



THE TENNESSEE WARBLER

Newsletter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

August, 2000

Editor, Theresa Graham

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone enjoyed the Spring Meeting as much as my wife and I did. I know that it was a special occasion (50th Birthday!) for the Bristol Bird Club, and they should all be very proud of the outstanding job that they did.

Looking forward, the fall meeting in Chattanooga should provide some interesting birding opportunities, with possibilities ranging from hawk watching on Soddy Mountain to marsh birding at the Brainerd Levee to butterfly watching with Bill Haley! I'm looking forward to it, and so should you.

We have some important positions to fill in the coming months. Presently, the Finance Committee is defunct. We would like to reconstitute this committee in order to help our excellent but overworked treasurer, David Trently, with various investment decisions and other issues relating to our finances. If you are interested, or know anyone who might be, please contact Ron Hoff of the Knoxville chapter, who is chairing the Nominating Committee.

After several years of hard work and dedication, Dev Joslin has decided to step down as editor of the *Migrant* effective next spring, although he will be available to assist with the transition. This may well be the most important position in TOS, because the *Migrant* is our legacy for birders and researchers for years to come. The Nominating Committee will be looking for a successor. I strongly encourage you all to contact Ron or myself if you are interested or if you have recommendations for the committee. Additionally, Dev has prepared a detailed description of the skills and time commitments involved, and I will be happy to provide that information to anyone interested, and I will forward it to Chuck Nicholson to include on the web site.

Speaking of the web site, if you haven't seen it yet, you should check it out at www.tnbirds.org. Special thanks to Chuck Nicholson, our next president, for a job well done in making arrangements for the design and implementation. In some respects, it's still a work in progress, and your ideas and contributions are always welcome.

That's all I have for now. I look forward to seeing many of you in Chattanooga this fall.

Chris Sloan
chris.sloan@home.com
Nashville, TN

TOS FALL MEETING
OCTOBER 6-8
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE

JOIN US FOR A FUN FALL WEEKEND
BIRDING AND EXPLORING THE BEAUTIFUL CHATTANOOGA AREA!

Field Trips:

- √ Brainerd Levee for shorebirds and more
- √ Cravens House for confusing fall warblers
- √ Flat Top Mountain for hawk migration
- √ More to be announced

Optional Tour of the Tennessee Aquarium:

- √ We plan to offer a behind-the-scenes tour!

Paper Session followed by Business Meeting beginning at 7:30 on Saturday

Registration Friday night 7:00-9:00 at the Ramada Inn (registration fee of \$3 per person)

Headquarters — Ramada Inn at I-75 at Highway 41 in East Ridge, Tennessee. (Take I-75 South, exit 1 East Ridge*) This is the exit just prior to entering Georgia.

A block of rooms is being held at the rate of \$39.00 for single or double rooms. This rate is available for registrations made by September 22, 2000. Afterward, the regular price of \$54.00 will apply. In order to obtain this special rate, you must call the local hotel directly at (423) 894-6110; it cannot be obtained through the 1-800 #.

Be aware that we have had several bouts of Interstate construction which may still be ongoing in October. There are several alternate routes off the interstate if traffic is a problem. It might be worth consulting a map just in case.

Advance Registration: To help us in planning, please RSVP to Anita Gaddy if you plan to attend. Mail the attached to her at: P.O. Box 9613, Chattanooga, Tenn. 37412 (\$3 registration fee collected on site. **Please Do Not Mail**). Or, contact her via e-mail at ddg@vol.com or phone (706) 937-3842.

Name _____ Number of participants _____

Address _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

KOS/TOS SUMMER BIRDING WEEKEND REPORT FROM THE FIELD



The KOS/TOS Summer Birding Weekend took place on June 23-25, in western Kentucky. Seventeen birders from Tennessee, Kentucky and one visiting from Massachusetts spent at least part of the weekend birding around the Peabody Wildlife Management Area near Central City, KY, and Mammoth Cave National Park. Mark Bennett of the Kentucky Ornithological Society did a great job in leading us in birding around Peabody WMA.

Weather was hot, but clouds kept the sun from beating down on us too much, and a pleasant breeze helped cool us a bit more.

We were successful at finding all of our target species, most of which were found on Friday evening, taking the pressure off of Saturday's birding. Some were life birds for a few lucky birders!

At Peabody, we had great looks at a Willow Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler, Grasshopper & Henslow's Sparrows, Dickcissel, and Blue Grosbeak. We heard at least two Whip-poor-will's. A couple people even saw an American Woodcock. Northern Harriers were almost always soaring over the brushy fields. Ring-necked Ducks, seen by Chris Sloan and Kevin Calhoon on Sunday, were probably the most unexpected birds of the weekend.

On Sunday, 6 birders headed for Mammoth Cave where we had wonderful looks at an Acadian Flycatcher, Kentucky and Worm-eating Warblers. We heard a Cerulean Warbler and 2 Eastern Screech-Owls. We were able to watch the Acadian Flycatcher while standing near the entrance to the cave. Cold air blowing out of the cave's entrance gave us a welcome chill in the afternoon heat.

Total species of birds found was between 95 and 100. Pretty good for a hot summer's weekend!

David Trently

Newsletter Addendum

I made a serious blunder in my President's Message in the last TOS newsletter (*The Tennessee Warbler*). In discussing the Eagle Lake project, I thanked Memphis TOS, but forgot to thank Keith McKnight, Jeff Wilson, and Melinda Welton. Keith, who is a conservation specialist for Ducks Unlimited, has handled most of the legwork in assembling the management plan. Jeff also contributed to the plan, and he and Melinda did much of the work in setting up our relationship with TWRA.

I was trying to focus on chapter involvement in the message, but in doing so I got sloppy (what happens when you write these things at midnight two days after they're due) and inadvertently slighted the people most responsible for our success. Certainly, MTOS's involvement will be crucial to the project, but there wouldn't BE a project without the above-named individuals.

This was an inexcusable omission, and I apologize to Keith, Jeff, and Melinda. Thanks, guys, for the work you've done, and please forgive me for my oversight.

Chris Sloan
chris.sloan@home.com
Nashville, TN

TOS MEETING A GREAT SUCCESS

By Wallace Coffey

Those of you who turned out for the Tennessee Ornithological Society Annual Spring Meeting at Bristol in Washington County, Virginia know what a memorable weekend that will always be in the hearts of Bristol Bird Club members.

More than 115 birders from as far away as Georgia and Memphis came to enjoy our hospitality, our beautiful mountains, and the songs of a New Dawn.

The club faithful who organized the event gathered under warm and sunny skies in the back parking lot of the Holiday Inn at 2 p.m. Sunday, just soaking it all up and hugging and thanking one another for a weekend that was as perfect as perfect can be.

It was a safe weekend for all. The Holiday Inn and Convention Center worked "like dogs" to see that all went well. There were no problems! Janice Martin had everyone fine-tuned and every aspect of a well-organized meeting went like clockwork. Janice was wonderful when she stood before a packed dining room to welcome all to join us in celebrating the BBC's 50th Anniversary. She was beautiful in her blue-and-white outfit and the flowers made her glow among the candles and all the color. From Bert Hale's bowls to his blessing; it was wonderful. All the rest who pitched in to manage details in every possible way were super. What else can you say about perfection?

During the TOS field trip to Whitetop Mountain and other areas, we found Northern Bobwhite, Barred Owl, Least Flycatchers, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Winter Wrens, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireos, Magnolia Warblers, Blackburnian Warblers, Kentucky Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Orchard Orioles, and Baltimore Orioles.

Lark Sparrow Best Bird at Bristol State Meeting

By Wallace Coffey

Without a doubt, the best bird seen on the TOS (Bristol) State Meeting field trips this spring was a Lark Sparrow observed by the Saturday field party at Quarry Bog in Shady Valley, TN. The western bird, which nested in Sevier and Jefferson counties in the 1970s, appears as a transient in a wide variety of locales in the state. Garry Wallace had a male near Elizabethton in Carter County 26 April 1980. The 6 May 2000 record in Shady Valley was observed by about 12 birders, several of whom have had extensive experience with the species.

At least three high-quality spotting scopes were used to observe the bird as it perched atop a fence post in strong light. It was studied for several minutes thru Kowa EDA 60mm and Swarovski scopes. The group studied the bird at about 300 feet distance and all got to use their field guides to get satisfactory comparisons with a book in hand before the bird moved away from the perch.

A few of the those observing the bird were Betty Reid Campbell of Oak Ridge, Tony Headrick and Dawn Headrick of Knoxville, Boyd Sharp of Knoxville, and Jo Anne Routledge and Larry Routledge of Greeneville.

Some birders who did not see the bird thought it could have been a Savannah Sparrow. Those who saw the Lark Sparrow rejected that possibility. At the end of the field trip about a dozen persons held up their hands saying they had seen the bird and had absolutely no problem with the identification as a Lark Sparrow. Dr. Charles R. Smith, Jim Campbell and Wallace Coffey agreed the bird should be included in the official compilation of the state meeting weekend count.

CHAPTER NEWS

New **Chattanooga Chapter** officers are:

President — Danny Gaddy
 Vice President (Field Trips) — Judy Newsome
 Vice President (Programs) — Bonnie Johnson
 Treasurer — Janice Chadwell
 Secretary — Anita Gaddy
 Historian — Marty Paige
 Statistician — Kevin Calhoon
 Newsletter Editor — Bill Haley, Jr.

Our club continues to have good crowds for the monthly programs including presentations on birding in Antarctica (Dan Williams) and Peru (Jan Shaw), research studies (Dr. David Haskell and Dr. David Aborn), and birdbanding in Whigg Meadow (Dave Vogt). Likewise, several people participated in a variety of field trips including searches for warblers at Cravens House, Baylor School, and Reflection Riding. Trips to Hinch Mountain, Flat Top Mountain, and Brainerd Levee also resulted in good birding. Another field trip included a tour of the Sequatchie Valley Environmental Institute and some good wildflowers. Our club combined birding with a picnic at The Pot House in the Tennessee River Gorge during the spring. We participated in the International Migratory Bird Count on May 13 with a compilation picnic at Audubon Acres. Additionally, we have scheduled field trips focusing on butterfly identification and gray bats. We try to have something for everyone each month.

The Peregrine Falcons are no longer nesting at the Chickamauga Dam but are still in the general area. It is suspected that they have moved their nesting site to a bluff just west of town. The various sightings of Scissor-tailed flycatchers have created a lot of interest.

Club members have participated both jointly and individually in a wide variety of conservation and environmental actions. We are planning to assist in the efforts of the International Crane Foundation to train first Sandhill Cranes and then Whooping Cranes to migrate from Wisconsin to Florida by way of the Hiwassee Refuge near Birchwood. We expect the first ultralight-led Sandhills to come through this season. Crane Day 2001 is set for February 3-4 per Ken Dubke.

Our relationship with TVA is generally positive; however, a recent incident caused concern. Sixty plus Great Blue Heron nests were removed from transmission towers at the Chickamauga Dam and destroyed. Unfortunately, this was done during nesting season and resulted in the loss of eggs and chicks. We have contacted TVA and believe that with improved consultation, such incidents will be avoided in the future. Fortunately, the entire city of Chattanooga was designated a bird sanctuary several years ago and as such enjoys enhanced protection under the city Charter.

We are pleased to be hosting the TOS State Meeting for the Fall of 2000. We plan to have a great time and hope for excellent birding. Come join us!



Danny Gaddy

The spring bird count conducted by the **Lee & Lois Herndon Chapter** resulted in a total of 137 species found on Saturday, April 29. Some of the best birds included Lesser Scaup, Northern Harrier, Pectoral Sandpiper, Philadelphia Vireo, Loggerhead Shrike, Red-headed Woodpecker and 21 species of warblers.

The summer bird count conducted by the chapter on Saturday, June 24, resulted in a total of 109 species, including White Ibis, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Alder Flycatcher and Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Northern Bobwhite and Wild Turkey. A big miss was Ruffed Grouse.

The chapter will hold its annual summer picnic on Thursday, July 13. Meetings will resume on the first Tuesday in September at 7 p.m. in the lower level of the science building at Milligan College.

The chapter's officers for 2000 are: President, Bryan K. Stevens; Vice President, Reece Jamerson; Secretary, Charles Moore; Treasurer, Gilbert Derouen; Statistician, Rick Knight; and Historian, Frank Ward.

The chapter does not hold meetings in July and August. Meetings will resume Sept. 5 at 7 p.m. on the lower level of the science building at Milligan College.

Bryan Stevens

CHAPTER NEWS

On June 3, approximately 30 members and guests of the **Greeneville Chapter** met at the home of member Velda Moore to share a potluck feast and honor their host for establishing a bird sanctuary. Over a period of several years, Ms. Moore has transformed her property by planting dozens of varieties of flowers, shrubs, and trees and adding various feeding stations, nesting facilities, and water features. The result is an area that is attractive to numerous permanent and summer residents and that offers important stopover habitat for transient species.

Spring migration seemed to peak early in Greene County and then taper off suddenly, with the first week of May bringing an explosion of species that were mostly gone by the middle of the month. Notable spring observations in the county included an American Bittern on April 22 and in a different location from late April into early May, 1-5 Great Egrets from late April until mid-May, a Snowy Egret in mid-May, a Ruddy Turnstone in a flock of 112 Short-billed Dowitchers on May 13, a juvenile American Woodcock on May 21, a Forster's Tern on April 10, a Gray-cheeked Thrush from May 13 until the last week of the month, Warbling Vireos through the end of May (probably breeding in two locations in the eastern part of the county), two Swainson's Warblers on May 5, good numbers of Rusty Blackbirds until the end of March, and Savannah Sparrows throughout the period (probably breeding in at least one location).

The chapter has scheduled a trip to Rankin Bottoms (good shorebird spot at the head of Douglas Lake in Cocke County) for Sunday, August 27. The annual fall count is set for Saturday, September 16, the fall date for the North American Migration Count. Contact Don Miller (423-639-4100, raincrow@xtn.net) or Jim Holt (423-639-0525, jholt@greene.xtn.net) for more information.

Don Miller



The **Memphis Chapter** greeted the new millennium with the same enthusiasm and commitment as the day it became a chapter in 1929. Over the years the chapter has supported the birds of prey rehabilitation program at the Memphis Zoo with volunteer services and monetary support. Garden clubs, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, schools, and church and civic organizations benefited from chapter programs on birds and habitat. The chapter has been very involved in local issues affecting habitat preservation through political action network organizations. Several members serve on local boards of conservation groups. The Memphis Chapter has been asked to provide data for government agencies as input for local planning and funding.

Several members completed eleven breeding bird surveys, eight point counts, two roadside surveys, and four frog counts during the month of June. One TOS member donated twenty nest boxes to the Wolf River WMA bringing the total to 60 boxes in the last two years. Over 500 nesting boxes have been made and donated to WMA's and NWR's in the last few years. Four teachers, who are also local chapter members, implemented bird study curriculums at their schools. Five deceased members donated their books, journals and tapes to be placed in schools and libraries. A member teaches Adult continuing education classes through the University of Memphis and the University of Mississippi Desoto Center.

The cooperative partnership between the Memphis Chapter and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has proven to be valuable to a broader public than either group could possibly reach alone. The agency uses our data in managing the Wolf River WMA for both game and non-game species. TWRA often invites the chapter to investigate and report consequences of management practices. Through this collaboration, management planning has become proactive and certainly more effective in the restoration and protection of Tennessee birds.

On a sad note, Bill Fowler, a member since 1978 and a former chapter president, died recently. He was one of Ben Coffey's boys and was very helpful to both Ben and Lula in their later years.

Martha Waldron
Virginia Reynolds

CHAPTER NEWS

Nashville Chapter - The Nashville Spring Count was held on May 13, with a total of 145 species accounted for. This is the second lowest total in the last 10 years, maybe due to the second Saturday of May falling so late in the year this year. Some of the highlights were 5 Common Loons, 1 Pied-billed Grebe, 1 Snowy Egret, and 1 Common Tern at Old Hickory Lake, 1 Green-winged Teal at Cheatham County, 10 shorebird species including 19 Dunlin in breeding plumage, 1 Black-billed Cuckoo, all woodpeckers including 1 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Radnor Lake, 3 Willow Flycatchers, all swallows, 2 Sedge Wrens and 1 Marsh Wren at Shelby Bottoms, all thrushes except Hermit, 613 Cedar Waxwings (which included 475 at Shelby), all vireos except Blue-headed, 27 warbler species, 4 Blue Grosbeaks, 284 Indigo Buntings, 30 Dickcissels at Cheatham County, and 27 Orchard Orioles but no Baltimores. It was a great day to be out, and everybody had a fun time.

On October 28, the Nashville Chapter and Warner Parks will be cosponsoring the excellent hummingbird program given by experts Bob and Martha Sargent of Trussville, Alabama. This will be held at the beautiful, new Nature Center at the Warner Parks in Nashville at 10:30 AM. We would like to encourage anybody from the surrounding areas to come and experience these fine speakers. The Sargents, who run the Hummer/Bird Study Group, have been banding thousands of hummingbirds in the last decade. Of special interest at this time will be the topic of wintering hummingbirds, which Nashville has been fortunate to experience quite a bit of in the last few years. Please come and support these fine people, and good friends of ours.

NTOS Bird Conservation Award

This is the first year that a monetary award has been given from our newly created NTOS Bird Conservation Fund. The Fund was set up to award a minimum annual gift of \$500.00 to a project or organization that is actively engaged in bird conservation on a local, national, or international level. Sources of funding come from individual contributions and NTOS financial reserves, including interest from current financial

reserves. At the board meeting on April 25, 2000, our directors and officers voted to award 3 deserving organizations a total of \$740.00 for this year. The Tennessee Nature Conservancy will receive \$300.00, with a matching contribution coming from one of their board members. The Gulf Coast Observatory will receive \$240.00 for their work in protecting valuable land along the coast that is so important to our neotropical migrants. And \$200.00 will go to the Tennessee Conservation League, especially targeted for their Nature Link Weekend in the fall. This is a program that provides for people that don't normally get out into nature a chance to experience what we often take for granted. If you would like to be involved in this program in the fall, talk to Susan Hollyday. As an organization that appreciates the beauty and value of the birds that breed and migrate through Tennessee, NTOS can be proud that we're actively involved in their conservation. If you would like to make a donation to the Fund, send it to our treasurer, Susan Hollyday. And thank you to those who have already done so.

The pair of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers that nested just south of Nashville are back this year and nesting in a tree just west of where they nested last year. This is on Mack Hatcher Parkway just west of Franklin Rd. in Williamson County. Three fledged last year, so we'll be watching again for developments.



In Memory

*Do not stand at my grave
and weep, I am not there,
I do not sleep.....When
you awaken in the
morning's hush, I am the
swift uplifting rush of quiet
birds in circled flight.*

Bill Fowler - Memphis Chapter, June, 2000

Richard Heintz - Memphis Chapter, June, 2000

CHAPTER NEWS

Officers of the **Mayfield-Gray Chapter** (Columbia Chapter) are: President, Tommy Edwards; Vice-President, George Mayfield; Secretary/Treasurer, Phyllis Coble; Board Members, Allyn Lay and Bedford Lochridge.

Many interesting and educational programs were enjoyed for the 1999-2000 season. Bird sightings of rarity were reported throughout the season around the local areas of Monsanto, Williamsport Ponds, and Arrow Lake. The hosting of the November Fall meeting was very successful. The season ended in June with the annual picnic.

In January a proposal was made to rename the Columbia TOS Chapter after a birding enthusiast. Written ballots were submitted and by majority vote by the members, the Columbia TOS Chapter was changed to the "Mayfield-Gray TOS Chapter." Dr. George Mayfield's father was one of the original founders of the state TOS. He grew up with a great appreciation for birds and all aspects of nature. When George moved to Columbia, there was not an active birding group in this area. Therefore, he was very instrumental and largely responsible in organizing the Columbia TOS Chapter. He is a Past-President of TOS and has written many articles for *The Migrant*. George has led and taught so many people in birding and has led many field trips. George is our authority on bird identification. He is certified and has a banding permit from the US Government. Over the forty years of birding, George has been supported by his lovely wife Cleo.

Dr. Dan Gray was a member of the original Old Blue Grass Chapter of TOS. Dan's father was a falconer and a lover of birds. Dan grew up with an appreciation of the outside. He was an authority on birds, flowers, trees, plants and vines. He would gather wild mushrooms to eat. Dan was a Past-President of TOS. Dan and his wife Gaither hosted many annual picnics and bird counts at their camp in the Hampshire area.

Drs. George Mayfield and Dan Gray were well known by the Tennessee birders. For all their contribution to TOS, the present members wanted to recognize and honor them with the Mayfield-Gray TOS Chapter. A plaque was presented to George. Gaither Gray accepted the plaque for her late husband.

RECENT ACTIONS OF THE TENNESSEE BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

Aramus guarauna, Limpkin

Observation: A single immature bird 27 July - 18 September, 1999, Hatchie River, Haywood Co., TN.

Documentation: photographs and written documentation.

Vote: 6-0

Status: 2nd state record

Passerina amoena, Lazuli Bunting

Observation: A single female 4 May, 1996, the Earth Complex, Shelby Co., TN

Documentation: written documentation

Vote: 6-0

Status: 1st state record (placed in Provisional Category)

Conturinicops noveboracensis, Yellow Rail

Observation: A single bird 16 October, 1999 at Britton Ford, Tennessee NWR, Henry Co., TN

Documentation: written documentation

Vote: 6-0

Status: Casual status on TN list

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus, Yellow-headed Blackbird

Observation: An adult male 29 November, 1999 at Lauderdale WMA, Lauderdale Co. TN

Documentation: written documentation

Vote: 6-0

Status: Casual status on TN list

Kevin Calhoun (Secretary TBRC)

Chattanooga, TN

423-875-0595

OCTOBER 31ST DEADLINE

The deadline date for the December issue of *The Tennessee Warbler* is October 31st. Please submit all articles, announcements, reports and items of interest by this deadline date.

Submit Material To:

Theresa Graham, Editor
PO Box 366, Oakland TN 38060
(901) 465-4263 (home)
(901) 748-8000 (fax)
e-mail: 2graham@bellsouth.net

IF YOU CARE A LOT ABOUT WILDLIFE...

The Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) passed a major hurdle on May 11, when the full House approved H.R. 701 315 - 102. It would reallocate some of the existing royalties paid by oil companies for oil and gas leases on the outer continental shelf. Wildlife and parks would be major beneficiaries, with \$27.2 million per year projected for Tennessee. This includes \$6.4 million for Tennessee's wildlife, with major focus on nongame species.

The following is a Congressional timeline for CARA:

- 1) SENATE COMMITTEE MARKUP - On July 18-19, 2000, the 20-member Senate Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee will markup and vote on CARA (S. 2123)
- 2) SENATE FLOOR VOTE - Once CARA passes ENR, it will go to the Senate floor for a vote, which will probably be after the August Recess July 29 -September 4, 2000.
- 3) CONFERENCE COMMITTEE - Once CARA passes the Senate, a CARA conference committee will have to work out the differences between the House and Senate versions of CARA and release one final version back to House and Senate floors for a final vote.
- 4) FINAL HOUSE AND SENATE VOTE - Once a joint CARA bill is released from the conference committee, the full House and Senate each vote one last time on CARA (this time there are no floor amendments).
- 5) PRESIDENT CLINTON SIGNS CARA INTO LAW!!!

CARA is expected to be more of a challenge in the Senate than in the House. There are 45 of 50 Senators who are current co-sponsors of CARA or similar OCS funding bills. Fifty-one votes would technically pass S. 2123. Disruptive filibusters and points of order could be countered with 60 and 67 votes, respectively.

You can help CARA in Tennessee if you:

- Thank Senator Bill Frist for his CARA co-sponsorship and confirm his continued support in expediting the above CARA timeline.
- Encourage CARA support from Senator Fred Thompson.
- Thank Tennessee Congressmen for their prior and future CARA support including: Bob Clement, Harold Ford, Bart Gordon, Bill Jenkins, and John Tanner.

Conclusions

CARA would provide needed dedicated and reliable funding and allow states to repeat the success stories of game species for other fish and wildlife, including our vanishing songbirds and other declining wildlife.

For More Information and Updates About CARA, contact:

- Teaming with Wildlife@ web page at www.teaming.com
- Thomas Congressional directory at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>
- Bob Hatcher, TWRA Nongame Coordinator, P.O. Box 40747, Nashville, TN 37204
Telephone 615-781-6619) or E-mail at bhatcher@mail.state.tn.us



CATS INDOORS! Campaign for Safer Birds and Cats

The American Bird Conservancy has launched a citizen education and action campaign to end the massive and unnecessary loss of birds and other wildlife to predation by domestic cats. Scientists estimate that free-roaming cats (owned, stray, and feral) kill hundreds of millions of birds and possibly more than a billion small mammals in the U.S. each year. Cats kill not only birds that frequent our backyards, such as the Eastern Towhee, American Goldfinch, and Song Sparrow, but also Watch List species such as the Snowy Plover, Wood Thrush, and Black-throated Blue Warbler, and endangered species such as the Least Tern and Piping Plover. Not only are birds and other wildlife at risk, but cats who roam free often lead short and painful lives, living on average less than 5 years, whereas indoor cats often live to 17 or more years of age.

At the Spring meeting in Bristol, TOS passed a resolution to support the Cats Indoors! Policies laid out by the American Bird Conservancy include: 1) Encouraging responsible pet ownership by keeping cats indoors, spaying or neutering, identification tags and where possible, licensing. 2) Supporting local cat control and protection plans requiring owners to register their cats and prevent their roaming. 3) Humane removal of free-roaming cats from areas important to wildlife

The American Bird Conservancy has prepared informative educational materials on the impact of cats on birds, including documentation on cat predation, health hazards, and other dangers associated with free-roaming cats, legislative solutions, and practical advice on how to convert an outdoor cat into a contented indoor pet. These materials, prepared with the assistance of a technical advisory committee with representatives from the animal welfare, conservation (including National Audubon Society), veterinary, and scientific communities, will be a valuable asset to Audubon chapters, bird clubs, schools, and the general public.

This campaign promotes grassroots efforts to address this issue at state and local levels. Cats can't be blamed for killing wildlife. The responsibility lies with owners to ensure their cats are safely inside.

For more information, see: Cats and Wildlife A Conservation Dilemma at: <http://wildlffe.wisc.edu/extension/catfly3.htm>, or contact: Cats Indoors! The Campaign for Safer Birds and Cats, American Bird Conservancy, 1250 24th Street, NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20037, phone: (202) 778-9666, fax: (202) 778-9778, email: abc@abcbirds.org

TOS CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH GRANTS

The guidelines, deadlines and application for the newly created TOS Conservation and Research Grants will be posted on the TOS website as soon as they are completed. The scope of the projects to be considered for funding need to "directly or indirectly help to protect the birds of Tennessee, increase scientific knowledge, or educate others about the importance of Tennessee's birds". The Katherine Goodpasture Award has been consolidated with these grants. Roger Tankersley and Melinda Welton Co-Chair the Conservation and Research Committee.

FALL 2000 NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATION COUNT

The NAMC has been running a fall count for several years and this year Tennessee will follow suit.

The count will be on the third Saturday in September, which will make it the 16th. The rules and data keeping will be the exact same as the spring count. Each county is a count area. Please keep track of hours and miles on foot, hours and miles by car, hours owling, feeder hours, and the names of all the participants. Count data will be used to gauge how successful this year's breeding season was.

Please send your results to:

Ron Hoff, 282 Hackworth Ln., Clinton, TN. 37716 or email them to me dollyron95@aol.com.

Thanks for your participation and have fun!

Ron Hoff
Clinton, TN



Spring NAMC Data Needed

North American Migration Count data reminder. If anyone has not turned in their data from the NAMC on May 13th this year, please do so as soon as possible. I'll be starting the compilation soon. Please send a hard copy to:

Ron Hoff, 282 Hackworth Lane, Clinton, TN.
37716, or email them to me dollyron95@aol.com

Remember to include hours and miles by car, hours and miles by foot, hours owling, feeder hours, weather conditions, times of the count, and names of the observers.

Thanks for your help.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIPS

The Eagle Lake Wildlife Management Area Shorebird Management Plan was recently approved by Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Eagle Lake is located in Shelby Co., adjacent to the Mississippi River with excellent potential to be a major shorebird stopover area. This plan was written as a cooperative effort between TWRA, the Tennessee Ornithological Society and Ducks Unlimited. TWRA has committed to prepare two of the Units with the greatest potential for shorebird use for this fall's migration. Vegetation will be controlled in these units and water pumped to maintain levels optimum for shorebird feeding. Several TOS members will be assisting TWRA in the monitoring of shorebird and waterfowl use of the WMA. Jeff Wilson and Melinda Welton are the TOS contacts for this project.

TOS is also working with TWRA to identify the most important Cerulean Warbler breeding areas on the Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area in Campbell and Scott Counties and Cheatham Wildlife Management Area in Cheatham Co. Cerulean Warblers are currently under consideration for official listing as a Tennessee species Deemed in Need of Management and Royal Blue harbors a significant population of these birds. Maps predicting the high quality breeding areas were generated by TWRA and Chuck Nicholson and TOS members conducted ground truthing of the maps this spring. Hundreds of singing males were located on Royal Blue. This information will be compared with the maps to see how well the model predicted the quality Cerulean habitat and will also be used by TWRA in future management decisions on Royal Blue and Cheatham WMA's. Melinda Welton is the TOS contact for these projects.



GUIDELINES FOR
THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
CONSERVATION AND RESEARCH GRANT

The Tennessee Ornithological Society invites applications for the TOS Conservation and Research Grant for projects that will directly or indirectly help to protect the birds of Tennessee, increase scientific knowledge, or educate others about the importance of Tennessee's birds. In 2000 there will be one Grant award of \$500.

This award is open to anyone with a bird-related project, including students, professionals, and individual workers. The project can already be underway if the grant would adequately enhance it. Interested applicants should submit a project proposal of up to approximately three pages. An application form is available on the TOS Website, www.TNBIRDS.org or the information can be incorporated in a letter. The information needed includes: name, address, telephone, E-mail address (if any) of applicant, topic, problem to be addressed, objectives, expected results and significance, project location, beginning and ending dates, estimated field time, estimated total cost of project, funds available from other sources, how grant is to be used to either fully or partially fund a project, experience of applicant in field, willingness of applicant for sharing results at a statewide TOS meeting, and if the work is under the guidance of a mentor or independent. A letter of recommendation should also be sent from a mentor or an associate in bird studies. Up to \$30 of the stipend may be applied toward costs for attending a scientific meeting deemed appropriate for advancement of the fieldwork project.

- Criteria for judging applications will be:
- Clarity of proposal,
- Significance of problem addressed,
- Adequacy of project design,
- Adequacy of experience/training,
- Adequacy of professional guidance,
- Financial need,
- Chance for achieving objectives,
- Potential benefit to the species/resource,
- Potential for advancing career/studies, and
- Potential for sharing results at a future statewide TOS meeting.

The application and letter of recommendation should be e-mailed to Roger Tankersley ; rdtanker@utk.edu or mailed to him at: 2924 Jenkins St., Knoxville, TN 37921; Telephone (865) 673-0931.

DEADLINES: The deadline for the TOS Conservation and Research Grant in 2000 is September 15th. Applicants will be notified immediately following the Fall TOS meeting on October 7, 2000. Future deadlines and grant amounts will be announced in the Fall Warbler and posted on the web site. A check for 75 percent of the budget costs will be mailed to the grantee in October 2000.

The balance will be paid after the project leader sends a satisfactory progress report and itemized costs to the Committee Co-Chair, Roger Tankersley. All grant awards will be announced in *The Tennessee Warbler*.

Conservation Committee Co-Chairs:

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