

the eagle

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a digital newsletter sent to members by e-mail



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THE NEW 'EAGLE'

Welcome to the new online edition of the Bristol Bird Club newsletter. Production is easy, flexible and fast. You should find it fresh and timely. We now enjoy the opportunity to publish a newsletter of any length with more artwork, more photos and color, when useful.

We can publish as often needed. As you can tell from the volume number, *THE EAGLE* has been published 15 years, making it the region's oldest bird club newsletter. The issues number: **No. 1.1 thru No. 10.1** is to indicate that October is the 10th month of the year and this is the only issue published to date in 2005. If we publish other issues during October 2005, they will be numbered 10.2 and 10.3 in order. November numbers will begin with 11.1 and December with 12.1.

This is our first online edition but hopefully not our best or last.

Going online with e-mail delivery has been delayed a long time while we waited on most of our membership to get computers, get online and get e-mail service. It now appears evident that we have probably reached the highest percentage of online members that we may expect in the near future.

In an "Editorial" appearing in *THE EAGLE*, January 1997, page 2, Vol. 7, No. 2, we announced our intentions to begin e-mail delivery of *THE EAGLE*. We said then that it was not a matter of trying to be "high tech, trendy or fancy." It was the best way to go. We have waited almost nine years for our membership to get up to speed and online. "We will not have to print it.....have no production cost.....pay no postage" we wrote in in that 1997 editorial.

We will use the money saved to avoid an increase in our dues of at least \$5.00 per year to offset the Tennessee Ornithological Society's recent dues increase which will become effective Jan. 2006.

Welcome to the future.



EDITORIAL THOUGHTS

Bill Grigsby is off to a tremendous start as the 2005-2006 president of the Bristol Bird Club. He has done a great job!

The president of any organization needs a lot support and encouragement. Our club is a diverse group with many members from many backgrounds and many points of view. Bristol Bird Club members have been strong leaders. BBC is a team that goes where others have not explored. As a club and as individuals, we set standards. At local, region, state and national levels, we have been pathfinders, innovators and leaders. Keep it going !

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Eight years ago the Bristol Bird Club entered into an agreement with **Mae Musick** and her now late husband, **James**, to allow birders to come and go at their campground at South Holston Lake in order to enjoy thier amazing birding location. Please remember that BBC agreed to install and manage the sign-in box. Remember that the **small card**, found in that box and reminding everyone to put detailed information about themselves and where they are from and city, town and state, are notes left there by the campground owner to remind birders. We should do everything possible to cooperate in the most detailed way we can imagine. Isn't that a small effort on our part as a token of our respect and appreciation for all she has done for us, including her being a member of BBC all these years ?

BBC to consider sponsoring summer birding trip to Asa Wright Natue Center in Trinidad



BBC member **John Moyle** is working on details to help the club sponsor a field trip next summer to one of the most exciting birding areas you can imagine.

Located at 1,200 feet in the mountains of the Northern Range of Trinidad, seven miles north of the Town of Arima, the Asa Wright Nature Centre is a world-class natural history destination for students of tropical ecosystems and

is of particular interest to birdwatchers. The country is about 11 degrees above the equator.

Moyle already has a working price and some details for the nine-day birding trip. His proposal was received with great excitement at the BBC Planning Meeting held

Tuesday night at the Mad Greek Restaurant. About 10 members were on hand to gather in the details.

Further details will be presented at the [BBC's October meeting at the Steele Creek Park Lodge next Tuesday \(Oct. 18 at 7:30 p.m.\)](#). The club will vote on the proposal in the near future.

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Coffey to present a fun look back at birding history in the region

When the Bristol Bird Club meets Tuesday night, **Wallace Coffey** will present a talk with some color slides looking back at the earlier years, people and places in regional birding and the BBC.

The BBC will meet at the Steele Creek Park Lodge at 7:30 p.m. Birders are reminded that we gather at 6 p.m. at the Mad Greek for dinner. We have been enjoying great times together during recent years. Birders sometimes begin to arrive as early as 5:45 at the Mad Greek to allow more time for visiting and getting caught up with each other.



November BBC field trip features breakfast.

As a new twist and great kickoff, our Saturday, Nov. 5th, BBC field trip will rally for breakfast at [Shelley's Chicken on U.S. 421](#) south of Bristol Tennessee at **7 a.m.** [Breakfast is on your own and the field trip will leave Shelley's parking lot at 8 a.m.](#) Our birding destination is to get an early look at waterfowl migration at the South Holston Weir Dam, Middlebrook Lake in Bristol Tennessee and Musick's Campground on South Holston Lake. Of note, we have a Jan. 14th field trip which will meet for breakfast at Shelley's at 7 a.m. and leave out at 8 a.m. for the same destinations.

Mark your calendars for events ahead

The Bristol Bird Club **Annual Christmas Party** is set for **Saturday, Dec. 10**, at 6 p.m. We have been extended a temporary invitation while our possible hosts check their calendars and make sure about arrangements. We should have more information for members in the near future. The club leadership had this as a priority at the recent planning meeting.

Remember Saturday, [Feb. 18th, 2006](#), is the date for our [Annual Burke's Garden Golden Eagle Field Trip](#) in Tazewell County, Va. This will be our 16th consecutive year for the Burke's Garden trip. It has been very popular with birders.

BBC to again present "**13th of the Month**" field trips

Sunday, Nov. 13, will see our club kickoff its former "**13th of the Month**" birding trips which will be held every month on the 13th starting at 8 a.m. Take note that since the 13th lands on different days of the week from month to month, this provides opportunities which fits a wider variety of birder's schedules.

Birders who want to go birding can just show up every 13th at the front parking lot of the East Tennessee State University -- Bristol Center at 8 a.m. and field trips will head out for the morning to bird areas that we usually do not bird very often.

[Larry McDaniel](#) has agreed to lead the first trip of the new series. This was a very popular birding event a few years ago.

Every month the trips will get underway on the 13th at 8 a.m. from the ETSU-Bristol parking lot. Come join us and have a good time.

BBC considering moving meeting night to 2nd Tuesdays.

A [propoal](#) to move the meeting nights of the BBC to the 2nd Tuesday of each month is being considered by the leadership. About three times or so each year we have to move to Steele Creek Park Lodge because the ETSU-Bristol Center is closed for fall break, Christmas holidays and other mid-term times when there is no evening staff.

[Wallace Coffey](#) went to the ETSU-Bristol Center Wednesday and met with the director and her administrative assistant type person. They looked over the school schedule for the year and believe that the 2nd Tuesday of each month for a BBC meeting will virtually eliminate us having to move to Steele Creek Park Lodge two or three times each year. Depending on how summer semester classes work out, we may have to do that in July. They do believe it is possible that we may not have to move our meetings anywhere at all during the year. [Coffey](#) told them a proposal would come up Tuesday at our meeting and we would let them know if any changes are planned. ETSU was also informed that our meetings are over now at 9 p.m. rather than 9:30 p.m. They noted that change on their schedule.

Christmas Bird Count dates finalized

The annual Audubon Christmas Bird Counts have a standing window of opportunity for counts to be held each year which begins with Dec. 14 and runs through Jan. 5. Since we have many counts in the region, we have to depend upon several birders to participate in more than one.

Here is the 2005 Christmas Bird Count schedule for this year:

Dec. 17 Elizabethton CBC (first Sat. of the count period)
Dec. 18 **Glade Spring CBC** (first Sun. of the count period) *
Dec. 18 Roan Mountain CBC (first Sun. of the count period)
Dec. 31 Shady Valley CBC (first Sat. following Christmas)
Jan. 1 Bristol CBC (always Sunday following Christmas)

* This is a newly established date for the Glade Spring CBC.

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Andy Jones' 'thrush' paper given provisional acceptance for '*The Auk*'

Andy Jones, the speaker at the BBC Annual Fall Dinner last month and a local birder from Kingsport, has been notified by the American Ornithologists' Union that his recent research paper has provisional acceptance for publication in the society's famous science publication, *The Auk*. It will appear in print in late 2006 or 2007.

The paper is *Evolutionary History of the Island Thrush (*Turdus poliocephalus*) in the Phiippines*.

Jones is publishing the paper with a co-author, Robert S. Kennedy, Director of Science at the Maria Mitchell Association in Nantucket. Kennedy has been going on expeditions to the Philippines for twenty years. The paper is the first chapter of **Jones'** dissertation at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul.

The British Ornithologists' Union has accepted Andy's recently published tern scheme with the exception of *Thalasseus* (which they subsumed in *Sterna*). In its recent *Taxonomic recommendations for British birds: third report*, the British Ornithologists' Union, published in the journal the *Ibis*, Andy's recent proposal: *A molecular phylogeny of the terns based on mitochondrial DNA sequences* (Bridge et al. 2005. *Mol. Phylogenet. Evol.* 35: 459–469). The South American Classification Committee is considering a proposal to adopt the tern classification scheme which **Jones** authored with two other ornithologists.

BBC MEMBERSHIP - 2005

- 39 **Ruth Baker**, Netherland Inn Rd #20, Kingsport, TN, 37660 (423) 246-1629
- 49,50 **Charles & Carolyn Barry**, 20143 McCray Drive, Abingdon, VA 24211
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- 18 **Wilma Boy**, 1165 Riverside Rd, PO 385 Box Bluff City, TN 37618
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- 52,53 **Ed & Julia Burke, Jr.**, 1307 Rock Rose Road, Bristol, TN 37620, (423) 764-4235
- 20 **Ron & Chris Carrico**, 113 Ridgewood Drive Bristol, TN 37620, (423) 968-2553
- 10, 11 **Wallace & Carolyn Coffey**, 100 Bellbrook Drive Bristol, TN 37620, (423) 764-3958
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- 3,4,5,6,7 **Rack & Carol Cross, Kamie, Jami, Sammy**, 462 Knobview Rd Blountville, TN 37617, (423) 323-1294
- 28 **Diane Draper**, Jonesborough, TN
- 13 **Zellie Earnest**, 4316 Orebank Drive, Kingsport, TN 37664, (423) 245-3792
- 14 **Kevin Elam**, 2971 Broad Street, Unit 187, Bristol, TN 37620, (423) 477-7898
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- 8 **Bill Grigsby**, 1405 Brightridge Drive, Kingsport, TN 37664, (423) 247-7980
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- 30 **John Hay**, 2909 Cliffside Road, Kingsport, TN 37664, (423) 245-8473
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- 32 **Don Holt**, 910 Smalling Road, Johnson City, TN 37601, (423) 926-0865
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- 24 **Reece Jamerson**, 3119 Walnut St. W, Johnson City, TN 37604 (423) 928-4529

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15,16 **John & Polly Moyle**, 4027 Glen Alpine Rd, Kingsport, TN 37664

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21 **Chris O'Bryan**, 440 Lake Drive, Piney Flats, TN 37686, (423) 538-8044

22,23 **Bob, Ellen, Charlie Parker**, 4318 Summerfield Road, Piney Flats, TN 37686 (423) 282-8652

35 **Mike Poe**, 731 Robinwood Road, Kingsport, TN 37663, (423) 323-1477

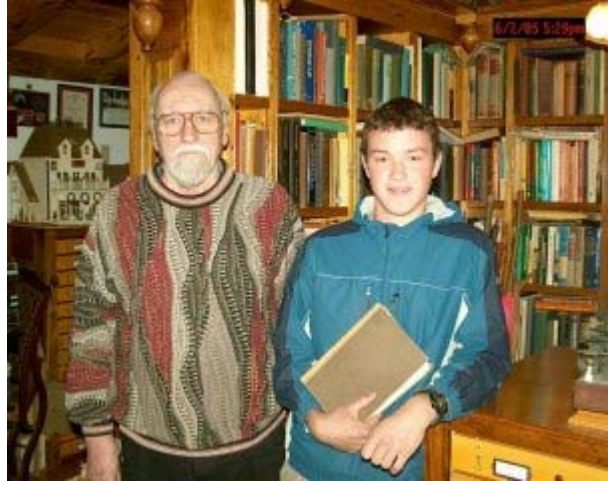
25 **Bob Quillen**, 22333 Ivanhoe Road, Bristol, VA 24202, (276) 669-8309

46 **Judy Roach**, 3919 Skyland Drive, Kingsport, TN 37664, (423) 247-8212

1,2 **Dave & Diana Worley**, Rt 2, Box 266 Q, Cedar Bluff, VA 24609, (276) 880-1374

Chris O'Bryan planning Christmas tour to Amazon with National Zoo

BBC member, **Chris O'Bryan**, shown at right with Dr. James Organ (a nationally famous herpetologist and expert on salamanders) is busy putting together plans for a Christmas holiday tour of the the Amazon to study some of the most biologically diverse wildlife on Earth.



Arrangements and details are being worked out with **Chris'** good friend, Edwin Smith, who works as a museum specialist at the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park, Amazonia Department. Smith is an expert on invertebrate zoology and is knowledgeable about tropical botany and is an experienced birder.



Smith and **O'Bryan** spent a day together this past May on a field trip together to a mountain ridge near Fredrick, MD where they observed and captured Timber Rattlesnakes which were emerging from their winter den. **O'Bryan** spent a portion of the day at the National Zoo snake room where he got a close look at the operations. He later spent a day at the U.S. National Museum.

The Amazon area he will visit for nine days, leaving Northeast Tennessee on Christmas eve, has recorded more species of primates than anywhere else in the New World. Over the course of the journey, they may spot several varieties of monkeys, thousands of colorful birds, pink and gray dolphins, and an abundance of other exotic wildlife in an ever-changing vista of lush tropical wilderness. There he

will catch his first piranha or sees a Harpy Eagle flying through the trees. He will explore the world's largest and most diverse wilderness aboard *La Amatista*, a classic 28-passenger riverboat.

Winter Barn Owl nesting paper to be published

Chris O'Bryan is busy writing a paper to be published in *The Raven*, journal of the Virginia Society of Ornithology. It concerns a Barn Owl nest he observed during winter (Jan. 2, 2005) while participating in the Bristol Bird Club's Glade Spring Christmas Bird Count. The nest, in a hopper feed storage bin on a farm near DeBusk Mill, had two adults and three young owls. **Chris** is co-authoring the paper with **Wallace Coffey** and **Andy Jones**. **Chris** is shown at the right climbing atop the bin to where he looked through a hatch into the nest.

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Wildlife Weekend

Did you see Kevin Elam on WCYB-TV5 noonday news ? He was great !

Friday, October 14th – Steele Creek Park Nature Center

7 PM Campfire Owl Talk – Join Marty Silver of Warrior's Path State Park for a campfire talk featuring live, native owls (bring a chair or blanket).

8 PM Owl Prowl – **Tom McNeil** of Northeast State Technical Community College will lead a hike into the park to look for as well as listen for wild owls (bring a flashlight).

Saturday, October 15th - Steele Creek Park Nature Center

Free Admission

9 AM – 8 PM Exhibit Area – Organizations include Friends of Steele Creek Park, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, The Nature Conservancy, **The Bristol Bird Club**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and others – Located in the Lodge. **Ron Harrington** will have our new BBC display set up at this time.

9:00 AM Bird Hike – **Wallace Coffey** of the Bristol Bird Club and park Jr. Naturalist **Sam Cross** will lead this hike to see what kind of avian activity we can uncover. Bring binoculars.

10:00 AM **Bird Banding** – **Richard Lewis** of the Bristol Bird

Club will be catching and banding birds. Meet at the Civitan

Shelter parking lot and see what we can catch.

11:00 AM **Tennessee Wildlife** – Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency personnel will lead this great program on identifying our native wildlife using furs and animal skulls.

12:00 PM Lunch Break

1:00 PM **Gray Fossil Site** – Larry Bristol, Paleontology Coordinator for the site, will give a presentation on the history of this important scientific discovery, including great pictures.

2:00 PM **Fall Foliage/Tree Identification** – **Todd Eastin** leads this enjoyable hike on native trees.

3:00 PM **Autumn Ecology Ramble** – **Don Holt**, former Steele Creek Naturalist, leads this nature hike, which will be excellent for children, as well as adults.

4:00 PM **Nature Photography** – **Mike Poe** will teach the basics of nature photography.

5:00 PM **Mushroom Hike** – Gabrielle Zeiger will lead this educational hike on mushrooms.

6:00 PM **Slagle Hollow Natural Area** – Park naturalist **Chris O'Bryan** and Jr. Naturalist **Charlie Parker** will lead a hike (2 miles) to explore the beauty of Slagle Hollow (bring flashlights).

7:00 PM **Steele Creek Research** – Logan Webb, a King College student, will present his research on turtles and his work on digital tree maps in the park.

8:00 PM **The Grandest Canyon** – Brad Jones of Winged Deer Park will present a program on the history and resource management of one of our nations most popular parks.

Sponsored by:



Friends of Steele Creek

Nature Center & Park

For more information call the Nature Center (423) 989-5616 or Department of Leisure Services (423)764-4023.

A video on fall wildflowers will be playing continuously in the Nature Center.

THE EAGLE

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Bristol Bird Club Website

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