



October Program on Cerulean Warbler Research

Join us on **Wednesday, October 5, at 6:45 p.m.** for our first speaker of the program year. Than Boves, a UT graduate student, will update us on his doctoral research. Than's research project is entitled "Disturbance in the forest: Cerulean Warblers respond to experimental timber harvests in multiple ways." Than will discuss the impacts of managing for Ceruleans using partial harvesting techniques which emulate natural disturbances and how this type of management strategy influences various population and individual metrics such as density, reproduction, body condition, parental behavior, and plumage characteristics and sexual selection.

This month's meeting will return us to our regular location in Room 117 of the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. For directions, please click on our Meetings page on the web at www.tnbirds.org/KTOS.html



Photo source: Wikimedia Commons.

Eagle Scout Seeks Help with Final Building Phase

On Saturday, October 15, Evan Searfoss is seeking help to finish construction on the new observation tower he's building at Kyker Bottoms Refuge as part of his Eagle Scout project. Evan asks that people please RSVP to him at ejsearfoss@gmail.com so he can have an estimate of how many to expect. The group will be building walls to enclose the structure so bringing a hammer would be a big help.

KTOS has committed to helping Evan with this project, both financially with a recent J. B. Owen award and actively by offering to help with the final construction tasks. The new observation tower will be a wonderful addition to the great birding opportunities at Kyker Bottoms and will be utilized by birders for years to come.

Dues Almost Due!

It's nearly that time again! KTOS membership dues will soon be due for the coming year. If you want to get ahead of the game (and prevent our kindly badgering as the new year rolls around), you're welcome to pay your dues now at the welcome table at the next meeting. Dues levels are as follows: \$26/individual, \$30/family, \$38/sustaining, \$13/student, or TOS life membership for \$450 with \$8 annual fee to the local Chapter.

If you have any questions, contact Carole Gobert at (865) 254-8841 or via email at cpgobert@hotmail.com. Dues may also be sent to her via mail (address on page 4).



Please remember the J.B. Owen Memorial Endowment in your estate planning.



Presidential Perch

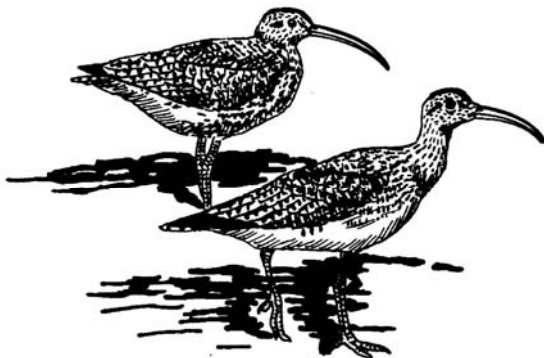
One thing I can tell you about myself is that I am not a writer! I guess I'm saying this because writing the "Presidential Perch" column is hard work for me, and the hummers keep distracting me. It's been a great year for the hummers; they've entertained me and others for hours. I have six feeders across my front porch, and it's like a swarm of bees gone mad! As of today when I'm writing this, September 16, I still have adult males visiting.

We had a great turn-out for the September Potluck Picnic at Ijams Nature Center. Thank you to Stephen Lyn Bales who had the projector, laptop, and screen all set up for our unveiling of the new KTOS website, and boy, is it nice! Thanks to Chuck Nicholson, Angela Hoffman, Mindy Fawver, and all the others who contributed ideas. Evan Searfoss was back to update us on his Eagle Scout project, which is the observation tower at Kyker Bottoms. He has joined our Yahoo! Group (KnoxvilleTOS) and will be posting updates and dates for when he will need help to finish the tower (see article on page 1). I'm hoping we can have a good turn-out to help him finish this project. Thanks to all who helped to make the picnic a fun time.

Now is an exciting time to bird with migrants heading south! Rare birds have been seen at Rankin Bottoms and at Whigg Meadow — remember to let Angela know if you see anything exciting. Unfortunately, not all the news this fall about migrating birds has been exciting. Many of us recently learned that shooting of Whimbrels in Guadeloupe is classified as a "recreational sport."

I'm off to do some advanced bird banding classes at the Environmental Studies on the Piedmont program in Virginia. I have lots of reading and studying to do. Hopefully, by the next MAPS season, I will be better able to assist Mark Armstrong at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge and be confident enough to venture out to other banding stations. I want to thank Mark for being my banding mentor and getting me more involved with the birds!

Billie Cantwell



Whimbrels, Steven D'Amato

Get Out and Get Birding! October Field Trips

The Big Sit at Kyker Bottoms Refuge
Sunday, October 9 @ dawn until dusk
Leaders: Mike Nelson & Janet Lee McKnight

The Big Sit is an annual, nation-wide count where birders sit for a one-day period in a 17-foot circle. In theory, in good habitat, all possible species should eventually show themselves. Join Mike Nelson and Janet Lee McKnight for birding while sitting still. (It may be worth showing up just to see Mike sit still!) Bring a chair to the count circle and add a species or two to the list. Janet forewarns that, "No one may enter the count circle without bringing a brownie, a cupcake, or ice cream." Meet at the observation platform. This event will be cancelled in case of rain. For questions or more info, call Janet at (865) 271-8337. For site info and directions, visit <http://www.tnbirds.org/birdfinding/KykerBottoms.htm>.

The Big Year movie
Friday evening, October 14 @ TBA

We will discuss at the October meeting whether there is interest in a group outing to see this film. At present, the exact theater and show times for Knoxville are unavailable. The book was entertaining, but the jury is still out on the movie. The group could also go for coffee or wine afterward to discuss our reactions to the movie.

Victor Ashe Park
Thursday, October 20 @ 9:00 a.m.
Leader: Tony King

Meet Tony King for a morning walk at Victor Ashe Park. The park is mostly level or has short inclines with open, mowed fields and some rougher, brushy fields, woodland edges, and woodlands. On a weekday morning, this diverse habitat should be quiet and bird-friendly. KTOS birded here in the spring, so it's now a good time for a fall follow-up visit. Meet in the parking lot. For directions, visit <http://www.ci.knoxville.tn.us/parks/victor.asp>.

Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge
Sunday, October 23 @ 8:00 a.m.
Leader: Mike Nelson

Mike Nelson will lead this trip to one of the premiere birding areas in East Tennessee. We'll walk the fields looking for sparrows and raptors and then come back along the wooded trail to the pond, on to the river along the path there down to the barn, and back along the road. The trip should last two to three hours. Meet in the parking lot, and bring water with you. For site info and directions, visit <http://www.tnbirds.org/birdfinding/SevenIslands.htm>.

Birding Briefs

On September 10, **Carole Gobert** and **Chuck and Lola Estes** enjoyed seeing an **adult male Cerulean Warbler** along the Songbird Trail at Norris Dam State Park.

Billie Cantwell experienced a surprise at her home on September 18 when she heard a hawk making a horrible noise. She reports: "I ran outside and around the corner and about 10 feet off the ground came a **Barred Owl chased by a hawk**. The owl landed in a tree and the hawk kept going! Colin says he has seen this before and sometimes it's the owl doing the chasing! He thinks they are playing with each other."

Great birds continued to show up in **Dean Edwards'** yard this season. As he reported to the TN-Bird list, he recorded his 32nd warbler yard species on September 23: a **Yellow-breasted Chat**. Though the chat's continuing status as a warbler remains uncertain, he's counting it as a warbler for now! He also had a male **Golden-winged Warbler** the same morning and a female a few days before that.

Have you seen a really great bird you want to share? Email your cool birds (species, number, date, location) to Angela Hoffman at ahoffman07@bellsouth.net or leave a message at (865) 670-8822.

Duck Stamp Success

At our September meeting, we began selling Federal Duck Stamps in protective key chain holders that can be attached to binoculars, a backpack, a hat, or a purse.

The project was such a success that we sold all 20 stamp/key chain combos through pre-orders and at the meeting! Because of this, we plan to purchase an additional five stamps for those who may still want one.

The cost for a stamp and the protective holder is only \$18.00 with \$15.00 of that going directly to the national wildlife refuge program.

Order yours today by sending an email to Billie Cantwell at bfcantwell@gmail.com or by calling (865) 212-9797.

Successful Summer Season for MAPS Program

This summer we completed our seventh season of MAPS banding (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) at Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge. We conducted eight banding sessions between May 22 and July 31 and put out 12 mist nets in the hedgerows and fields in the same places we had them in previous years. We banded 320 new birds, recaptured 170 birds that we had banded previously, and had 27 birds that went unbanded (hit the net without being caught or escaped) for a total of 517 birds. That's a lot of birds, especially for MAPS, since processing is more extensive than migration banding. Our busiest banding seasons were 2007 with 564 birds and 2010 when we had 527.

For the 2011 season, the top ten species banded were Field Sparrow (63), Common Yellowthroat (47), Yellow-breasted Chat (25), Indigo Bunting (24), Song Sparrow (23), Northern Cardinal (20), Northern Mockingbird (14), Carolina Wren (12), Eastern Phoebe (10), and Orchard Oriole (8). We also banded some new species for the station, including our first Tufted Titmouse, Worm-eating Warbler, and Red-eyed Vireo. Though not new species to the project, other good birds included a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, two Black-and-white Warblers, two Prothonotary Warblers, and a Grasshopper Sparrow (all of which we know are there but we seldom catch). We also caught several Northern Bobwhite, but we can't band them because they're game birds. They're a really beautiful bird in the hand, so we took lots of pictures and sent them on their way. The total number of different species banded was 35.



Worm-eating Warbler that was caught and banded this season.

We also had a couple really notable recaptures. We caught a Yellow-breasted Chat that was banded in 2005 when he was at least two years old, which means that he is now at least eight years old and could be older. We have banded only one Ovenbird during MAPS and that was on July 25, 2010. This year we caught the same bird on July 24 and in the same net where we had caught it before. The bird was in heavy molt both times we caught it; wherever the bird comes from, it must really like Seven Islands because it comes there during its molt and preparation for migration.

We have a lot of fine volunteers that help with all aspects of operating the station, and it would not be possible to operate the station without them, so many thanks to them all. Many thanks also to Wayne Schacher who has worked many years to improve the habitat at Seven Islands for grassland birds. Our impressive results would not be possible without his work.

Mark Armstrong

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www.tnbirds.org/KTOS.html

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PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID, KNOXVILLE, TN 37901
through the biKNOXulars (USPS 697-010)
Published monthly, except January, July, and August
by the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, 5425 Yosemite Trail, Knoxville, TN 37909
Subscription price: \$8.00. **POSTMASTER:**
Send changes of address to: *through the biKNOXulars*,
5425 Yosemite Trail, Knoxville, TN 37909

Hawk Watch Field Trip Report

Approximately 25 members and friends joined Mike Nelson and David Trently on September 11 for a great morning of hawk watching along the crest of the Foothills Parkway in Blount County. It started out partly cloudy but turned into a beautiful morning with well over 100 hawks (primarily Broad-winged, with several Red-tailed Hawks and Turkey Vultures) right overhead as they rode the thermals heading south. Notable non-raptors included a very cooperative Olive-sided Flycatcher, several Summer and Scarlet Tanagers, a fly-by or two by some hummingbirds, several warblers, and some vireos. A great field trip overall!

It was wonderful to see some new faces, and we hope to see them at our next meeting. Be sure to say hello! Thanks to Mike and David for all the good birding help and for the great spotting scopes!

Patty Ford



Photo credit: Parry Ford.