

the eagle

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a digital newsletter sent to members by e-mail



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Stephen Russell Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society / Virginia Society of Ornithology

BBC MEETS TUESDAY AT ETSU- BRISTOL.

GREGORY J. McCONNELL TO PRESENT PROGRAM ON COSTA RICAN WILDLIFE

Greg McConnell, a professor of biology in the Department of Biology at Emory & Henry College, will present an exciting program on his work and studies in Costa Rica for our **February 21** meeting.

The meeting will be held at the East Tennessee State University -- Bristol Center on the Volunteer Parkway in Bristol Tennessee at 7:30 p.m.

McConnell has been a member of the biology department at Emory & Henry College since 1993, where he teaches General Biology, Zoology, and Tropical Biology. The latter course culminates in a two-week trip to Costa Rica for 10 students. McConnell is also Professor of Rainforest Ecology and Tropical Herpetology at La Suerte Biological Station on the Caribbean slope of Costa Rica. He is currently completing a field guide to the snakes of that country.

DINNER AT THE MAD GREEK - 6 PM.

<http://www.madgreekrest.com>

vastly expanded menu; redecorated; reserved table
2419 Volunteer Parkway, Bristol, TN -- across from Avoca School
Phone: (423) 968-4848

The majority of members attending will gather at the Mad Greek Restaurant at 6 p.m. for a fellowship dinner. Meals are on your own. Our pre-meeting dinners are an excellent way to learn other birder's by name, get to know more about them and get caught up on what we've been doing.

President Bill Grigsby will call the BBC monthly meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. at the ETSU Bristol Center and the program will be presented following a few brief announcements.

The Bristol Bird Club continues to grow and be very active. We have lots of new and exciting plans for 2006.

Bristol Bird Club Special Membership Benefit Report

Bald Eagle pair nesting at Kingsport

Many of you are aware that the Bald Eagles are again at their nest on Clay Island in the Holston River at Kingsport, TN. This is their second year at the nest site.

As a special benefit package for our dues -paying members of the Bristol Bird Club, *The Eagle* newsletters presents, for your enjoyment and information, a close-up and inside look at the Upper Holston River's first-ever eagle nesting.

This presentation is made possible by the efforts of your newsletter editor, Wallace Coffey, and BBC President Bill Grigsby. This has been long in the making and has been a slow and difficult process.

Clay Island is inside the ammunition plant at Kingsport in Hawkins County. The BBC made an attempt in early 2005 to allow our members to enter the area and see the nests but the management of the plant declined our request. Nevertheless, they were agreeable to provide documentation and photos. The two photos appearing here were made during the nesting season of 2005.



The photos on this page are courtesy of Bruce Cole who kept the data.

On 8 April 1995, the Holston Army Ammunition Plant held a field trip to Clay Island (inside the plant secured area) for 25 members of the Bristol Bird Club to view what was then the only Great Blue Heron colony in the region. We had to turn in our social security numbers, get clearance, report at the gate to be checked in and then driven in the plant vans to the island. We were not allowed to get out anywhere else. That trip was made possible by our soon-to-be BBC President Bill Little who worked at the plant and also with Greg Lee, the natural resource biologist at the facility in those days. Mary Jane Erwin also assisted in the arrangements. We counted 57 Great Blue Heron nests and 30 nests of the Double-crested Cormorants which, at that time, had not been known to nest in Tennessee since 1955. Here is the running account of this first-ever regional nesting of the Bald Eagle as kept by Bruce Cole, natural Resources Office, Holston Army Ammunition Plant:

"The one of the two mature eagles was taken on April 14, 2005 and the second was taken on May 25, 2005. The approximate coordinates of the nest is as follows: Longitude - 82 degrees, 39', 17"; Latitude - 36 degrees, 31' and 30". Some of the timeframes for various observations are as follows [Editor Note -- all dates 2005]:



"January 3 - Pair of eagles was first observed in the area of the nest site.

"January 6 - An eagle was observed for the first time adding nesting material to an existing heron nest. The eagle's nest was eventually constructed by utilizing two heron nests that were adjacent to each other as a "foundation" so to speak.

"February 19 - First indication that an eagle was actually incubating eggs so incubation was probably initiated within a couple of days before or after this date.

"April 4 - Observed and verified a baby eagle in the nest for the first time. Accompanied by Tony Armstrong, Head of Plant Security

"April 7 - Verified for the first time that there were two baby eagles in the nest not just one.

"May 24 - First date that young eagles were observed outside of nest.

"August 11 - Last date that either of the young eagles were observed in the general area of the nest site or on the installation in general

"The two adult eagles remained on the installation the entire year and were observed at regular intervals until the current nesting season.

"February 2, 2006 - Eagle was observed for the first time apparently incubating eggs for this year and has been observed on the nest during every monitoring effort since that time."

COMMENTS ON WALLACE COFFEY'S PREVIOUS GREAT BLUE HERON POSTS

"With regard to your observation of the heron rookery I think the eagles may have an impact on the local heron nesting. When the eagles initially started building their nest it was in a tree that had approximately 10-15 heron nests in it and was somewhat isolated

from the main rookery that had approximately 140 active heron nests and approximately 40 cormorant nests.

"When the herons returned, the eagles were already nesting and at first only those nests in the same tree as the eagle's nest were abandoned. The herons attempted to continue nesting as normal in the remainder of the rookery. However, whenever an eagle came or went from the nest the entire population of herons in the rookery would take flight from the area.

"Within two to three weeks the entire rookery was abandoned and the herons started a new rookery approximately 1,000 feet north of the original rookery and 800 or so feet from the river itself. The majority of nests within the new rookery were constructed near a large cooling water stream that flows into Arnott Branch. However, there were only about 75 active nests in the new rookery indicating that almost half the herons using the original rookery had nested elsewhere, if they nested at all.

"I have just recently found another small rookery with approximately 15 nests in it approximately one-half mile up river on the Holston from the original site and am guessing these are some of the birds from the original rookery. Also, I did not observe any cormorants nesting on the installation in the new rookery or elsewhere last year so I don't know where those relocated to."

--- Bruce Cole, 15 February 2006

BBC 13th of month field trip

Our next walkup field trip will meet at the ETSU Bristol Center on the Volunteer Parkway in Bristol Tennessee. The meeting times this winter will always be 8 a.m. The March field trip is Monday, the 13th. We are going rain or shine but snow-covered roads will be another issue. We will make announcements if snow will cancel one of these trips.

Each outing will be to wherever the group agrees to go birding.

Mostly the groups will go to new or different places so birders can get into less familiar habitat and routes as well as learn new places to bird.

You always know the date. You always know the time. You always know the meeting place.

This is a very convenient way to have a regular monthly outing for the Bristol Bird Club.

Mountain Migratory Bird Festival

May 19-21, 2006

Headquarters: Mt. Lake Hotel

1-800-346-3334

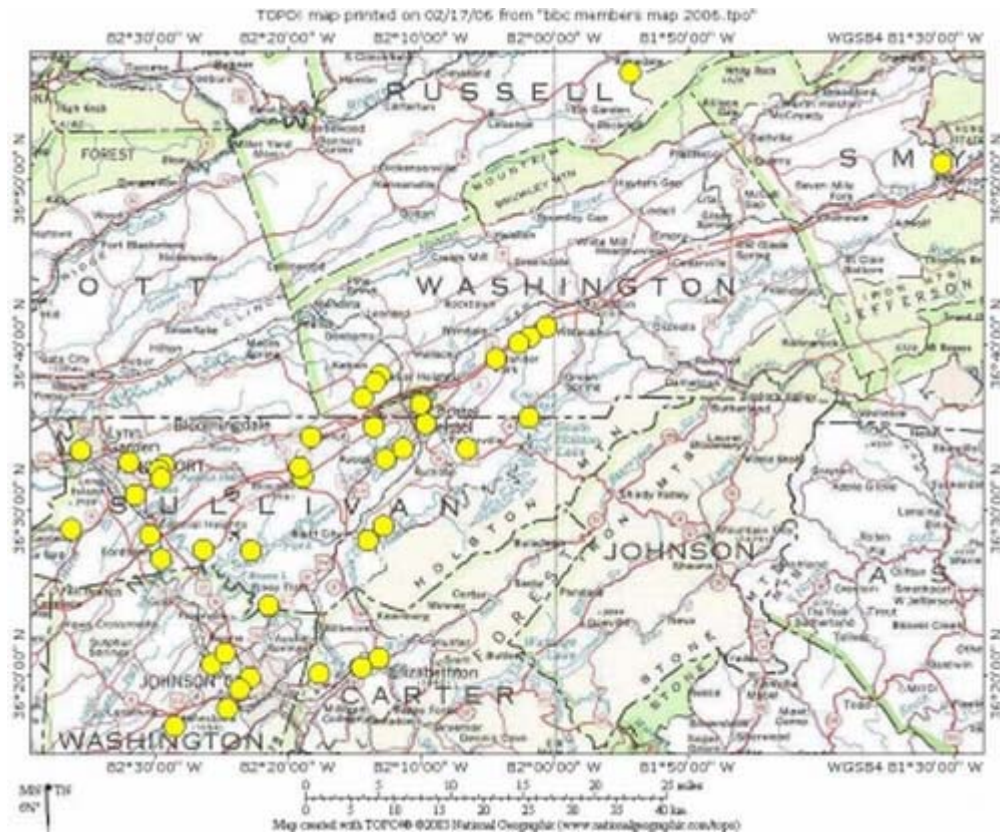
Celebrate spring migration at our Giles County birding festival! You will have over 35 field trips and workshops to choose from including rafting on the New River. The activities begin at noon on Friday with field and float trips. Those will be followed by a slide presentation of "The Birds of Mountain Lake" with Jerry Via and a Moth Watch with Teta Kain.

Saturday will be filled with field trips, workshops, and children's nature activities. A banquet that evening will be topped off with Keynote Speaker, Bill Hilton. Bill has spent the past two winters banding rubythroats in Costa Rica with his project Operation RubyThroat. Then more field trips on Sunday.

For more information, visit our website, www.mountainlakebirding.com or contact Peggy Spiegel at gramby@pemt.net or 540-921-4340.

Sponsors: Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, For the Birds, Giles County, Mt. Lake Hotel, Inn at Riverbend,

DISTRIBUTION MAP OF BRISTOL BIRD CLUB MEMBER'S



Nothing will remind us more of the widespread region over which our BBC members live than some sort of map.

The BBC keeps good regional maps of the membership. On the original map, shown at the left, we can zoom right down to a neighborhood or a street to see where our members live.

BRISTOL BIRD CLUB CALENDAR

Feb 20 Buffalo Mountain Trails Grant Forum, Winged Deer Park, 6:30 p.m.

Feb 21 BBC meeting 7:30pm. at ETSU-Bristol. Dinner at Mad Greek at 6pm

Feb 25 The Buchanan County Bird Club rescheduled trip to Burkes Garden to look for Golden Eagles and Rough-legged Hawks. This will probably be the makeup date for the BBC trip that was called off due to bad weather.

Feb 25 Amphibian Training, Steele Creek Park Nature Center. 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. of frogs, toads, and salamanders moving to breeding areas. Participants will

learn how to identify frogs and toads in the park by their vocalizations (Park Naturalist Chris O'Bryan).

Feb 25 Wetlands Search, Steele Creek Park, Meet at Rooster Front Park 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and hike to the Wetlands. Park Naturalist Chris O'Bryan

Feb 27 Wetlands Search, Steele Creek Park, Meet at Rooster Front Park 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. and hike to the Wetlands. salamanders moving to their breeding areas. Park Naturalist Chris O'Bryan (this is repeat of Feb. 25 event).

Mar 2 Appalachian Spring Series: "Photographing Spring in the Mountains" Claude Kelly, 7:30 p.m. Higher Education Center, Abingdon, VA.

Mar 4 BBC Woodcock Watch, Orchard Bog, Shady Valley, 5:00 PM. We plan to have The Nature Conservancy host us by opening the stone house at the bog. This will provide us some seating, warm heaters, modern and clean restrooms and a place to prepare hot drinks and put out snacks. We hope this evening is going to step up the quality of this experience and enjoyment. Ample parking. Safe and enjoyable.

Mar 8 Kingsport Bluebird Society Annual Meeting, 7 p.m. at the Civic Auditorium.
Program: "Cavity Nesters"

Mar 9 Appalachian Spring Series: "Preserving Southwest Virginia's Endangered Aquatic Species" Mike Pender, 7:30 p.m. Higher Education Center, Abingdon, VA.

Mar 10 Guest Naturalist Tour & Lecture Series, Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area
Elizabethton, TN

Mar 11 Bibbee Nature (Bluefield West Va.) Club Waterfowl Count along the New River. Meet at Bellepoint Park at 2:00 p.m. Supper at the Dairy Queen at 4:30 p.m. Woodcock watch near Pipestem after supper.

Mar 11 Herndon Chapter TOS field trip, American Woodcocks, meet at the Italian Village Restaurant off of 11E. Time TBA.

Mar 13 BBC 13th of the Month Field Trip, ETSU-Bristol Center 8 a.m.

Mar 16 Appalachian Spring Series: "A Year in Wildflowers " David Billhart, 7:30 p.m. Higher Education Center, Abingdon, VA.

Mar 21 BBC meeting 7:30pm. at ETSU-Bristol. Dinner at Mad Greek at 6pm

Mar 23 Appalachian Spring Series: "Keys to Bird Identification in the Spring" Fred Alsop, 7:30 p.m. Higher Education Center, Abingdon, VA.

Mar 30 Appalachian Spring Series: "Hiking Off the Beaten Path" Joe Tennis, 7:30 p.m. Higher Education Center, Abingdon, VA.

Mar / Apr Herndon Bird Club Spring Banquet will be Late March or early April.

Apr 8 Herndon Chapter TOS Saw-whet Owl field trip Roan Mountain time TBA

Apr 8-9 Natural Tunnel State Park, Dungannon, Va. Wildflower Weekend. Join local wildflower experts and park naturalists on hikes that highlight the park's native wildflowers. Various hikes will be offered throughout the day. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Apr 13 BBC 13th of the Month Field Trip, ETSU-Bristol Center 8 a.m.

Apr 18 BBC meeting 7:30pm. at ETSU-Bristol Center. Dinner at Mad Greek at 6pm

Apr 22 BBC Migration Field Trip to Standifer Gap Marsh, Chattanooga, TN This is an overnight event.

Apr 22-24 Spring Nature Festival - Warrior's Path State Park, Kingsport. Experience the delights of spring nature discovery. Participate in seminars taught by professionals, and hikes guided by trained naturalists. Topics include: spring wildflowers, tracking, astronomy, stream life, local geology, spring trees, and more!

Apr 23 Abingdon Arbor Day & Earth Day Celebration (BBC display will be up), Veteran Memorial Park, Abingdon, VA 2p.m. to 4 p.m.

Apr 28-30 Carolina Bird Club Annual Spring Meeting, Asheville, NC

Apr 29 Northeast Tennessee Annual Spring Bird Count by the Herndon TOS

May 1-7 New River Birding and Nature Festival

May 5-6-7 Roan Mountain Naturalist Rally.

May 5-7 VSO Spring meeting. Breaks Interstate Park. Sponsored by Buchanan County Bird Club

May 5-7 TOS Spring meeting. Nashville. Sponsored by Nashville Chapter TOS.

May 12-13 Mount Rogers Naturalist Rally, Konnarock, VA

May 12-13-14 Clinch Mountain Trails Spring Migratory Birding Festival Mtn Trails loop of Virginia Birding Trail. Saltville, Va. and Marion, VA.

May 12-14 Clinch Mountain Trails Spring Migratory Birding Festival, Hungry Mother State Park. Three days of bird watching for songbird and hawk migrations. A juried bird-themed arts and crafts festival, guest speakers and birding by canoe.

May 13 BBC 13th of the Month Field Trip, ETSU-Bristol Center 8 a.m.

May 13 Birding with the Herndon Bird Club, Sycamore Shoals State Park 8 a.m.

May 13 Appalachian Trail Days, Damascus: 2-4pm Tiny Critters Tell Tales - - A
Look into Our Streams by Andy Brown at Rock School Auditorium
(includes a monitoring session)

May 16 BBC meeting 7:30pm. at ETSU-Bristol. Dinner at Mad Greek, 6 p.m.

May 19-20-21 Mountain Lake Migratory Bird Festival. Headquarters: Mt. Lake Hotel
1-800-346-3334

**May 20-21 Bristol Bird Club Natural Tunnel State Park Birding Weekend (IMBD
Event), BBC members and park naturalists to lead hikes along the
Natural Tunnel segment of the Virginia Wildlife and Birding Trail.
Participants will view many species of birds passing through
Southwest Virginia during the spring migration. There will also be a
session on wildlife photography. Virginia Wildlife and Birding Trail.
8 a.m.-6 p.m. Duffield, Virginia**

Jun 3 Bibbee Nature Club (West Va. state bird club) Warbler Day - Tazewell Co.,
VA. Meet at the Hardee's at the 4-way in Tazewell at 7:00 a.m. to
noon. Witten Park, the Mud Fork area, and Burke's Garden.

**Date to be Announced - BBC Owl Prowl (Northern Saw-whet Owl), Roan Mountain,
TN**

**Jun 10 BBC Whitetop Mt. / Elk Garden Field Trip. Bird hike from Whitetop
parking area down ridge thru the confier and northern hardwoods to
the parking lot in Elk Garden -- an easy, beautiful and very birdy few
hours. This has been a tremendously enjoyable walk and well attended.**

Jun 13 BBC 13th of the Month Field Trip, ETSU-Bristol Center 8 a.m.

Jun 17-18: 60th Annual Rhododendron Festival Roan Mountain, TN.

Jun 18 Rhododendron Bloom Hike. Grayson Highlands State Park, Va.
Hike traverses the best rhododendron bloom on Wilburn Ridge. Massie
Gap. 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Jun 20 Regular date for BBC meeting but no meeting in June
due to annual picnic which takes its place -- even though the picnic is
this year. July 1

Jun 23-25 VSO Statewide Summer Field Trip Mount Rogers, VA.

**Jul 1 (Saturday) Bristol Bird Club Annual Picnic, Civitan Shelter, Steele Creek
Park, Bristol Tennessee**

**Jul 8-16 Asa Wright Nature Center Trip to Trinidad. Good turnout.
Reservations are already paid. The trip is full.**

Jul 13 BBC 13th of the Month Field Trip, ETSU-Bristol Center 8 a.m.

Jul 15 BBC Funfest/Wards Feed Store Bird Walk (Bays Mountain Park, Kingsport)

Jul 15 14th Annual Butterfly Count, Roan Mountain. Sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association. Meet at the Roan Mountain State Park visitor center at 10 am.

**Jul 18 BBC meeting 7:30pm. at ETSU-Bristol.
Supper at Mad Greek at 6pm**

Jul 22 BBC Funfest/Wards Feed Store Bird Walk (Bays Mountain Park, Kingsport)

Jul 29 Virginia Highlands Festival, Virginia Creeper Trail Bird Walk. 7:30 a.m. Abingdon, VA.

Aug 6 5th Annual Elizabethton Butterfly Count, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Don Holt)

Aug 13 BBC 13th of the Month Field Trip, ETSU-Bristol Center 8 a.m.

**Aug 15 BBC meeting 7:30pm. at ETSU-Bristol.
Supper at Mad Greek at 6pm**

Sep 8 BBC's Sponsored Mendota Hawk Watch begins , weather permitting.

Sep 8-9-10 Roan Mountain Fall Naturalist Rally.

**Sep 15-17 Bristol Bird Club Natural Tunnel State Park Fall Birding Weekend.
Join our birders on hikes along the Natural Tunnel segment of the Virginia Wildlife and Birding Trail. Participants will view many species of birds passing through Southwest Virginia during the autumn migration. Virginia Wildlife and Birding Trail. 8 a.m.-6 p.m.**

Sep 15-17 Clinch Mountain Trails Spring Migratory Birding Festival, Hungry Mother State Park. Three days of bird watching for songbird and hawk migrations. A juried bird-themed arts and crafts festival, guest speakers and birding by canoe.

Sep (usually 3rd or 4th Friday but date to be announced) Bristol Bird Club Annual Banquet. No regular monthly meeting schedule for Sept.

Sep 19 Regular date for BBC meeting but no meeting in September due to annual banquet which takes its place.

Sep 30 BBC's Sponsored Mendota Hawk Watch last day of season coverage.

Oct. 7 Bird Walks at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area with Lee & Lois Herndon TOS Chapter 8 a.m.

Oct 13 BBC 13th of the Month Field Trip, ETSU-Bristol Center 8 a.m.

Oct 14 15th Annual Shady Valley Cranberry Festival, Johnson County, TN

Oct. 14 Bird Walks at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area with Lee & Lois Herndon
TOS Chapter 8 a.m.

Oct 17 BBC meeting 7:30pm. at ETSU-Bristol. Dinner at Mad Greek at 6pm

Oct. 21 Bird Walks at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area with Lee & Lois Herndon
TOS Chapter 8 a.m.

Oct. 28 Bird Walks at Sycamore Shoals State Historic Area with Lee & Lois Herndon
TOS Chapter 8 a.m.

Nov 13 BBC 13th of the Month Field Trip, ETSU-Bristol Center 8 a.m.

Nov 21 BBC meeting 7:30pm. at ETSU-Bristol. Dinner at Mad Greek at 6pm

Dec 9 Bristol Bird Club Annual Regional Christmas Party (final date TBA)

Dec 13 BBC 13th of the Month Field Trip, ETSU-Bristol Center 8 a.m.

Dec 16 Elizabethton Christmas Bird Count

Dec 17 Roan Mountain Christmas Bird Count

**Dec 19 BBC meeting 7:30pm. at Steele Creek Lodge. Supper at Mad Greek,
6 p.m. Annual Christ Bird Count Planning meeting.**

Dec 31 Bristol Christmas Bird Count

Jan 1 Shady Valley Christmas Bird Count

**Jan 3 Compilation Meeting for Christmas Bird Counts 7:30 p.m. Steele Creek
Park Lodge. Dinner at 6 p.m. at the Mad Greek.**

BBC Winter Meeting Cancellation Policy

(1) If Bristol Tennessee City schools are closed due to weather on the day of our meeting, BBC will not meet.

(2) If ETSU closes all classes due to weather on the day or closes the ETSU-Bristol Center, BBC will not meet.

(3) If the weather service or police call for hazardous road conditions in Bristol anytime after noon or before midnight on the evening of a BBC meeting, BBC will not meet.

Of course, if we have enough warning, we will post a cancellation on the Bristol Birds Net.

Bristol Bird Club Officers 2005-2006

President-**Bill Grigsby**-Kingsport, Tennessee

V. President-**Larry McDaniel**-Johnson City, Tennessee

V. President-**Dave Worley**-Rosedale, Virginia

Secretary-**Diana Worley**-Rosedale, Virginia

Treasurer-**Janice Martin**-Bristol, Virginia

Asst. Treasurer-**Ron Harrington**-Bristol, Virginia

Curator/Newsletter Editor-**Wallace Coffey**-Bristol, Tennessee

Statistician-**Richard P. Lewis**-Bristol, Tennessee

THE EAGLE

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www://bristolbirdclub.org

Bristol Birds Net listserv archives

<http://www.freelists.org/archives/bristol-birds/>

Bristol Birds Net Photo Gallery located at:

<http://f2.pg.photos.yahoo.com/ph/jwcoffey/album?.dir=/efd5>