



Kristina Mitchell

**April Program: “Bird Banding Program at SPAC”** presented by **Kristina Mitchell**, a volunteer at SPAC. **Strawberry Plains Audubon Center** (SPAC) is located off MS HWY 7, 5.7 miles north of Holly Springs, MS. Kristina has been working there about a year and is in charge of the bird banding program at the Center.

The presentation began with a little background to the history of the banding of birds, then moved on to the modern day reasons for performing that task.

History has recorded that as far as we know the first bird banding occurred around 1595. The bird was a Peregrine Falcon belonging to Henry the IV who used it to hunt in France. The bird escaped and was found 24 hours later in Malta, 1350 miles away. John James Audubon may have introduced banding to the U.S. when he banded several Eastern Phoebes near Philadelphia, PA, in 1803.

### Reasons for Banding:

- #1. To provide knowledge about the movement of birds. #2. For management of game birds.
- #3. To estimate demographic patterns and determine population dynamics of birds.
- #4. For ecologic research requiring individual recognition. #5. To monitor populations and individuals.
- #6. To educate the public about science and birds.

### Why Band Birds



#### #1. To Provide Knowledge about Movement of Birds

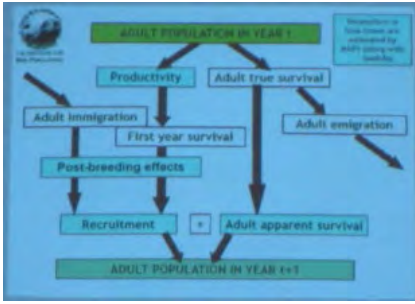
- \* Establishing migration routes
- \* Finding links between breeding and wintering grounds.
- \* Delineating separate populations, range expansions, dispersal and gene exchange.



#### #2. For the Management of Gamebirds.

- \* Delineating flyways.
- \* Estimating harvest pressure for establishing/modifying hunting regulations.
- \* Measuring vulnerability to harvest and other risks by species, age and geographic area.

(Program continued)



### #3. To Estimate Demographic Patterns and Determine Population Dynamics of Birds.

- \* Estimating annual production of young birds.
- \* Estimating age-dependent survival rates.
- \* Building models of population dynamics for predicting extinction probabilities.
- \* Separating population sources and sinks.
- \* Comparing survival of experimental or rehabilitated birds to those of wild birds.



### #4. For Ecological Research Requiring Individual Recognition.

- \* Estimating territory size.
- \* Examining the importance of stopover areas through individual stopover time and weight gain.
- \* Examining habitat selection, dominance hierarchies, molting strategies, molt patterns and parasite burdens of individuals.



### #5. For Monitoring Populations and Individuals.

- \* Monitoring endangered or threatened species.
- \* Identifying populations declining from decreased reproductive output or diminished recruitment.
- \* Establishing population trends.
- \* Validating other techniques of population monitoring.

### #6. To Educate the Public About Science and Birds.

- \* Creating citizen scientists.
- \* Teaching stewardship.

Banding at SPAC is accomplished by certified bird banders.

**Strawberry Plains Audubon Center** opened in 1998 encompassing some 2500 acres located in Marshall County, MS. Kristina informed us that they maintain three banding stations on the property where, during banding periods, birds are humanely captured using mist nets and other gentle methods. During the Hummingbird Festival bottomless cages are used where the hummers easily fly in but can't figure out how to fly down to freedom. After capture the birds are banded by a certified bander and a record is made of the band number, species, sex, age, body condition, breeding signs, and measurements of the wing, tail and weight. Then the bird is released. The whole process takes about 30 minutes with as little stress put on the bird as possible. Volunteers are often appreciated to help in the process. Kristina gave us much more information about the banding program at SPAC. (C. Brown)

## Field Trips:

**Wall Doxey State Park, Holly Springs, MS, April 7, 2018:** On a cold and blustery morning, Rob Harbin led seven observers on a walk around Wall Doxey State Park, Mississippi. In spite of the poor weather, a total of 51 species were identified, with large numbers of White-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Yellow-rumped and Yellow-throated Warblers. Highlights were excellent views of Worm-eating and Hooded Warblers, seven Louisiana Waterthrushes and a close flyby of an Osprey. (Dick Preston)

**Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park, April 18, 2018:** Dick Preston and Van Harris led a group of 13 members on the early morning hike under mostly cloudy skies with wind from the southwest at 12-18 mph. Not perfect birding weather if you ask me. The birds agreed as they were few and far between. Many species that were spotted only made brief and limited appearances. The total species count for the Visitors Center and Poplar Tree Lake areas combined was 46. Among the interesting arrivals were Broad-winged Hawks (3), Vireos of the White-eyed (14), Red-eyed (4), Yellow-throated (7) kinds, Barn Swallows (12, with 5 active nests), N. Rough-winged Swallows (9), Warblers; Black & White, Tennessee, Kentucky, Hooded, N. Parula, Yellow-rumped, Yellow-throated, and Black-throated Green. Indigo Bunting and Summer Tanager rounded out the field. The group broke up about 10:30AM as the wind increased, driving more of the birds to cover. (C. Brown)

**Herb Parsons Lake, April 21, 2018:** Allen Sparks led a team of 10 observers enjoying a gorgeous Spring morning for birding at Herb Parsons Lake on April 21. Forty three species were observed. Highlights included a dozen of the resident Red-headed Woodpeckers including a couple of nest sites. Other notables included Summer Tanager, Osprey, Common Yellowthroat, Palm Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler and Prothonotary Warbler. (Allen Sparks)

**Fort Pillow State Park, April 29, 2018:** There was a low turnout for the field trip to Ft. Pillow Sunday. Two leaders, Dick Preston & Van Harris, were accompanied by Judy Dorsey and David Hill on a beautiful morning. A total of 87 species were recorded at Ft. Pillow and the Lower Hatchie NWR. Highlights were (2) Blue-headed Vireos, and watching a pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers defending their nest against a female Cowbird. The Cowbird kept trying to enter the nest, and the Gnatcatchers kept driving her off. We watched for five minutes, and when we left, the Cowbird was seen departing. We hoped for good. The Gnatcatcher settled onto the nest, quite proud of itself, I'm sure. The other (non-birding) highlight was speaking with an elderly fisherman and admiring his 51-pound catfish. (Dick Preston)

## Meeting:

**Old Business: None**

**New Business:**

## **Chapter Officers**

There will be a vote at the May meeting to approve a slate of Memphis Chapter Officers for the 2018-2019 year.

### **SLATE OF MEMPHIS CHAPTER OFFICERS for 2018-2019**

<b>President</b>	Dr. Michael Collins	
<b>Vice President</b>	Allen Sparks	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Barbara Bullock Pyles	
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Knox Martin	
<b>Local Directors</b>	David Blaylock Martha Waldron	
<b>State Directors</b>	Theresa Graham	<i>Term Expires</i> June 2020
	Van Harris	June 2020
	Knox Martin	June 2020
	Susan Davis	June 2019
	Dick Preston	June 2019
	Donna Ward	June 2019

The **Yearly Audit** of the MTOS Treasurer's books was completed by Dick Preston. He reports that everything checked out proper, and deemed it a "clean audit."

## **Unusual Sightings:**

**Short-eared Owls** by Andrea Cowart at Shelby Farms.

**Bald Eagles**, one at Johnson Park and two at Shelby Farms.

An **American Crow** was seen to capture and eat a small bird at Herb Parsons Lake.

A nesting **American Crow** near Dick Preston's house has learned that Dick stores peanuts in a certain garbage can and routinely visits the can and the porch to harvest peanuts when possible.

## **FYI:**

The **Zambia, Africa** expedition mentioned in last month's newsletter is fully booked. Nine people are signed up for this adventure. Some MTOS members plus other locals and several out-of-towners have joined the group. An interesting trip to a camp on the banks of the Luangwa River at the end of the dry season.

**Proteins in bird's eye solve bird navigation mystery?** Read and decide, if you wish. (Van Harris)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-5577421/Mystery-birds-navigate-solved-Scientists-discover-proteins-birds-eyes.html>

### TOS Membership Information

Benefits include monthly programs, field trips, quarterly journals, and state and chapter newsletters.

Categories and dues are:

Individual	\$36
Family	\$40
Sustaining	\$55
College Student	\$23
Other Student	\$ 5
Lifetime	\$450 one time +\$18 yearly

Please send dues to:

Barbara Pyles

518 Forest Hill-Irene Rd. South

Cordova, TN 38018-4832

(901)570-1009 E-mail

brbpyles@gmail.com

### Newsletter Delivery Options

To reduce printing and mailing costs, a digital version, which is usually expanded with photos and occasional articles, is provided. Notify Margaret Jefferson at mjefferson100@hotmail.com. If you have no internet access, a printed version can be mailed.

### Chapter Newsletter Submissions

E-mail or call Chad Brown

cwb496@bellsouth.net or (901) 754-3385

Deadline for submissions to the

Newsletter is the 22nd of the month.

### Field Cards

Please mail or e-mail your field cards and notable sightings to Dick Preston.

E-mail: dickpreston@rittermail.com

### Tennessee Warbler Deadlines

\*February 28 for the April Newsletter

\*June 30 for the August Newsletter

\*October 31 for the December Newsletter

Forward contributions to:

Theresa Graham, Editor

P.O. Box 366 Oakland, TN 38060

(901) 465-4263 or e-mail:

2graham@bellsouth.net

### Chapter Meeting

**May 16, 2018 at 7:00 PM**

**St. George's Episcopal Church, 2425 South Germantown Rd.  
Germantown, TN Phone 901-754-7282**

### Program at 7:00 PM

**"Wildlife of Thailand"** presented by TOS Nashville member

**Danny Shelton**

### Hospitality

Refreshments will be provided by **Barbara Pyles.**

### Field Trip Information

**May 6, 2018 - Overton Park: Margaret Jefferson** will lead. Meet at the Parking lot of the East Parkway Pavilion at 7:30 AM. Contact Margaret at (901) 274-1045 or e-mail at mjefferson100@hotmail.com.

**May 9, 2018 (Wednesday Hike) - Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park: Dick Preston** will lead. Contact Dick at (901) 837-3360 or e-mail at dickpreston@rittermail.com. Meet at Visitors Center at 7:30AM.

**May 12, 2018 - Traditional Spring Count: Dick Preston** will lead. Meet at Shelby Forest Visitors Center at 7:30AM or bird anywhere in Shelby County and turn in your cards to Dick Preston.

**May 19, 2018 - Wolf River Restoration Trail: Martha Waldron** will lead. Meet at the parking lot at 7:30AM on the gravel road that leads to weirs #4 & #5 on the map. Map is found by clicking on the link on the Field Trip Schedule in the 2017-2018 Directory. Contact Martha at (901) 747-3004 or e-mail at Martha.waldron@gmail.com.

### New Members

**Stephanie R. Green** - e-mail: eppie00@hotmail.com

Directory change: **Barry Wall** - new email: bwall@uthsc.edu

### Special Events

**Global Big Day - 5 May 2018** go to eBird for information to participate. <https://ebird.org/news/global-big-day-5-may-2018>

**June 1-3, 2018 - Hatchie Birdfest, Brownsville, TN**

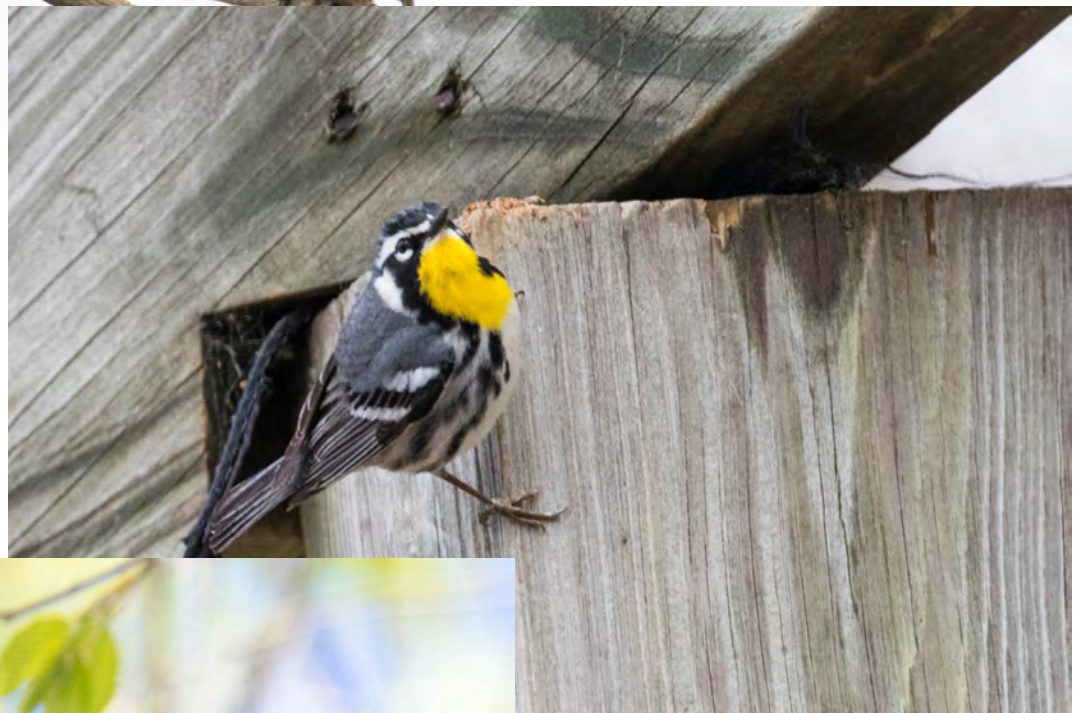
For full information go to <http://www.hatchiebirdfest.com>

The pictures on this page are compliments of **Thomas Blevins**.  
Taken April, 8, 2018, in W.C. Johnson Park, Collierville, TN.



Top two are of a curious **White-eyed Vireo**.

To the right is a >> **Yellow-throated Warbler**.



Below: a **Yellow-rumped Warbler**.



Also known to some as a **Myrtle Warbler**, an old name that may be revived.

**Thomas Blevins** added some more pictures from a solo trip to Wall Doxey State Park in mid-April.



Thomas caught this spectacular shot of an **Osprey** sailing by overhead against a neutral background of the sky, which I assume was a very light gray.

On the more colorful side a cooperative **Prothonotary Warbler** let him snap several shots, one of which is displayed below.

The Prothonotary Warbler is a summer resident in the Mid-South seeming to prefer staying near a water source such as the lake at Wall Doxey and the one at W.C. Johnson Park in Collierville, TN, which the club visits on occasion.

Mr. Blevins added a few shots from a trip to Radnor Lake. **Blue-winged Warbler**, **Hooded Warbler** & **Scarlet Tanager**.



**David O. Hill** submitted these pictures below taken on an outing on the 17th of April, 2018. The leucistic American Robin was encountered at MLK Park. I am curious if the bird's appearance had any affect on its ability to attract a mate.



Remember the leucistic Robin Virginia Reynolds had in her yard. A bit different to say the least.



The early morning dawn lighting gives an interesting highlight to this **Eared Grebe** that David photographed at Wapanocca NWR.





On the field trip to Herb Parsons Lake **Allen Sparks** and **David Blaylock** found two active **Red-headed Woodpecker** nests. Allen went back on the 30th to get this picture of one of them at the nest.

**Van Harris** added a couple pictures from this weekend:

A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at Alex Haley Rest Area on HWY 51 N and a **Greater Yellowlegs** at Lower Hatchie NWR.

