

the eagle

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

Bristol Bird Club report from the Curator

A special edition of the Bristol Bird Club newsletter for March 26, 2006



Bristol Bird Club Speakers of Importance

Sept 16, 1960 **Dr. James T. Tanner** of Ivory-billed Woodpecker fame spoke to the club's annual banquet at the ballroom of the Hotel Bristol. He returned Nov 17, 1972 and spoke to the club on the subject of "*What we need to know about Tennessee birds.*" The meeting was at Tri-City Bank on West State Street.

Oct 9, 2000 the BBC monthly meeting speaker was the famous American birder and author **Kenn Kaufman**. Sixty (60) birders attended from across the region. Earlier in the day, Kaufman was the leader for a special invitation field trip to show appreciation to those birders who provided leadership to the BBC. Kaufman responded to an invitation from Wallace Coffey who sent him an e-mail and asked him to come and speak. WCYB-TV5 provide top shelf news coverage and video of our field trip and an interview with Kaufman.

Jun 16, 1992 **Arturo Kirkconnell** speaker at BBC meeting. Along with Orlando H. Garrido, (both curators) of the National Museum of Natural History in Havana, Cuba, they authored the **Field Guide to the Birds of Cuba**. The book was illustrated by Román Compañy. Together they put Cuban avifauna on centre stage.

Sep 24, 1976 famed **wildlife artist Guy Coheleach** spoke at the annual banquet of BBC held at the Bristol YWCA. The club was successful in getting the Bank of Virginia to sponsor the event and the bank sold tickets to the public at the mall bank office. The bank advertised the event to the public in a one-fourth page advertisement in the *Bristol Herald Courier*. In the last fourteen years, Guy Coheleach has had one-man exhibitions displayed at major museums in 33 Cities across America, from Los Angeles to New York. He was the first Western artist to exhibit in Peking after World War II. At the University of Tennessee, his endowment provides six full scholarships to the School of Wildlife Management for needy students each year.

Apr 27, 1954 **Arthur Stupka**, Naturalist of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, was our annual banquet speaker. Stupka was the pioneer park naturalist in the eastern U.S. with the National Park Service. He was the chief park naturalist of the GSMNP for 40 years. He authored books on the birds, wildflowers, trees and amphibians of the park. He returned to be the annual dinner speaker for BBC two other times: Sep 27, 1957 and Sep 19, 1969. He was very close to BBC members.

Sep 21, 1961 **Dr. Joseph J. Murray, Sr.**, at our Hotel Bristol Banquet. He was a Charter member of the VSO and the editor of its journal, *The Raven*, from its inception in 1930 until 1969. In 1936 Murray was made an Elective Member of the American Ornithologists' Union, and from 1936 to 1946 he served as Secretary of the National Audubon Society. He was the author of the 1952 *Check-list of the Birds of Virginia*, the *Birds of Rockbridge County* and a rare book *Wild Wings*. He returned Sep 25, 1964 to again be our Annual Banquet speaker.

Sep 13, 1997 BBC Pres. Larry McDaniel held our annual banquet at Central Presbyterian Church in Bristol. He invited the public to hear our speaker. A turnout of 167 people came to hear **Bob and Martha Sargent** of the **Hummer Bird Study Group** talk and show slides. We had a privately catered banquet for our members just before the talk. It was a very expensive evening and we took donations from the public, making a profit of \$10 after all expenses were paid! Bob Sargent was the leader for a club field trip to South Holston Lake earlier in the day.

Sep 23, 2005 **Andrew W. Jones**, Bell Museum of Natural History University of Minnesota, was the BBC annual banquet speaker. Jones was honored with a BBC *Stephen M. Russell Graduate Lectureship*. By Mar 13, 2006 the **Cleveland Museum of Natural History** had announced that Jones had joined the staff as Curator and Head of the newly created Department of Ornithology. Jones is also the first occupant of the new William and Nancy Klamm Endowed Chair of Ornithology. He had earned his Ph.D. in ecology, evolution and behavior at the University of Minnesota.

Jan. 17, 1975 **Michael Lee Bierly** of Nashville spoke on "Pelagies". He is the author of *Bird Finding in Tennessee*.

Sept 15, 1975, **Charles R. Smith**, Cornell University, 25th Anniversary Banquet of BBC held at the Greenway Party House, Abingdon. Smith was a graduate student at Cornell working on his doctorate.

May 21, 1982 **Chuch Nicholson**, later author of the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee*, and then editor of the Tennessee journal of ornithology, *THE MIGRANT*, spoke to BBC on the topic of "About our Migrant."

Memorable Outings and Famed Field Trips

Jun 14-15-16 2002 BBC held its [canoeing and birding weekend at the Nature Conservancy's Rikemo Lodge on the Clinch River](#) in Scott Co., Va. We had 19 birders on board 9 canoes which birded and floated the river for seven miles. The Conservancy provided free canoes and free use of the lodge. It was one of our best ever events and included a wonderful catered dinner.

Feb 28-29, 1992 BBC had 40 members travel to the [Sandhill Crane Weekend](#) at Hiwassie Wildlife Refuge near Chattanooga. Our delegation occupied every room on the second floor of a Cleveland motel. A survey of attendees showed we spent \$3,040 for an average of \$76 per person.

Dec 31, 1992 Seven BBC members went to a club-sponsored [New Years Eve party at Manteo at the Outer Banks](#) of North Carolina. The next three days were spent birding the Outer Banks. Rick Knight was the trip leader.

Mar 11-12 1995 BBC ["Spring Break" weekend was held at Pipestem State Park](#) in West Virginia. Members of the Brooks Bird Club of West Va provided field trip leaders for our birding. Nine birders went up for the weekend. Twelve (12) retreaters went back with us for ["Spring Break '96"](#) and we enjoyed great nights out at the Oak Supper Club under the sprawling 800-year-old oak tree. We also took in Appalachian Weekend at the state park. Our members even went on a late night owling walk in the snow under a full moon.

Aug 12, 1995 BBC held an invitational field trip to South Holston Lake. [Dr. Stephen M. Russell](#) for whom our club is named, came home to his old bird club for the first time in 45 years. None of us had ever met him. Twenty-five birders were on hand to go birding with Dr. Russell and his wife Ruth. Ruth served on the national board of directors of the National Audubon Society and was president of the 4,000 member Tucson Audubon Society. Dr. Russell was curator of birds at the University of Arizona museum, secretary of the American Ornithologists' Union. Together they had banded 15,000 birds in five years of research in Arizona. He wrote the first every A.O.U. Monograph, *Birds of British Honduras* (now Belize). Dr. Russell, in 1953 as a teenager, discovered the fall migration of hawks along Clinch Mountain in Southwest Virginia. He was a founder and charter member of BBC as a high school student at Abingdon, Va.

Aug 4, 1996 BBC held an Invitation Memorial Field Trip Trip to South Holston Lake to celebrate the life of Roger Tory Peterson (1909-1996). [Dr. James Van Remsen](#), curator of birds from the LSU Museum of Natural History and member of the Check-list committee of the American Ornithologists' Union, led us in the celebration. At the very moment that Peterson's funeral began at Old Lyme, Connecticut, Dr. Remsen delivered a [eulogy to Peterson](#) while our group sat under a pine tree at Musick's Campground. All persons who attended were given memory book markers with Dr. Peterson's picture on them along with the information about the event.

Oct 9, 1955 Joint field trip Herndon TOS and Bristol Bird Club to Watauga Lake.

Sep 21, 1961 The Greeneville TOS Chapter invited the Bristol club to meet at Cosby in the Great Smokey Mountains for an Oct. 8 bird outing. Wallace Coffey was among a group of birders who left Bristol at 3:30 a.m. to attend the event. [Dr. James Tanner](#) led the field trip. John Ogden, later to be the park biologist in the Everglades National Park, was also on the walk.

Oct 1966 and Oct 11-12, 1969 East Tennessee bird club weekend Bald Mountain Camp, Greene County, TN. This event was sponsored by the Greeneville TOS Chapter. Several BBC members took part.

Feb 23, 1991 BBC President Ken Hale leads **first Golden Eagle field trip to Burke's Garden**. Two and possibly four Golden Eagles were seen as well as a Rough-legged Hawk. Twelve birders made the trip. We are now in our 16th season of conducting this public field trip for all regional birders.

Mar 30, 1991 Tom Laughlin hosted the BBC at Virginia Tech and the **Virginia Museum of Natural History Bird Collection in Blacksburg**. Eleven BBC members attended. It was the first of three such field trips sponsored by BBC over the next several years. The Bailey-Law Ornithology Collections totaled almost 20,000 specimens and is completely cataloged. The bird collections consist of over 18,000 identified study skins stored in cabinets at the Museum in the zoological collections area. There are were 1200 egg sets, identified by A.O.U. number. Most of the specimens date from 1870-1940 with skins including Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Passenger Pigeon and Carolina Parakeet.

Oct 2, 1994 A BBC field trip party, birding by float boat, discovered the **first ever Eared Grebe** known at Musick's Campground on South Holston Lake.

May 23, 1998 **Peregrine falcon nesting field trip to Chimney Rock Park** in western North Carolina. BBC rented the bunk house at Chimney Rock Park and birders had a great weekend led by Virginia Game Commission biologist Allan Boynton.

Nov 21, 1998 BBC held a **"Rally" at Musick's Campground**. We burned an enormous brush pile on the lakeshore and had a delicious cookout. Nineteen birders turned out and we enjoyed a bright moon and great looks at Jupiter as well as good birding before dark and wonderful food from hot dogs to delicious potato salad.

Historical BBC Moments and Events

Jan 27, 1950 Dr. Lee R. Herndon "representing the Elizabethton group" at the **organization meeting** of the the "Bristol, Tennessee - Virginia Chapter." About 30 members were present. "Photograph of birds is one of the hobbies this group pursues," *The Migrant*, 1965, page 34.

Mar 10, 1950 the Bristol TOS Chapter adopted its **constitution**.

Oct 12, 1952 Bristol Bird Club's **first ever fall count** tallied 74 species including Virginia Rail 1, Kentucky Warbler 1, Sora 2, "Long-billed Marsh Wren 2" Sharp-tailed Sparrow 1.

Jan 1953 BBC proposed and passed resolution that **Bristol become a "bird sanctuary"** and "no non-predatory bird shall be killed within the corporate limits of the city." The club was successful in getting both the Bristol Tennessee and Bristol Virginia governing bodies to pass ordinances for the resolution and city workers put up signs on the major highways leading into the cities. The bird club provided the signs. The Bristol Council of Garden Club, the Bristol PTA council and the local Girl Scout Council all joined in the effort.

Early 1961 three members, H.W. Nunley, Enno vanGelder and Wallace Coffey, were **issued bird banding permits** by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Feb 21, 1961 **Bob Quillen (current member of BBC) attended his first meeting**. It was held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Herbert S. Miller on Piedmont Ave. The club had 29 birders present for the event. The treasury balance was \$59.20. **Wallace Coffey was appointed to organize Christmas Bird Counts, Spring Counts and other such events for the club.**

Oct 19, 1961 "regular meeting date for the club was **changed from 3rd Thursday to 3rd Tuesday**, which seemed to suit everyone better." -- Minutes of BBC meeting.

Nov 1961 BBC ordered **6 new "Bird Sanctuary" signs at a cost of \$65 each** to arrive in March and be put up to replace the signs which were originally erected in 1953. The signs were to be full color with the cardinal and mockbird (state birds for Virginia and Tennessee) and be baked enamel paint. The club sold stationery and cards to raise money.

1964 Bristol Chapter news from the Tennessee Ornithological Society state newsletter reported that Fletcher Bingham, a **student at Tennessee High School and a member of the club**, worked during the summers of 1962 and 1963 as a **naturalist at the National Audubon Society Greenwich, Connecticut nature camp**. He was named in an **honors group of the Tennessee Academy of Sciences** for his research of warbler feeding habits. He also was **recognized by the Future Scientists of America**. He attended the University of Tennessee on a scholarship majoring in zoology.

Feb 1967 Bristol Bird Club members discussed the fact that the membership was so large that we could no longer meet in members' home. "Was **suggested we might form another club**. Committee appointed to study possibilities....." --- Club meeting minutes.

Oct 1968 meeting at "Melody Woods" home of two bird club members on Cavern Roads. Wallace Coffey **surprised members by carrying a live Osprey into the meeting**. It was a bird banded at Bristol.

Dec 1990 the Bristol Bird Club began meeting twice per month with the regular monthly meeting being held on the third Friday of each month and **a second meeting being a workshop on the third Tuesday of the month**. Workshop did not conduct official business of the club. They met in the conference room of the Bristol Herald Courier. Workshop participants were not required to be club members. A total of 94 different birders attended workshops in the first two years. **BBC published Vol. 1 No. 1 of its newsletter, The Eagle. BBC was the first regional bird club to publish a newsletter.**

Jun 1991 BBC **develops idea and proposes a "Cranberry Festival" for Shady Valley**. The following year a committee of Shady Valley citizens organized the Cranberry Festival.

Dec 31, 1991 **Esther Hilton, a charter member of BBC in 1950 and Curator/Historian of the BBC for 20 years, died at the age of 89. Wallace Coffey was named Curator to succeed her.**

Jul 20, 1993 BBC **discontinued the second monthly meeting** which was held at Central Presbyterian Church on the third Friday of each month. The meeting was combined with the third Tuesday BBC workshop meeting and **the name "workshop" was discontinued. BBC began a regular third Tuesday meeting schedule.**

Jul 1993 BBC held **first planning meeting**.

Sep 9, 1994 We dedicated the new BBC **wildlife habitat project at Wallace Middle School** near Exit 7 to former BBC treasurer James Boyd who served in that office for 12 years. Our members proposed and implemented the habitat which included many bird boxes, bird feeders, a beautiful new pond and benches for the students. Club members donated funds for the materials.

Dec 1994 BBC held its **first ever regional Christmas Party** at Larry "Mad Dog" McDaniel's home in Bristol Tennessee. It was a tremendous party and 23 birders showed up. Our Dec. 10, 2004 Christmas Party at Bob, Ellen and Charlie Parker's home -- had the largest turnout ever with 51 birders.

Dec 1995 BBC began presented the "[Birder of the Year Award](#)" and other honors at its annual regional Christmas Party. Awards have been presented to members for their service and for outstanding bird finds for a period of 11 years.

Mar 21, 2000 BBC celebrated it's [50th Anniversary with a homecoming party](#) for present and past members at the ETSU-Birstol Center. We had 55 persons to turnout, including two charter members from a half century before -- 98-year-old Mrs. Earnest Dickey and Dr. Ed Burke. It was a great night of fun with a huge custom-made cake for good eats.

Oct 2001 BBC sponsored its [first Shady Valley Bog Watch](#) at the annual Cranberry Festival in the valley.

May 2003 BBC began monthly [pre-meeting dinner at the Mad Greek Restaurant](#).

Jul 17, 2004 BBC began sponsoring and leading [bird walks at Kingsport's Fun Fest](#).

Sep 11, 12, 2004 BBC conducted Bird Walks at [Natural Tunnel State Park](#) north of Gate City in Scott County, VA. BBC agreed to begin a partnership with the state park staff which led to it becoming an [International Migratory Bird Day](#) event for BBC and the park staff.

Sep 9., 1994 BBC, living off of its success of having a "[Baby Bald Eagle](#)" float in the Bristol 4th of July parade, we had the hit entry in the South Holston Lake boat regatta along with [70 other boats in the Autum Chase Festival event](#).

Jun 8 1997 BBC sponsored the [TWRA Eagle Climbing Team](#) to come to South Holston Lake and climb to a Cooper's Hawk nest so the young could be banded. We had 19 persons to turn out for the event. The [state used the event to begin training climbers to get young eagles from nests for hacking purposes](#).

Nov 1997 BBC member Bert Hale built the [sign in box which is now in use at Musick's Campground](#). Rob Biller, Ron Carrico and Wallace Coffey erected the station. BBC agree with the Musicks to put up the box and maintain it in exchange for allowing birders to enter and bird at their property. BBC has provided the service to birder for 10 years.

Mar 1998 BBC created and put up its [first web page on the internet](#) with Rob Biller creating and providing the service. It was [Tennessee's first bird club website](#) on the internet.

Aug 1998 we won "[first place](#)" for our NASCAR float boat entry decoration in the Racefest Regatta when we had a live band aboard our paddle wheel boat and entertained thousands at the fireworks show. We also had a great cookout on board. John Shumate was the head chef. The chief of police of Bristol Tennessee and his wife attended the event and, at our invitation, was an honored guest on the BBC boat.

Aug 19, 1998 BBC participated in the [Race Fest "Paint the Town"](#) event when two blocks of State Street were blocked off so people could draw with chalk on the pavement in expectation of the Annual Downtown Race Night. BBC birders brought all of their kids and neighbors. We had two large squares covering all of the street in front of the Paramount Theatre. Janet Brown, Janice Martin and Jennifer Burkey put together the event which include our members and children doing [elaborate chalk drawings of our two state birds](#). We had tons of good food and refreshments for membrs who sat along the curbs and cheered everyone on.

Feb 1, 2002 BBC introduced the club's new list serve, [Bristol Birds Net](#), which is a regional birding list to facilitate communications between birders and bird club of Southwest Virginia and Northeast Tennessee. It serves the Russell County Bird Club, Herndon Chapter TOS, Greeneville TOS Chapter, Blue Ridge Birders Club, Bitternut Nature Club, Buchanan County Bird Club, Bristol Bird Club, Clinch Valley Bird Club and Cumberland Nature Club.

Oct 2005 BBC began publishing its newsletter, *The Eagle*, online as an e-newsletter sent by e-mail to all dues paying members.

Dec 2, 2005 1st Annual Bristol Bird Club **Bird Seed and Bird Feed Sale** Wards Seed Store in Kingsport, TN.

Conservation Efforts

Feb. 27, 1975 the Bristol Bird Club began a **project to put up combination screech owl and wood duck bird boxes**. Individual members of the club donated personal funds to the club to sponsor each box. BBC was able to get Paty Lumber Company involved in donating wood for the project. **The first five boxes were put up at Steele Creek Park and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency joined the effort**. The **bird club built and stained 100 boxes** and club members and the TWRA put them up in Eastern Sullivan County from South Holston Lake to Kingsport. More than a dozen boxes were placed on the fish ponds at what is now PowerLine Farm.

Mar 19, 1991 BBC members **donate \$525 to adopt a young Bald Eagle to be brought from a Wisconsin nest and released in the hacking project at South Holston Lake**. The BBC **named the bird "Osceola"** for a former Boy Scout camp which was named Osceola and located on the island at what we know today as the "weir dam." BBC members eventually donated a total of \$1,025 to the eagle hacking effort. Wallace Coffey awarded a national conservation medal for the project and the National Wildlife Federation named the project **one of America's best example of efforts to save Bald Eagles**.

Apr 21, 2004 BBC had established a **partnership to support and assist the Wynn Wood Wildlife Rehab center** of Carter Co., TN. Our club worked with rehabing a Barn Owl and the release of a rehab Great Horned Owl. We joined with the center for a booth together at the Town of Abingdon's **4th Annual Arbor Day & Earth Day**.

Sep 24, 2004 BBC **passed the hat to accept donations for the Alabama Ornithological Society's effort in recovering from hurricane damage at Dauphin Island**. The area is most important migratory birding hot spots in the US.

18 Jan 2005 BBC presentation of a **check for \$150 to the Wynn Wood Wildlife Rehab center** in Carter Co., TN. Our **donation adopted 5 Red-tailed Hawks and three or four Great Horned Owls** for a month or so. These are birds on hand for the winter and the donation will go towards partially covering the cost of their care.

BBC Regional Bird Book Funding and Publishing

Apr 1994 BBC members **pledged \$840** to print and publish Rick Knight's *"Birds of Northeast Tennessee"* which was first distributed at the May 13, 1994 TOS State Meeting in Johnson City.

Oct 1999 The BBC had worked to get **grants totaling \$3,106** to fund two regional bird books which the club was producing and printing for local authors. Grants came from the Virginia Society of Ornithology, the Tennessee Nature Conservancy and the Shady Valley Ruritan Club. With that money the club published *"Birds Study in Shady Valley Tennessee"* by Wallace Coffey and John Shumate. The club also published the *"Birds of Smyth County Virginia"* by Tony Decker. It brought to three the number of such publications the club had managed.

May 15, 2001 BBC produces and prints its fourth regional bird book. *Birds of the Virginia Cumberlands* by Dr. Dick Peake of Wise. BBC managed the project and funds and produced the typesetting, design and printing.

Bird Research Projects

Sep 23, 1950 BBC teenager **Steve Russell discovered Broad-winged Hawks flying past Hayters Gap on Clinch Mountain** in Washington Co., Va. It was the discovery of Clinch Mountain as a superior regional hawk lookout and led to Mendota being known in earlier years as the "Hawk Mountain of the South." In a three day period, Russell and others were able to count 1,274 Broad-wings migrating along the mountain. The **BBC coordinates migration coverage at the lookout and Ron Harrington has emerged as the main leader at Mendota** in recent years.

April 1, 1981 BBC began a project to **study the release of rehabilitated owls** by placing radio transmitters on birds and releasing them. Their movements were tracked. The research project was funded by "The Lee Herndon Memorial Fund" established and administrated by the club. **Johnny Wood of WCYB-TV5**, conservation chairman of the Emanon Chapter of the National Campers and Hikers Association, presented BBC with a check for \$150 from the Emanon Chapter. The Hill and Dale Garden Club of Bristol donated a check for \$100 and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency became a joint sponsor transporting rehabed owls, providing radio tracking equipment and technical support. The birds were donated by the UT Vet School at Knoxville and the Knoxville Zoo. BBC used most of the funds to buy radio transmitters manufactured for use on owls and tracking the movements. It was a very successful project.

Dec 1993 BBC begins a **survey of Canada Goose neck collars and leg bands** for the region. Twenty six (26) area birders reported **986 sighting of geese collars** in about a three year period as we studied movements of the big birds about the region. Bill and Priscilla Little of Kingsport led the reports with nearly 300 sightings.

Apr 20, 2004 BBC began a series of **graduate lectureships in honor of our youngest charter member Dr. Stephen M. Russell of the University of Arizona**. The BBC is named for him. The lectureships include cash awards to doctoral candidates who make presentations at our club meetings. We have awarded three presenters and paid travel expenses for them. The presenters were from the University of Tennessee, Virginia Tech and University of Minnesota.

State Ornithological Society Involvements

May 9-10-11, 1969 Bristol Bird Club, Herndon TOS Chapter, Greeneville TOS Chapter and Kingsport TOS Chapter combined efforts to **host the first ever state meeting of the Tennessee Ornithological Society held in Northeast Tennessee**. Wallace Coffey represented BBC and chaired the committee that planned and conducted the meeting. The event was held at East Tennessee State University with a banquet in the ball room of the student center. Larry L. Hood, biologist with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Bird Banding Laboratory, was the speaker.

May 7-8-9, 1976 VSO State Meeting at Martha Washington Inn. A delegation of Bristol birders appeared before the state board of directors who voted to **accepted BBC as a chapter of the Virginia Society of Ornithology**.

May 28-29-30, 1976 BBC sponsored a **statewide foray to Shady Valley**, Johnson Co. and conducted the event. We had 54 birders to participate with 43 attending a kickoff dinner the first night at Shady Valley School. The foray found 94 species.

May 2, 1992 **BBC member** Wallace Coffey **elected editor of *The Migrant*, the Tennessee journal of ornithology**. He appointed **Rick Knight to be his assistant editor**.

May 16, 1998 A large delegation of BBC members went to the **Virginia Society of Ornithology meeting at the University of Virginia's Mountain Lake Biological Station**. **BBC member Sarah Garrett presented a paper** on her winter waterflow research at Clear Creek Lake, Middlebrook Lake and Steele Creek Lake. Her **paper was chosen best paper of the session**

by a committee of college faculty members from across the state. She competed with several doctoral candidates. She was a junior at Abingdon High School. She is now working on her doctorate at Wake Forest University.

May 5-7, 2000 BBC sponsored and hosted the Tennessee Ornithological Society's annual state meeting at Bristol. It was the 50th Anniversary meeting for the Bristol Bird Club. Dr. Charles R. Smith, former technical editor of *Living Bird*, published by the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University, was the banquet speaker. We had a big turnout with 115 birders registered. We sold BBC t-shirts and patches like mad !

Sep 17-19, 2004 BBC was invited to co-sponsor the annual fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society held at Pine Mountain State Park. We paid expenses of \$225 for the speaker, Brian Wheeler, author of the new book "*Raptors of North America*." We had a good turnout of BBC members to attend the meeting.

Jan 2005 BBC jointly sponsored the Tennessee Ornithological Society Annual Winter Meeting at Dayton, TN. Other clubs involved in the sponsorship were: Chattanooga TOS and Knoxville TOS. BBC was mainly responsible for field trips. The largest delegation to attend the winter meeting was from the BBC.

BBC History with Steele Creek Park and Nature Center

May 1964 Wallace Coffey was assigned to cover Steele Creek Park as part of the Bristol Spring Bird Count. It was the first such count in park history. The main lodge building of the new park was under construction.

Jan 21, 1971 Steele Creek Park Naturalist Joe Jackson presented a talk to BBC on "*Summer Birds of Steele Creek Park*."

Mar 24, 1973 BBC field trip to Steele Creek Park Lake with Brent Rowell, the first park naturalist, as the trip leader.

1977 BBC picnic held its annual picnic at Steele Creek Park for the first time.

Jan 18, 1991, BBC program: Wendy Hall, a naturalist at Steele Creek Park, presented drawing and floor plans of the new Steele Creek Park Nature Center which was under construction.

Jun 12, 1992 BBC had 20 members to tour the new Steele Creek Park Nature Center -- the first ever group of any kind to attend an event at the center. Jane Fleenor led the trip as the center naturalist and eventually served as President of BBC.

Nov 1994 A committee of BBC members went thru the Bristol community and rounded up donations of furniture and equipment for the new Steele Creek Park Nature Center. They were able to get the desk which is now used in the center office, office chair, large floor model copy machine, overhead projectors, tape recorders, map cabinet, 40 chairs and BBC member Bert Hale built all of the shelving and wooden cabinet space on the second floor of the center.

Oct 1996 More than 200 people turned out at Steele Creek Park Nature Center for the BBC Bird Banding Weekend. Wallace Coffey taught a two hour class in bird banding with 23 persons taking the class.

Feb 4, 2003 BBC donated **500 pounds of sunflower seed to the Steele Creek Nature Center**. BBC continued to provide seed for the center's feeders through 2005.

etc.

By 1966 the **cost of a 50 pound bag of sunflower seed** had increased from \$6 to \$10. It hasn't gone up very fast in the past 40 years. Has it ?

Aug 29, 1971 Roger Tory Peterson, was a speaker at the the old Audubon Film Series at the Kingsport Civic Auditorium. Wallace Coffey was able to spend nearly an hour backstage relaxing and talking with Peterson. He was one of the world's preeminent naturalists. The culmination of Peterson's artistic and bird identification skills was the publication of his first book, ***A Field Guide to the Birds***, in 1934. It has never stopped selling in five different editions over the last 68 years, and it has gone on to spawn the most successful series of nature guides ever published in the United States.

Bristol Bird Club Officers 2005-2006

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

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

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Bristol Birds Net listserv archives

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

Bristol Birds Net Photo Gallery located at:

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