

# Bird Information, Research and Data Highlights

April, May, June 2022



From left to right: TSU intern Azia Tanks shares about her experience searching for radio-tagged Hermit Thrushes—visit the Friends of Warner Parks website at [www.warnerparks.org](http://www.warnerparks.org) to read the full story. Volunteers getting trained to use the hand-held receiver to search for radio-tagged birds. Nature Center summer camps visited the bird banding station. Learn about an exciting Pine Siskin recapture on the FOWP website.



Left to right: Male Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Male Blackpoll Warbler. Female Sumer Tanager. Adult White-eyed Vireo.



From left to right: Former summer BIRD Interns Savannah Emery and Perri Haga with Dr. John Lewis presented and won their sessions for their WPNC bird research projects at the Lipscomb University student scholars symposium—congratulations! Some of banding team—Thomas Copeland, Laura Cook, Susan Bradfield, Rachael Payton, Sandy Bivens, Kathy Shaw, and John Lewis. 2022 BIRD Intern Anna Money holds a recently banded Eastern Bluebird nestling. Long time bluebird nest box monitor Sue Shallow holds a recently banded Eastern Bluebird nestling. Warner Park staff Melissa Donahue, Vera Roberts, Rachel Anderson with Sandy Bivens are part of our amazing banding team!

# Bird Information, Research and Data (B.I.R.D.) Quarterly Report

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## BIRD Program

- Our dedicated and amazing team of volunteers donated 375 hours to the BIRD Program, engaging park visitors during bird banding sessions and spring migration walks, and hosting 450 visitors during Spring NatureFest.
- Throughout the Spring we offered several bird migration walks. A big thank you to Graham Gerdeman, Sandy Bivens, Chris Sloan, Kim Bailey, Amy Pardo, and Susan Bradfield for leading these walks.
- Bird feeder volunteers continue to keep our feeders filled and clean. With hummingbird season gearing up, we appreciate all that these volunteers do—Debbie Bright, Toni Rodgers, Kathy VonArb, Perry Wasdin, Ann Acheson, Shannon and Grant Alpert, Susan Peoples and her sons Donovan and Devonte help to keep our feeders clean and full.
- Warner Parks held a Volunteer Appreciation event in June. It was great to see so many of our amazing, dedicated volunteers = we could not do this without you!
- Several bird-related stories and blogs can be found at [warneparkblogspot.com](http://warneparkblogspot.com) & [www.warnerparks.org](http://www.warnerparks.org).
- Diana McLusky continues to lead the bluebird team for the nest box season from March through September.
- Volunteer Nancy Cole continues to lead our data entry project. Thank you to all of our volunteers who are helping with this 40 year database. And welcome back Cheryl Brummal who is helping with 2022 data entry!
- Kathy Shaw led an instructional presentation for the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) season.
- Welcome Anna Money, our summer BIRD intern from Lipscomb University. She is assisting with MAPS, Barn Swallows, and will develop a technical paper on the Nashville Purple Martin migration roost for her research project.
- Laura is engaged Bird Safe Nashville is a coalition focused on reducing bird hazards in Nashville. They succeed in a Lights Out Nashville resolution passed by the City Council & signed by the mayor's office -[www.birdsafenashville.org](http://www.birdsafenashville.org).
- Laura has been engaged with a partner led team to have Nashville designated as a US Fish and Wildlife Service Urban Bird Treaty Program city. The goal is to have the federal application submitted by the end of 2022.
- Multiple research projects have kept the BIRD team busy throughout the spring. We will report on these projects when they wrap up at the end of the summer. These projects include MAPS, Eastern Bluebird Nestbox, Purple Martin nest success, Hummingbird migration, and Barn Swallow nest success.
- A big congratulations to Sandy Bivens who was awarded the Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Fund Award from the national Garden Club of America "to recognize an individual who, through working with children under 16 years of age in horticulture and the environment, has inspired their appreciation of the beauty and fragility of our planet." A well deserved recognition!

## BIRD Research Projects

- **Spring Migration Banding:** Held 5 banding sessions during the month of April & captured 105 birds (63 new and 40 recaptures). Highlights from this rainy season: good numbers for Louisiana and Northern Waterthrushes, a Yellow Warbler, and Hairy Woodpecker. We had few migratory thrushes.
- **Project FeederWatch:** 25th year in collaboration with Cornell University & used to track broad scale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance. Melissa Donahue led a team of 14 volunteers, tallying 832 birds of 34 species from November through April at the Sandy Bivens Bird Garden.
- **Motus:** Thanks to a grant from the Mapp Foundation and donation from the Nashville Symphony, we radio-tagged 31 birds ( 5 Wood Thrushes, 1 Veery, 1 Swainson's Thrush, and 24 Purple Martins. A highlight was our first return—a male Wood Thrush first radio-tagged by us in May 2021. Our work has been featured on Cornell's BirdCast website and presented during a join webinar with The Nature Conservancy of Tennessee. Warner Parks receiver station detected a Lesser Yellowlegs radio-tagged in Columbia & then detected in Costa Rica, Texas, & then Warner Parks within 72hrs.
- **TOS spring count:** On 30 April volunteers conducted the Warner Park portion of the Tennessee Ornithological Society's spring bird count, on-going in Warner Parks since 1927! Thank you to Graham Gerdeman, Kim Bailey, Frank Fekel, Mary Glenn Williamson, Amy & Benjamin Pardo, and our banding team who documented 97 bird species including 24 warbler species and an Eastern Screech Owl.
- **Breeding Bird Survey:** Sandy Bivens with assistance from Bob Parrish, conducted the annual Breeding Bird Survey, on-going since 1985. This year they documented 310 birds of 55 species. This is the most species every documented in the 38 year of this survey! Highlights were Wood Thrush, Hooded Warbler, Blue Grosbeak but few grassland species.
- **Warner Parks Barn Swallow Survey:** Two surveys were conducted to capture first and second clutches. On 25 May we had 72 total nests, 25 active with 27 eggs and 67 nestlings. On 30 June we had 56 nests, 21 active with 51 eggs and 40 nestlings. The Steeplechase Barn is the most productive nesting colony in the park, & overall Warner Parks is producing close to 200 Barn Swallow nestlings each year. This is significant because across its range, this aerial insectivorous bird's population has declined by 40% over the past 50 years.