

Bird Information, Research and Data Highlights

October, November, December 2021



From left to right: Sandy engages park visitors at the banding station. The BIRD team (Sandy, Alan, Cathy, Thomas, Racheal, Patty, Virginia, Tahira, Laura, and Rachel). Bird feeder volunteers Susan, Devonte and Donovan. Metro Parks electricians, Richard and Shane help to install a new Motus receiver station at the Harpeth Hills Golf Course.



From left to right: Northern Saw-whet Owl. White-throated Sparrow. A feisty (is there any other kind?) Tufted Titmouse. A Hermit Thrush with a Hybrid LifeTag. These solar transmitters have a small rechargeable battery which allows us to detect these birds 24-7. Will this bird spend the winter with us?



From left to right: Sandy teaches Rachael Payton how to use the USGS Bandit system to report banding information. Volunteer Ann Hoos helps with the annual Purple Martin gourd cleaning and maintenance. Volunteer Steve Ghertner is an integral part of our Motus research—his expertise and dedication makes it all possible. Volunteer Nancy Cole has taken on the monumental task of completing our 40-year data entry project. This last stage will provide an opportunity to comprehensively assess 40 years of bird banding data.



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

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Celebrating the WPNC Bird Banding Station 40 year legacy of avian research

BIRD Program

- Our dedicated and amazing team of volunteers donated hours 443 to the BIRD Program, engaging 353 park visitors during bird banding sessions including the public bird banding day during fall break, and fall migration bird walks.
- Throughout the fall we offered bird migration walks at Deep Well, Harpeth River Greenway, Burch Reserve, Indian Springs. A big thank you to Graham Gerdeman, Sandy Bivens, Chris Sloan, John Kell, Vera Roberts, Leah LaRocco for leading these walks.
- The Wood Thrush Shop helped us set up our bird feeder systems in the Sandy Bivens Bird Garden. Bird feeder volunteers Debbie Bright, Toni Rodgers, Surya Gunasekaran, Kathy VonArb, Perry Wasdin, Ann Acheson, Susan Peoples and her sons Donovan and Devonte help to keep our feeders clean and full.
- BIRD research advisory team met via Zoom where we discussed our data entry and management plan and hopes for analysis and publication of our data. Thank you to Dr. John Lewis, Dr. David Aborn, David Hanni, & Dr. Darlene Panvini.
- For the past year and a half, numerous volunteers, interns, and staff have worked to have our recapture banding data entered into a database—a huge accomplishment. The next step for this massive project is being led by volunteer Nancy Cole where we will be adding key information such as weight and wing length to our new banded data. If you are interested in helping with this data entry, please contact Laura at laura.cook@nashville.gov. This is something you can do from home.
- Summarized and submitted our banding results to the Inland Bird Banding Association for both our MAPS and Fall Migration bird banding research. These results will be published in the North American Bird Bander journal.
- Exciting news to share— BIRD and Warner Park Nature Center was asked to host the 2023 Inland Bird Banding Association annual conference. We are honored to be entrusted with this and look forward to crafting an engaging and fun conference.
- Former BIRD Intern from 2019 & 2020, Perri Haga is now a senior at Lipscomb University. As part of her Environmental and Sustainability Science capstone research project, Perri analyzed BIRD banding data and the impact of urban light pollution on birds. Her research was presented in December.
- Year-end reports completed for our research on Eastern Bluebirds, Purple Martins, MAPS, Fall migration banding. We have also started on entering our 2021 data for the Bird Banding Laboratory.

BIRD Research Projects

- **Fall Migration:** Fall marked the 40th year of operation for the Warner Park Banding Station. We engaged 471 park visitors at our banding station during 13 banding sessions. Overall, we captured 124 birds, 96 new and 21 recaptures (compared with 281 in 2020) it was a slow season with low capture rates, including one session on 23 September (prime migration time) with only one capture—a hatch-year Ruby-throated Hummingbird.
- **Northern Saw-whet Owl:** On 03 November 2021, federally licensed BIRD Program banders Kathy Shaw and Sandy Bivens captured and banded a young, male Northern Saw-whet Owl in Warner Parks as part of a long-term research project on saw-whet migration. They caught the owl at 10:15pm, and immediately took it out of the net to band and measure the bird in order to determine the gender. This particular owl was small and its feathers were consistently worn down, suggesting that it was a male, hatch-year owl. Since this project was launched in 2007, this is only the third Northern Saw-whet Owl captured at Warner Parks. Check out www.warnerparks.org/park-news to learn more.
- **Motus:** Despite overall low capture rates during fall migration, we captured and radio-tagged a total of 12 thrushes as part of our Motus migration stopover duration study (7 Swainson's Thrush, 1 Gray-cheeked Thrush, 1 Veery, 3 Hermit Thrush). We used Cellular Tracking Technologies' Hybrid LifeTag solar transmitters with a rechargeable battery. This allows us to detect the birds 24 hours a day, lasting the life of the bird. Check out www.motus.org to learn more.
- **Christmas bird count:** On 18 December, volunteers Sandy Bivens, Kim Bailey, Graham Gerdeman, Kathy Shaw, Lise Brown, and Laura Cook conducted the Warner Park portion of the Tennessee Ornithological Society's fall migration bird count. Areas covered included Edwin Warner, Burch Reserve, Hill Forest, Little Harpeth River, Steeplechase, Deep Well, Willow Pond, and Harpeth Trace. These have been on-going in Warner Parks since 1927! This year we had nice variety (48 total) including Dark-eyed Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, and Hairy Woodpeckers.

***The BIRD Program is funded by Friends of Warner Parks in partnership with
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Thanks to each of you for your continued support!***