

# *the eagle*



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a digital newsletter sent to members by e-mail

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

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## **Newsletter Delay**

This summer I purchased a new computer. Among the numerous problems with moving files, working with new software and the previous computer being fairly useless, I lost the templates, calendar materials and such used for The Eagle newsletter. Rob Biller and Dave Worley have helped recover materials and files needed to continue. Please accept my apology for going AWOL with the newsletter for a couple of months (June and July). Maybe we'll be back to normal for awhile. -- Wallace Coffey

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## **BBC MEETS TUESDAY .**

**The BBC returns to its regular monthly meeting date next week when we gather  
Tuesday, Aug 15, at the Steele Creek Park Lodge  
in Bristol Tennessee at 7:30 p.m.**

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**DINNER BEFORE THE MEETING  
AT THE MAD GREEK RESTAURANT - 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**

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## STEELE CREEK PARK FACTS

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Total park land/water area:    | 2,224 acres |
| Lake:                          | 52 acres    |
| Intensive use recreation area: | 138 acres   |
| Slagle Hollow Natural Area:    | 1,285 acres |
| Trinkle Hollow Boundary:       | 740 acres   |
| Total forested area:           | 2,007 acres |
| Total length of park boundary: | 11.8 miles  |
| Slagle Hollow Natural Area:    | 5.9 miles   |
| Trinkle Hollow Boundary:       | 4.5 miles   |
| Park frontage boundary:        | 1.4 miles   |



Many visitors to Bristol's Steele Creek Park and Nature Center are only familiar with the 138-acres of wooded hills they see surrounding a beautiful 52-acre lake. The park is one of the largest municipal parks in Tennessee as well as the nation. Just a few major municipal parks (including Bays Mountain Park at Kingsport) are larger.

The park is surrounded by urban sprawl and is completed within the city limits of Bristol Tennessee. It is bounded on the west or north side by Tennessee Route 126 (Bristol to Blountville) and on the east or south side by U.S. 11E (Bristol to Johnson City).

**“ Many visitors to Bristol's Steele Creek Park and Nature Center are only familiar with the 138-acres of wooded hills they see surrounding a beautiful 52-acre lake.”**

Many new members of the BBC find it difficult to relate to why we drive so far from the Mad Greek Restaurant to the Steele Creek Park Lodge where we hold several meetings each year following dinner at the Mad Greek. The distance around the massive park is about the same whether you drive north into the city and then back down Broad Street or go south through Carden Hollow and north along State Route 126. The difference is that the Carden Hollow route avoids traffic and traffic signals.

Among the most unique aspects of the park is an "east access" by foot at Rooster Front Park off Vance Drive which leads nearly 2 miles by trail to the nature center, past the dam and wetlands and along Lakeshore Trail. The park also includes nearly 2,000 acres of self contained watershed where only rainfall creates the streams. The park is a mile wide and contains some 25 miles of trails.

BBC is very fortunate to have enjoyed a long-standing relationship with the creation, construction and furnishing of the Nature Center. The involvement of our birders in the park has kept a constant focus on the natural aspects of the park and the naturalist activities. We have always been very lucky!

BBC Vice President Larry McDaniel, a naturalist on the staff of Steele Creek Park Nature Center, is compiling bird records for the park and hopes to eventually have both an annotated checklist and field card-like list of park birds in the future. The last such list of park birds was by Andy Jones in 1995. Let Larry know if you have anything he should include.

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## Bristol Bird Club Aug. 2 planning meeting results

by Bill Grigsby, President

**BBC Banquet** - The Bristol Bird Club will hold the 2006 banquet in conjunction with Steele Creek Park's – Wildlife Weekend. The banquet will be Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> in the lodge and will be followed by a presentation by Dr. Fred Alsop. The program will be open to the public. The caterer is being selected and more information will be available at the August BBC meeting.

**TOS Spring Meeting 2007** - The TOS spring 2007 meeting is scheduled to be hosted by the Bristol Bird Club. It should be the first weekend of May, 2007. Bill Grigsby is to check with TOS President, Danny Gaddy to verify the dates. We have several teams ready to check on hotels, banquet and meeting facilities in Bristol, Kingsport, and Johnson City.

**Membership and Dues** – In 2006, the TOS increased the state dues. The Bristol Bird Club dues structure was reviewed in relation to the changes. The life membership dues need to be increased to \$450 to be in line with the state organization dues. Treasurer Janice Martin stated that in 2006, the BBC was able to pay the state dues with the dues collected.

### **Other Items:**

In response for a request for seed for its feeding program, a decision was made to purchase up to 200 pounds of sunflower seed for Steele Creek Park. The purchase would be made two 50-pound bags at a time by Chris O'Brien and Ron Harrington. The purchases are to be reimbursed by the BBC treasurer.

Several BBC members staffed a booth provided to BBC by the Natural Resources Committed at the Abingdon Highlands Festival during the week of July 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Those members were Wallace Coffey, Ron Harrington, Bill Grigsby, Mary Erwin, Dave Worley and Zellie Earnest. The attendance was good when the weather was good, but not during Sunday morning. It was decided to not staff another weekend in 2006. We may do this again in 2007 if the opportunity arises.

Dave Worley is checking into having a banner made that says, "Bristol Bird Club". It should be available by the September banquet.

The BBC Christmas Party was discussed. John Moyle is checking on a location

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**BBC Calendar 2006-2007**  
**by Bill Grigsby**

**August 2006**

- 13<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) BBC 13th of the Month Field Trip - meet at ETSU/Bristol at 8:00 AM
- 15<sup>th</sup> BBC Meeting at ETSU/Bristol at 7:30 PM. Dinner at Mad Greek Rest. at 6:00 PM
- 19<sup>th</sup> BBC Field Trip and Picnic with Russell County BC Picnic & Eagle Watch, Laurel Bed Lake, Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area, Saltville, VA (2 pm – 8 pm)

**September**

- 8th-10th Roan Mountain Fall Naturalist Rally
- 9<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> BBC Sponsored Mendota Hawk Watch season long count
- 13<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) BBC 13th of the Month Field Trip - meet at ETSU/Bristol at 8:00 AM
- 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> BBC/Natural Tunnel State Park Fall Birding Weekend
- No third Tues. Meeting BBC Meeting - due to banquet in Sept.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> BBC Annual Banquet – Steele Creek Park (Program – Dr. Fred Alsop)
- 22-23 Steele Creek Wildlife Weekend, sponsored by Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center and BBC
- 24<sup>th</sup> BBC Hawk Migration Field Trip – Mendota Firetower & Brumley Mtn (parties at both sites for day)
- TBA Mendota Hawk Migration Festival (Co-sponsored by BBC)
- 30 Northeast Tennessee Fall Bird Count (sponsored by Herndon TOS Chapter.

**October**

- 13<sup>th</sup> (Friday)- BBC 13th of the Month Field Trip - meet at ETSU/Bristol at 8:00 AM
- 14<sup>th</sup> BBC Bog Watch (Shady Valley Cranberry Festival) – BBC at Dickey Preserve
- 17th BBC Meeting at ETSU/Bristol at 7:30 PM. Dinner at Mad Greek Rest. at 6:00 PM
- 27th-29th TOS Spring Meeting, Clarksville, TN

**November**

- 13th (Sunday) BBC 13th of the Month Field Trip - meet at ETSU/Bristol at 8:00 AM
- 21st BBC Meeting at ETSU/Bristol at 7:30 PM. Dinner at Mad Greek Rest. at 6:00 PM
- 25<sup>th</sup> BBC Field Trip – Waterbirds @ S. Holston Lake (dep. from Shelley's @ 8 AM) Come early for breakfast.

**December**

- 13th (Wednesday)- BBC 13th of the Month Field Trip - meet at ETSU/Bristol at 8:00 AM
- TBA BBC Meeting to plan CBC's
- 9<sup>th</sup> BBC Christmas Party
- 16<sup>th</sup> CBC – Elizabethton (EBC) – Compiler Rick Knight
- 17<sup>th</sup> CBC – Roan Mountain (EBC) – Compiler Rick Knight
- 30<sup>th</sup> CBC – Glade Spring (BBC) – Compiler Ron Harrington
- 31<sup>st</sup> CBC – Bristol (BBC) – Compiler Richard Lewis

**January 2007**

- 1<sup>st</sup> CBC – Shady Valley (BBC) – Compiler Rob Biller
- 3<sup>rd</sup> BBC CBC Compilation – Mad Greek Rest. (Time TBA)
- 13<sup>th</sup> BBC 13<sup>th</sup> Field Trip
- 16<sup>th</sup> BBC Meeting

**February**

- 13<sup>th</sup> BBC 13<sup>th</sup> Field Trip

17<sup>th</sup> BBC Golden Eagle Field Trip – Burkes Garden  
20<sup>th</sup> BBC Meeting

### **March**

10<sup>th</sup> BBC Woodcock Watch Field Trip – Shady Valley  
13<sup>th</sup> BBC 13<sup>th</sup> Field Trip  
20<sup>th</sup> BBC Meeting

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## OTHER DATES

**Aug 24 -- Aug 27** Bristol Motor Speedway Fall Race at Bristol (night race Sat. Aug 26) Plan for traffic and time for schedule when birding to Musick's Campground, Weir Dam, Middlebrook Lake at Bristol TN via Bristol Beltway (TN 394), VA Rt. 75 from Abingdon to U.S. 421 (including TN Rt. 44 which is part of that route from US 421 to VA Rt. 75 at stateline) and US 421 north from Shady Valley towards Bristol.

**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.

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

**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.

### **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 Lewis-Bristol, Tennessee

### **THE EAGLE**

**Editor:** Wallace Coffey  
Bristol, TN 37620

[wallace@bristolbirdclub.org](mailto:wallace@bristolbirdclub.org)

**Bristol Bird Club Website**

[www://bristolbirdclub.org](http://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>