. It is still very politically difficult to get out from under the thumb of the coal industry given that many Republicans and Democrats in congress represent coal producing states. I know, some of you may ask, “isn’t carbon capture and sequestration a good thing?” You would be joined by many people from a range of professions and backgrounds who believe this to be the case. I hold otherwise. For \$2 billion dollars we could install a wind farm, a solar photovoltaic plant, a geothermal plant, and a number of other renewable energy, grid improvement, and energy efficiency projects--each of which in and of itself would produce as much energy as a coal fired electricity plant. And remember, once that coal plant is built, you still have to mine the coal, process the coal, transport the coal, burn the coal, capture the carbon, transport the carbon, sequester the carbon, and dispose of the ash, all of which are steps that produce pollution, cost money, and pose safety risks. None of the renewable energy technologies have these liabilities.

Another aspect of the bill likely to benefit the environment is the strong support it offers for scientific research. This will help to produce the future technologies that will benefit the environment. While much of the infrastructure portion of the bill amounts to the “same old same old,” (roads, bridges, etc.) it does include a dramatic increase from \$2 billion to \$8 billion for high speed rail development. We are probably the only developed country in the world without a modern high speed rail system. Hopefully, this will be as start to remedying that situation.

Despite receiving only three Republican votes (none of whom were from Tennessee), this bill marks a major political victory for President Obama and the Democrats. Never has such a large and important bill been passed so quickly by a new president. Please express your gratitude to the Democrats who supported and your ire to the Republicans who opposed this bill. There is much more important environmental legislation on the horizon such as a national renewable energy portfolio standard, universal net metering, and global climate change bills that Democrats need to be encouraged to support, and Republicans need to be discouraged from opposing!

## WARTIOTO AUDUBON SOCIETY CHAPTER FINANCIAL REPORT - 2008

### FINANCIAL REPORT OF WARTIOTO AUDUBON SOCIETY--2008

Balance on Hand--January 1, 2008		\$1,261.69
<b>Income:</b>		
N.A.S. Dues Share	\$574.50	
Total Income	\$574.50	<u>574.50</u>
		\$1,836.19
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Newsletter Postage	\$166.81	
Newsletter Printing/Expense	51.86	
Hospitality Expenses	58.65	
Christmas Bird Count Fees	65.00	
Donation: Audubon Subscriptions for 6 High Schools	<u>90.00</u>	
Total Expenses	\$432.32	<u>432.32</u>
Balance on Hand--December 31, 2008		\$1,403.87

NOTE: Balance in WILDLIFE HABITAT PROTECTION FUND as of 12/31/08 Is \$2,559.35.

Submitted by:

*Gloria P. Milliken*  
Gloria P. Milliken, Treasurer

### Invitation

Help Us Plant 20 Trees  
To celebrate Clarksville's 20 years  
as a Tree City USA community  
Arbor Day Ceremony  
Friday, March 6, 2009 2 p.m.  
Swan Lake Sports complex  
2002 Sanders Road  
Light refreshments  
Seedlings  
Shovels welcome

### 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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**RESULTS OF WARIOTO AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**

A summary of the 109<sup>th</sup> CBC, Clarksville’s 38<sup>th</sup>, was presented in the February newsletter. As in the past, I place here a table of the species results from that count showing that January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 count. I have struck through species seen this year but not last year. For species seen this year but not last year, I have bolded the name. To view results of this year’s count or previous years account go to the links at the bottom of the following National Audubon Webpage – <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html> .

**From last month’s newsletter:** “A total of 11,195 birds were counted in 69 species. The average number of species counted in the last 20 counts has been 69.7 species. This was a record year and the highest number of individuals counted for several species: Turkey vulture – 357, Black Vulture – 689, Mourning Dove – 564, Cedar Waxwing – 1301 and Bald Eagles – 5, (2 immature and 3 mature). We counted 1442 American Robins and while the counters were weary or counting American Robins at the end of the day, it still was not the highest number ever counted in the Clarksville count. That record was set in the 104<sup>th</sup> count with 1886 birds.

Lee Lang added a species to the count that has never been seen before on the Clarksville Count: Eurasian Collared-Dove.”

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>No.</b>
Canada Goose	288	Eurasian Collared-dove	2	American Robin	1442
<del>Gadwall</del>		Mourning Dove	564	Northern Mockingbird	140
Mallard	49	Great Horned Owl	1	Brown Thrasher	1
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>	<b>1</b>	Barred Owl	1	European Starling	1102
<del>Ring-necked Duck</del>		Belted Kingfisher	20	American Pipit	CW
Wild Turkey	267	Red-headed Woodpecker	5	Cedar Waxwing	1301
Northern Bobwhite	5	Red-bellied Woodpecker	77	Yellow-rumped Warbler	131
Pied-billed Grebe	3	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	8	Eastern Towhee	61
Great Blue Heron	80	Downy Woodpecker	51	Chipping Sparrow	3
Black Vulture	689	Hairy Woodpecker	8	Field Sparrow	91
Turkey Vulture	357	Northern Flicker	22	Savannah Sparrow	2
Bald Eagle	5	Pileated Woodpecker	19	Fox Sparrow	6
Northern Harrier	CW	Eastern Phoebe	8	Song Sparrow	143
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Blue Jay	206	Swamp Sparrow	13
Cooper’s Hawk	1	American Crow	292	White-throated Sparrow	241
Accipiter sp.	2	Horned Lark	15	White-crowned Sparrow	13
Red-shouldered Hawk	11	Carolina Chickadee	129	Dark-eyed Junco	165
Red-tailed Hawk	24	Tufted Titmouse	104	Northern Cardinal	350
Buteo sp.	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	31	Red-winged Blackbird	166
American Kestrel	17	Brown Creeper	7	Eastern Meadowlark	28
<del>American Coot</del>		Carolina Wren	116	Common Grackle	167
Killdeer	36	Winter Wren	4	Brown-headed Cowbird	34
Wilson’s Snipe	4	Golden-crowned Kinglet	25	blackbird sp.	1125
Ring-billed Gull	11	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	14	House Finch	162
gull sp.	3	Eastern Bluebird	148	American Goldfinch	291
Rock Pigeon	144	Hermit Thrush	1	House Sparrow	140

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,.

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**ARTICLES AND INFORMATION FOR THE APRIL NEWSLETTER ARE DUE 16 MARCH.**

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

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