

Religious leaders support petition to list Cerulean Warbler as threatened:

**Father John S. Rausch**, a Glenmary priest and economist, coordinates the Office of Justice and Peace in the Diocese of Lexington, KY.

**Rev. Kent Gilbert**, Pastor, Church of Christ Union, Berea, KY

**David W. Key**, Director, Baptist House of Studies, Candler School of Theology, Emory University, GA (404) 727-6350

**Brian L. Cole**, Episcopal lay preacher, The Sabbath Project coordinator, Asheville, NC (828) 771-3749

**Dr. Gilson Waldkoenig**, Professor in the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, PA (717) 334-6286

What religious leaders say about the Cerulean Warbler:

*“As a threatened species, the Cerulean warbler broadcasts important feedback about forest health and our irresponsible stewardship. The false trade-off between jobs versus the environment begs for human creativity. ... losing the Cerulean telegraphs lousy economics and indicates time to change our forest practices.”*  
— Father John S. Rausch, Lexington, KY

*“The Cerulean warbler is the canary in God's Appalachian coal mine, and we ignore the loss of its song at our peril. Creation is God's gift to us... If we fail in our biblical task of stewardship, if we fail as observant, intelligent partners in the community of living things God has brought forth, it is humanity itself that will become endangered as our environment—our air, our forests, our water, and our soil—decays in our exploitive grasp.”*  
— Rev. Kent Gilbert, Pastor, Church of Christ Union, Berea KY

*“This time of year, Christian congregations and parishes throughout the world are celebrating the life of St. Francis of Assisi. Francis is remembered as someone who saw the sacred value in small things, be it the poor beggars or little animals and birds. The rapid decline in the Cerulean warbler population is another sign that too few of us exhibit Francis' concern for all of God's creation. Adding the Cerulean warbler to the threatened species list would show our children that Francis' model can be recaptured before it is too late for another species.”*  
— Brian L. Cole, Asheville, NC

*“The song of the warbler invites us to stop, listen and wonder. Along with its important functions in the biosphere, the warbler reminds us of all that the non-human world has to teach distracted and haggard modern people. The warbler and other creatures invites us into the delightfulness of the biosphere, and that can evoke in us peace, meaning and joy.”*  
— Dr. Gilson Waldkoenig, Gettysburg, PA