



THE TENNESSEE WARBLER

Newsletter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

December, 2009

Editor, Theresa Graham

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks to Tommy Edwards, Donette Sellers and the members of the Mayfield-Gray and Buffalo River chapters for hosting our Fall Meeting in Columbia. Thirty-eight members enjoyed a smoothly run weekend, capped with the symposium organized by Dr. David Pitts. Presentations were made by H. Dawn Wilkins of UT Martin, Caitlin Gussenoven of UT Martin and Morris Williams (Buffalo River). Dr. Pitts closed the symposium with a clever riff on Murphy's Law (yes – there was a Murphy) using study skins from the UT Martin collection. Thank you all for sharing the results of your research with us.

During the business meeting, the Board of Directors confirmed the appointments of Chuck Nicholson (Knoxville) as Curator and Donna Ward (West), Steve Routledge (Middle) and Larry Routledge (East) as Director's-at-Large. Tony King (Knoxville) was appointed Vice President for east Tennessee, replacing Rack Cross. Bird Records Committee Secretary Dean Edwards (Knoxville) reported that John Henderson's (Chattanooga) term on the Committee is up. Michael Todd (at-Large) has been appointed to replace him. Thank you for your service, John and welcome back Mike.

The Winter Meeting will be held at Reelfoot Lake in January, and the Spring Meeting will be in Knoxville in May. See details and contact information within.

Former Presidents Danny Gaddy (Chattanooga), Richard Connors (Nashville) and Susan McWhirter (Memphis) are hard at work reviewing our Constitution and By-laws. Recommendations and comments are sought from all members and may be sent directly to any of the Committee members.

At the Spring Meeting in Nashville, we resolved to support the sale of The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp). Arguably one of the most efficient and effective conservation programs, proceeds from the sale of the stamp funds land acquisition for our National Wildlife Refuge System. I took 50 stamps on consignment and to date we've sold 42. Next time you hear someone say birders don't pay their way, you might mention this. By the way, the 2010/11 Duck Stamp will feature a stunning male American Wigeon.

It's time to sign-up for one of Tennessee's 30 Christmas Bird Counts (CBC). It doesn't matter what your experience level is. Compilers are always looking for help, everyone is welcome and you can make a valuable contribution to the nation's largest citizen science project. Your chapter will have contact information for counts in your area.

In addition to participating on a CBC, the holiday season offers another chance to support conservation. Consider buying a bag or two of shade grown coffee. It's more expensive, but has a far less adverse impact on the environment and wildlife, particularly birds. It makes a great gift for the host/hostess of those Christmas and New Year's parties.

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President's Message Continued from page 1

The Nominating Committee, Danny Gaddy, Amy Potter (Nashville) and Van Harris (Memphis) will soon be making the rounds seeking volunteers to fill our elective offices. We are in particular need of an editor for The Migrant. Chris Welsh (Knoxville) has done a fantastic job, but has served us longer than anyone should have to. I urge all members to assist the Committee in searching for Chris's replacement. The Migrant is our legacy, and the editor is our most important office. Send recommendations to me or directly to any Committee member.

Finally, have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Dick Preston

Comments and suggestions are always welcome (dickpreston@bigriver.net).

TOS Spring State Meeting Knoxville, April 30 – May 2, 2010

The Knoxville chapter invites all state TOS members to the spring meeting, to be held April 30 – May 2, 2010. Friday night registration, Saturday afternoon meetings, and the Saturday banquet will be held at the Knoxville Zoo, located off I-40 at Exit 392. Half-price tickets to the zoo for Saturday afternoon are available in advance only.

All field trips will leave from the conference hotel, the Super 8 at Strawberry Plains (Exit 398). The hotel offers a continental breakfast and a Sunday brunch. A block of rooms is reserved at a rate of \$45.00 plus taxes per night. Make your reservation early and mention TOS when calling 865-524-0855.

Many other hotels are available nearby: Quality Inn (865-342-0003); Country Inns and Suites (865-546-5700); Ramada (865-546-7271); Econolodge (865-932-1217); Fairfield Inn by Marriott (865-971-4033); Motel 6 (865-633-6646); Best Western (865-246-1930); and La Quinta (865-633-5100). This exit also has fast food restaurants and Puleo's Grille, which offers Italian and Southern cuisine.

We are excited to announce that the speaker for the Saturday banquet will be Steve Hilty (<http://www.ventbird.com/people/steve-hilty>), tour leader for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours and author of *A Guide to the Birds of Colombia* and *Birds of Venezuela*. Field trips are still being finalized, but may include the upper and lower Smokies, Seven Islands, Kyker Bottoms, Sharp's Ridge, Cove Lake, and/or Cross Mountain.

Registration for the meeting is \$10. Banquet tickets are \$20, and Saturday afternoon zoo tickets are \$8.50. Requests for banquet or zoo tickets must be received by April 15. When registering, indicate if you would like a vegetarian option. Send checks to: Knoxville TOS, in care of Marie Oakes, 18 Rockingham Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

For additional information, contact Robin Barrow, braveladyrobin@gmail.com.

**TOS Winter Meeting
Reelfoot, January 29-31, 2010**

The winter meeting of The Tennessee Ornithological Society will be at Reelfoot Lake, January 29, 30 and 31.

This is a birding weekend with no formal business or board of directors meeting. Members and guests will spend a weekend enjoying one of their favorite activities: birding. Waterfowl and eagle numbers will be at their peak. We'll also make a special effort to locate seasonal goodies like longspurs, Short-eared Owls, sparrows and rare gulls.

We'll headquartered at the Reelfoot Lake Inn, 1520 Hwy 21, Tiptonville. This is 2 minutes from the state park headquarters at the south end of the lake. Special room rate is \$57.38. Each room has two queen size beds and a twin. Call (731) 253-6845 for reservations. The Inn can also be contacted by e-mail: ReelFootLakelInn@yahoo.com. Be sure to mention that you are with TOS. Light refreshments will be provided Friday night at 6:30 in the Inn's conference room. Field trips will leave around 7 AM on Saturday.

Saturday evening, Knox Martin will present a program on the Raptors of Reelfoot at Ellington Hall, the auditorium at the state park.

A field trip will be offered Sunday morning to relocate any rarities found on Saturday.

I urge you to reserve your room early. This is a popular time of year for fishermen and eagle watchers. Motels around the lake are often booked solid.

Direct any inquiries to Dick Preston: dickpreston@bigriver.net, H - (901) 837-3360.

MBCC Secures More Land for the National Wildlife Refuge System

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC) meets three or four times a year. The Commission is authorized to oversee the expenditure of Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp funds and several, smaller, funding sources for the purchase and lease of migratory bird habitat for the Refuge System.

The Commission recently approved the expenditure of \$8 million in Stamp funds to add more than 4,000 acres to seven units of the Refuge System. Six of the seven were part of, or adjacent to, recognized Important Bird Areas (IBAs).

The MBCC, which has been in operation since the late 1920s, is a model of thoughtful and bipartisan bird conservation that operates virtually under the radar, and is largely underappreciated or simply misunderstood.

Source: The Birding Community E-Bulletin, October 2009.

TOS – Conservation Policy Committee Report to the Board of Directors 2009 Fall TOS Meeting

July 2009

Comprehensive Climate, Energy, and Wildlife Legislation

TOS signed-on to a letter drafted by the National Wildlife Federation, urging Senate passage of climate change and wildlife legislation. This comprehensive legislation would reduce greenhouse gas emissions and dedicates 5% of the total allowance value for natural resources adaptation in order to safeguard fish and wildlife, and the natural resources on which we all rely.

August 2009

Categorical Exclusion of Broadband Towers from Environmental Review

TOS signed on to a National Audubon Society letter to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The letter urged against allowing a categorical exclusion for all broadband towers from environmental review, as had been proposed in the Federal Register on July 9, 2009. This exclusion would include guyed towers and towers up to 400 feet in height despite research that found nearly 16 times more bird fatalities at guyed vs. unguied towers in the 116-146 m height range, and 70 times more bird fatalities at guyed towers above 305 m height as compared with the lower unguied towers.

September 2009

Full funding for Land and Water Conservation Fund HR 3534

TOS wrote letters to all TN members of the House of Representative, as well as signing-on to a letter prepared by the TN Parks and Greenways Foundation, in support of a provision within HR 3534 that would provide full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This fund is an important tool for acquiring public land in Tennessee and has been responsible for the purchase of 58,600 acres across the state.

Posting Action Alerts on tnbirds

In order to engage more TOS members in conservation actions, the Conservation Policy Committee agreed to start posting Action Alerts from time to time on tnbirds. These alerts will clearly state the action requested with background information on the issue. The action will usually be a phone call or a letter to one or several state representatives, members of the TN delegation to Washington, or a government agency.

Appalachian Restoration Act, S. 696

TOS sent a letter to Senator Alexander thanking him for being a co-sponsor of S. 696, the "Appalachian Restoration Act". This bill would protect streams from being polluted and buried by waste created during mountaintop removal coal mining. Passage of this bill could curb this destructive mining method and directly benefit several declining forest bird species including the rapidly declining Cerulean Warbler. A similar letter was sent to Senator Corker asking him to become a co-sponsor. This was also the subject of the first Action Alert sent to TOS members via tnbirds.

October 2009

Petition to Revoke Import Tolerances of 13 Pesticides

TOS sent a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in support of an American Bird Conservancy petition to ban the importation of crops containing any residues of 13 pesticides known to be highly toxic to birds. These pesticides are used on crops throughout Latin America where many species of U.S. migratory birds spend the winter months, and by granting import tolerances, the EPA is essentially sanctioning their use.

Comments on new use for Kaput-D (diphacinone and imidacloprid) (EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0625)

TOS submitted comments to the EPA concerning the use of Kaput-D bait for prairie dog elimination. This rodenticide is not selective to the target species and non-target mammals and birds are at risk of being poisoned. Species potentially impacted by this chemical include several species of songbirds, Prairie Chickens, Sage Grouse, Bald and Golden Eagles, as well as the Endangered Black-footed Ferret.

Green Forest Works for Appalachia program

At the request of the Bird Conservation Alliance (BCA), TOS sent a letter to Senator Alexander asking his support for \$15 million in the FY 2011 Interior appropriations bill to begin implementing the Green Forest Works for Appalachia program. This program would achieve the main goals of the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative to reestablish hardwood forests on lands damaged by surface coal mining, as well as employ over 2,000 Appalachian citizens in the project. One of the most important species to potentially benefit from this effort would be the Cerulean Warbler. Steve Holmer, Director of the Bird Conservation Alliance & Senior Policy Advisor for the American Bird Conservancy, will also hand-deliver a copy of this letter to the Senator when they meet next month. TOS also signed-on to a group letter from the BCA on this subject to be sent to a number of administration officials and other members of congress.

Proposed Suspension and Modification of Nationwide Permit (NWP) 21

The Tennessee Ornithological Society submitted comments in support of the Proposed Suspension and Modification of Nationwide Permit (NWP) 21. This program was originally established to streamline the permitting process for certain types of minor fill deposits created during surface mining. In recent years the use of NWP 21 was expanded and caused widespread damage to streams and native forest. Without this streamlining option, the Army Corp of Engineers will have to take a harder look at the impacts of proposed fills associated with Appalachian surface mining and, hopefully, reduce the adverse impacts of fill material.

Current CPC Members

Melinda Welton and Bob Hatcher, Co-chairs
Dick Preston, Chuck Nicholson, Kevin Calhoon, and Gregg Elliott.

New Rules on Eagles

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) released a final rule in September that will allow limited incidental "take" or disturbance of eagles through public safety activities or other development projects. The permits will only be granted if they will not impact the goal of maintaining or increasing eagle populations.

The Bald Eagle was removed from the Endangered Species Act in 2007, and incidental take permits had been allowed under the ESA. However, there were no similar provisions under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act once the eagle was delisted.

There are now two new permit types that will be allowed. One would be permitted when the disturbance is associated with, but not for the purpose of, an activity (e.g., during real estate development). The second would allow the removal of nests under limited circumstances, particularly if they create safety concerns (e.g., near airports). Deliberate killing of eagles is still outlawed. In order to manage these population impacts, each USFWS region will have a limit of no more than five percent of the estimated annual regional eagle productivity.

The new rules are effective in November.

Source: The Birding Community E-Bulletin, October 2009

Two Research Projects Supported by 2009 J. B. Owen Awards

The Knoxville Bird Club has selected two winners of the 2009 J.B. Owen Award. Than Boves of the University of Tennessee Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries has received an Owen Award of \$300 for support of his project on *Relationships between Cerulean Warblers, Timber Harvest, and Ornamentation*. Than's continuing research has two objectives: (1) To examine the relationship between plumage ornamentation and quality in Cerulean Warblers; (2) To determine if relationships exist among timber harvest intensity, ornamentation, year, and the quality of individual Cerulean Warblers that inhabit various harvest intensities. Findings could be important in land management and policy planning for conservation of Cerulean Warblers. Jessica Owens of the University of Tennessee Psychology Department has received an Owen Award of \$300 for support of her project on '*Chick-a-dee' calling behavior of tufted titmice (Baeolophus bicolor): A test of the effects of habitat structure and body condition.*' Jessica's proposed research has the potential to change the study of disturbance on avian species by providing a quick and simple method of vocal data collection and analysis.

The projects of Than Boves and Jessica Owens provide outstanding opportunities to achieve the Owen Award goal of promoting the welfare and conservation of birds in Tennessee. Previous Owen Award winners were:

- 2002: Foothills Land Conservancy of Maryville, Tennessee, for acquisition of wetlands in the area between the Yuchi and Hiwassee Island Refuges.
- 2003: Jennifer Powers, of East Tennessee State University, for support of graduate research on the reproductive success and natal dispersal of American Kestrels.
- 2004: Samuel deMent of Greenwood, SC, David Vogt of Chattanooga, and Keith Hobson of Saskatoon, SK Canada for support of the project on Stable-isotope feather analysis and foreign band encounter comparisons of wintering American Kestrels in similar habitats west and east of the Southern Appalachians.
- 2005: Lyn Bales for support of outreach programs at Ijams Nature Center of Knoxville.
- 2006: Jim Giocomo for support of the project on Northern Saw-whet Owl Monitoring in Knox County, Tennessee; and Mark Armstrong for support of The MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity Station) at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge.
- 2007: Keith Watson of the Southern Appalachian Bird Conservancy (Sevierville) for support of the Breeding Bird Survey of Soak Ash and Cattail Wetland Habitats in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee.
- 2008: Than Boves for support of the project on Relationships between Cerulean Warblers, Timber Harvest, and Ornamentation

The J.B. Owen Award is open to anyone with a project that promotes the welfare and conservation of birds in Tennessee. Information on applying for the Award can be found in this issue of *The Warbler* or at www.tnbirds.org.

Support Urged for Operation Migration 2009

Twenty Whooping Crane chicks are on migration from Wisconsin to Florida. The chicks are escorted by a sixteen member team, four ultralight aircraft, top cover plane, plus campers, motor homes and escort vehicles. The route is 1,258 miles in length. I urge each ornithological society club in Tennessee to become 2009 mile makers by contributing \$198.00 per mile for this worthy cause. Get involved! This is high adventure. Read the daily operation migration field journal (http://www.operationmigration.org/Field_Journal.html) and keep up with their happenings!

Contributions may be made by calling 1-800-675-2618 or online http://www.operationmigration.org/mile_makers.htm

Tony King, KTOS

J.B. OWEN MEMORIAL AWARD

The purpose of the J.B. Owen Memorial Endowment is to honor the memory of J.B. Owen, longtime TOS member known to thousands in East Tennessee through his columns in Knoxville newspapers. J.B. Owen was an active member of Knoxville Chapter from 1947 until his death in 2001. He was awarded the TOS Distinguished Service Award in 1990. The Endowment provides funds for the annual J.B. Owen Award, with expected value of \$250 to \$500 per year.

The J.B. Owen Award is open to anyone with a project that promotes the welfare and conservation of birds in Tennessee. Applicants are encouraged to submit:

- Cover letter with short project description and applicant contact information
- Resume
- Brief project proposal, of up to three pages, showing topic of the project, problem to be addressed, objectives, expected results and significance, deliverables (for example, written report, journal article, presentation), project location, and project schedule.

Each year, applications are due by May 1 and should be sent (preferably) by e-mail to marieoakes@msn.com or mailed to Marie Oakes, 18 Rockingham Lane, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830. The J.B. Owen Endowment Committee of KTOS will evaluate applications and will typically announce the Award winner the following September.

FALL BIRD COUNT DATA WANTED

Results are due for the recent Tennessee Fall Bird Counts. All Tennessee bird counts should have the following data included with the bird statistics:

1 – total miles and hours by foot, car, and other modes (canoe, horse, etc.).

2 – total miles and hours for night-birding (owling) are kept separately.

3 – Feeder-watching hours are also kept separately; include names of feeder-watchers.

4 – All count day weather data: temps; wind; precipitation; clouds, storms/fronts.

5 – Please include the starting and ending times of the count.

6 – Please include the number of observers, number of field parties, and names of all observers. For example, one person in a car is one observer in one party; 4 people in another car are 4 observers in one party; this example results in 5 observers in 2 parties.

7 - Any information that is specific to your count is always appreciated and makes for a more interesting and informative report. Things like the total number of species ever found in the history of your particular count, major weather events (such as "heavy thunderstorms last night", etc.), the most observers we've ever had, etc.

8 – Please send the data to Ron Hoff, 282 Hackworth Lane, Clinton, TN 37716. E-mail is acceptable at aves7000@bellsouth.net. I would like to have the data sometime in the first month after the count. This allows timely reporting to *The Migrant* editor.

As always, thanks in advance for your help gathering data.

Ron Hoff, Tennessee Bird Count Compiler
Tennessee Ornithological Society
282 Hackworth Lane, Clinton, TN 37716, 865-435-4547

CHAPTER NEWS

THE BRISTOL BIRD CLUB capped off their annual banquet in September with a slide show from member, Tom Hunter. Tom's entertaining and informative presentation highlighted an eco-tourism trip to Ecuador taken by members of the Bristol Bird Club. The birds photographed were simply stunning, and stories of habitat preservation by a few local naturalists were very inspiring.

Our next meeting will be a Christmas count planning meeting at Steele Creek Park on Tuesday, December 15th from 7:30 to 10 pm. BBC counts are scheduled as follows:

Saturday, December 19th - Glade Springs, Sunday, December 27th - Bristol Friday, January 1st - Shady Valley & Mountain City, Sunday, January 3rd - Kingsport

Lisa Tyler

GREENEVILLE CHAPTER - Fall in Greene County was significantly cooler and wetter than in the past few years. No large fallouts of migratory birds were reported, and the chapter's Fall Bird Count (held on 26 Sep.) was seriously impacted by heavy rains. Several noteworthy species were recorded during the season, though, highlights of which included the following:

Hooded Merganser (female, 15 Oct.—atypically early), American Bittern (17 Oct.), Snowy Egret (juvenile, 25 Oct.—a rarity for the county), Little Blue Heron (immature, 9 Aug.), Red-shouldered Hawk (juvenile, 26 Sep.), Sora (11 Sep.), Philadelphia Vireo (1-2, 29 Sep. and 13 Oct.), Marsh Wren (26 Sep.), Golden-winged Warbler (26 Sep.), Orange-crowned Warbler (18 Oct.), Nashville Warbler (20 Sep.), Cerulean Warbler (1 Aug.), and Connecticut Warbler (1 Aug.—a rare species, and exceptionally early).

The chapter's Christmas Bird Count is scheduled for Saturday, 19 Dec. For more information, please contact Don Miller (pandion@embarqmail.com) or Jim Holt (jimbouh@comcast.net).

Don Miller

MEMPHIS CHAPTER - This fall migration season we have held several field hikes to the usual places. Shelby Farms, Meeman Shelby Forest State Park, Collierville Boardwalk/Nature Center, Fort Pillow State Park/Lower Hatchie River area, and Wapanocca NWR (Ark).

We thank Dr. David Pitts for presenting his "Woodcocks" program in September and David Haggard, Knox Martin & Martha Waldron in providing October's presentation on the "Reelfoot Eagle Hacking Project".

Upcoming Hikes are more or less centered around the upcoming Christmas Bird count period. Chapter members participate in the Memphis CBC, Wapanocca, Ark/Shelby Forest CBC, Fayette County CBC, and the Arkabutla Lake, MS CBC. All dates are posted on the web page. If you happen to be in the area this Christmas season and would like to participate, please call us. Our contact info is listed on the web page.

John J. Walko

NASHVILLE CHAPTER - New officers just started their positions in September and will serve for the next two years: President: Jan Shaw, 1st Vice President for Programs: Bob Hatcher, 2nd Vice President for Field Trips: Linda Kelly and Kevin Bowden, Secretary: Amy Potter, Treasurer: Susan Hollyday, Curator: Susan Hollyday.

The proposed May Town Center development in Bells Bend, Davidson Co., was successfully voted down this summer. This was great news for Bells Bend Park, and for keeping that whole area rural.

The Nashville Fall Count was held on October 3 and totaled 111 species, 10 fewer than last year, in part due to the strong winds and sunny skies all day. Some birds of interest included 98 Wild Turkeys, 4 Cattle Egrets near Bells Bend Park, 4 Osprey, 1 Bald Eagle seen from Snow Bunting Peninsula at Old Hickory Lake, 3 Northern Harriers at Bells Bend Park, 1 Eurasian Collared-Dove in Rutherford Co., 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers in Cheatham Co., 5 Yellow-

CHAPTER NEWS

Nashville Continued from page 8

bellied Sapsuckers, 1 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher still near the 840/24 Interchange in Rutherford Co., 2 Golden-crowned Kinglets at Harpeth East, 5 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, only 18 species of warblers with the majority being Magnolia, Black-throated Green and American Redstart, 1 early White-crowned Sparrow at Harpeth West, and 83 beautiful Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

Jan Shaw

Members and friends of the **LEE & LOIS HERNDON CHAPTER** of TOS met in July for the annual summer picnic at Rotary Park in Johnson City. Treasurer Gil Derouen provided the barbecue while chapter members furnished snacks, covered dishes and desserts.

Members and friends of the chapter also conducted the 40th annual Elizabethton Fall Bird Count on Saturday, Sept. 26. The area covered included Carter County and parts of the adjacent counties of Johnson, Sullivan, Unicoi and Washington.

The morning saw partly cloudy skies quickly turn overcast with a few sprinkles. By noon the full brunt of a passing front brought moderate to heavy rain until well after sunset, literally washing out most of the afternoon. Flash flooding occurred in some areas as two or more inches of rain fell.

Despite the weather, 121 species of birds — plus one Empid species — were tallied. According to count compiler Rick Knight, this is only slightly below the average of 124 species detected over the last 25 years. The all-time high was 137 species found in 1993.

Knight noted that some totals for many species were on the low side. For instance, the 60 American Goldfinches found was the lowest on a fall count since 1978. However, totals for five species were record high for this count: Mallard, 411; Wild Turkey, 84; Bald Eagle, 5; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 39; and American Crow, 885. The most numerous bird on

the count was the European Starling with 1,340 individuals tallied by observers. Other common birds included American Crow (885); Canada Goose (676); and Chimney Swift (622). A total of 20 different species of warblers were found with the Tennessee Warbler being the most abundant with 58 individuals counted.

Some notable finds included two Northern Goshawks near Ripshin Lake, marking only the fourth record of this hawk for the fall count. Two Eurasian Collared-Doves in Washington County represented the first time this species has been found on the fall count. A Virginia Rail in Shady Valley was only the fourth time this species has made the fall count total. A Semipalmated Plover in Sullivan County was included for only the second time in the last 17 years. A Ring-necked Duck found on the Watauga River in Elizabethton was found where a pair of these ducks spent the summer.

For the first time in the fall count's history, observers failed to find any Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Knight said other significant misses include Ruffed Grouse, missed for only a third time since 1990; and Northern Bobwhite, missed for eight consecutive years. In fact, the Northern Bobwhite has been found only three times in the last 16 years.

For the third time since 1975, counters failed to find Common Nighthawks. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker has now been missed five times in the last 20 years while the Loggerhead Shrike has been missed on 11 of the past 16 fall counts. The Nashville Warbler was missed for third time in the last 16 years.

According to Knight, the nighthawk miss can be attributed to the rain. However, he pointed out that Bobwhites and Shrikes have become difficult to find in the area.

Several different count parties looked for birds despite the rain. The participants included: Gary Wallace, Brookie and Jean Potter, Bryan Stevens, David Thometz and Jennifer Kennedy; Fred Alsop, Jim and Darla Anderson, Mary Anna Wheat and Connie McCall; Tom McNeil, Rob Biller, Hannah Baker, Michele Sparks and John Tolejko; Joe McGuiness, Kim Stroud, Don Holt, Dianne Draper and Kathy and Eric Noblet;

CHAPTER NEWS

Herndon Chapter Continued from page 9

Glen Eller, Roy Knispel, Jerry Bevins and Richard Lewis; Larry McDaniel and Gary Cooper; Rick Knight, Gil Derouen, Jim Anderson and Paul and Emily Bayes.

During October, chapter members conducted bird walks every Saturday morning at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park in Elizabethton.

The chapter will conduct its annual Christmas Bird Counts for Elizabethton and Roan Mountain in December.

Bryan Stevens

FEBRUARY 28TH DEADLINE

The deadline date for the April issue of *The Tennessee Warbler* is February 28th. 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) 748-9324 (fax)
e-mail: 2graham@bellsouth.net



Group photo from the Lee & Lois Herndon Chapter's summer picnic

The Tree

**Leaves of green swing freely in the wind,
dark and light and in between.**

**Branches sway and bend
but mother tree stays strong and firm,
despite the gathering storm**

**She is able to survive the worst:
wind, rain, snow and ice.**

**They don't make her weak.
Only man can topple her
and bring her to the ground**

**A tree may live for hundreds of years,
if free to follow her way,
providing shelter and food
for the birds, animals and humans
fortunate to find her**

**Many birds rely on the tree
to provide a place to hide their nest,
to lay their eggs, to protect their young
from the dangers of the weather
and hungry predators**

**Dressed in her green leaves
with stature and grace,
a tree stands for strength with flexibility,
while radiating the beauty
of the Creator's loving hands**

Gerry Papachristou, 1995



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treasurer@tnbirds.org

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*Merry
Christmas!*

