

Bird Information, Research and Data (B.I.R.D.) Quarterly Report **July, August, September 2022**

BIRD Program

- Volunteers contributed 543 hours. BIRD related programs including banding station, bird walks, and Hummingbird Celebration engaged 1,574 visitors.
- Held our first in-person Hummingbird Celebration since 2019. Huge success with 650 visitors. A big thank you to Amy and Carl Wilms and Dr. Lina Rifai for their fabulous presentation on Ruby-throated Hummingbirds; Katie Sue from the Bellevue Public Library, John from the Wood Thrush Shop, Kidsville, Intersession Music, the Habitat Connection, Nathan Collie with his new book *Moments with Birds*, and the Davidson County master gardeners for the education and engagement tables. And to the many volunteers and staff who made it all possible.
- Hummingbird Happy Hour was beautiful with 175 attendees and raised funds for the BIRD Program
- We finally celebrated the success of the former BIRD Committee – a dedicated team who helped transition the BIRD Program from a metro funded to a Friends of Warner Parks funded Program. A big thank you to chair Chris Sloan, Kathy Shaw, Diana McLusky, John Kell, John Lewis, Janeth McKendrick, Graham Gerdeman, Vera Roberts, Sandy Bivens – and FOWP for making this a reality!
- Attended multiple virtual seminars hosted by the Midwest Motus network
- Presented about the BIRD Program to the Grapevine Garden Club and the Sow and Sew Garden Club
- Data project continues. Thanks to our fearless leader Nancy Cole and many volunteers we now have 20 years completed!
- Anna Money, our fabulous summer BIRD intern from Lipscomb University assisted with all aspects of our work & presented at the Purple Martin Conservation Association's annual meeting about our martin work
- Participated as core team member for Bird Safe Nashville to ensure lights out campaign continues and the Urban Bird Treaty Program as a representative of FOWP.
- Guest on WPLN radio show This is Nashville for a program called "It's for the Birds!"
<https://wpln.org/post/episodes/its-for-the-birds/>
- With help of SWEAT, installed a Purple Martin gourd system at Harpeth Hills Golf Course
- Renewed both federal and state bird banding permits
- Trained several volunteers on the Motus CTT Locator hand-held receiver to track radio-tagged birds
- Received training and auxiliary permits, and purchased radio-transmitters for our Northern Saw-whet Owl banding research this winter

BIRD Research Projects (see full reports for each project)

- **Eastern Bluebird Nest Box Project:** Launched in 1936 by Amelia Lasky. The all-volunteer team (Kim Bailey, Sandy Bivens, Laura Cook, John Kell, Sue Shallow, Rachael Payton – and led by Diana McLusky) monitored 44 nest boxes located around the perimeter of Warner Parks. A total of 169 EABL hatched from 235 eggs and 134 nestlings successfully fledged - a success rate of 57% (down from 2021 rate of 62%). Of those, we banded 124 EABL nestlings. Additionally, we banded 9 adult EABL and recaptured 9 previously banded EABL. These results are reported to the North American Bluebird Society.

- **Hummingbird Fall Migration** (ongoing since 2002). In 2022, we conducted 10 sessions at WPNC with a team of 13 dedicated volunteers. We captured 118 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (107 new and 11 recaptures) during 197.25 trap hours. All but one recapture was banded by us in 2022 but one recapture on 18 August 2002 was first banded by us as an AHY on 17 August 2021. This program connected with 837 park visitors at Warner Park Nature Center including our Hummingbird Celebration Day.
- **Purple Martin Nesting Project** (on-going since 2000). At WPNC from May through August, volunteers Kathy Shaw and Leah LaRocco monitored 24 nests weekly. This year 7 gourds occupied (down from 12 in 2021) with 33 eggs and 23 fledglings (70 % egg to fledge success rate, down from 88% in 2021) of which we radio-tagged 24 Purple Martin nestlings at 20 days of age with solar LifeTags from Cellular Tracking Technologies as part of our Motus post-fledging study. Additionally, we radio-tagged 6 Purple Martins at Ellington Agricultural Center and 3 at Bells Bend Outdoor Center. *See PUMA report.*
- **Barn Swallow Project:** Our 5th annual park-wide surveys on 25 May and 30 June found 33 active nests. Summer BIRD intern, Anna Money from Lipscomb University assisted with a nest success study in Warner Parks. We monitored active 49 nests at two locations in Warner Parks, Steeplechase Barn and the Learning Center building. A total of 144 young fledged (egg to fledge rate of 71%). Of these, we banded 39 nestlings at 7-10 days of age. Results of the survey and nest success is reported to the iNaturalist Swallow Tracker Project.
- **MAPS:** Monitoring Avian Productivity & Survivorship is a continent-wide research program in partnership with the Institute for Bird Populations. This year is our 32nd season – one of the oldest MAPS stations in southeastern U.S We completed 10 banding sessions from 03 May – 02 August with 176 birds of 33 species, 54 of those were recaptures including a Kentucky Warbler male that was at least 7 years old! We radio-tagged 7 thrushes (1 Veery and 6 Wood Thrush) during MAPS – the highlight was a 2021 male Wood Thrush who returned to Warner Parks in June and continues through September to remain in the area. A special thank you to Kathy Shaw & Sandy Bivens for coordinating this project and the team of 19 dedicated volunteers and staff who made this possible.
- **TOS Fall Bird Count:** On 24 September a cool and rainy day, Laura Cook, Tahira Moyhuddin, Vera Roberts, Mary Glynn Williamson, Lise Brown, Kim Bailey, Graham Gerdeman, the Pardo family, and Francis Fekel, conducted the Warner Park interior loop for the fall Tennessee Ornithological Society bird count. It was a good day with 1,961 birds of 77 species. Highlights included Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and 12 species of warblers including a Cape May Warbler.





Anna Money holding an Eastern Bluebird nestling. Summer Tanager. Purple Martin nestlings radio-tagged at 20 days of age. Amazing staff – Melissa Donahue, Vera Roberts, Rachel Anderson, Sandy Bivens. Banded Ruby-throated Hummingbird (by Charlie Curry). Bluebird volunteer Sue Shallow. Mr. and Mrs. Blevins visit the banding station. Kathy Shaw explains the banding process to Warner summer camp kids.