

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

## **October, November, December 2022**

### **BIRD Program**

- Volunteers contributed 825 hours. BIRD related programs including banding station, bird walks, and Motus engaged 423 visitors.
- Hosted a successful Fall Migration Day with 150 visitors.
- Offered fall migration bird walks at Little Harpeth Greenway and Beechwoods. A big thank you to Graham Gerdeman, Chris Sloan, and Sandy Bivens for leading these walks.
- Bird feeder volunteers and Motus volunteers
- Data entry
- Laura Cook, Sandy Bivens, Kathy Shaw, Susan Bradfield, Rachael Payton, and Tahira Moyhuddin attended the 100<sup>th</sup> Inland Bird Banding Association conference at Black Swamp Observatory in Ohio. Laura presented on our thrush research and Rachael Payton presented on our work with Purple Martins.
- Continued to participate on the Bird Safe Nashville and Urban Bird Treaty Program core team. On 16 November, WPNC hosted the stakeholder meeting for the UBTP process.
- Presented to the Sierra Club about the BIRD Program and steps everyone can take to help birds at their home and in their community.
- Thanks to our core team for the 2023 IBBA conference – where we will be hosting on 10-12 November 2023 - Vera Roberts, Kathy Shaw, Sandy, Susan Bradfield, Jessica Steele, and David Aborn
- Hosted the bird of the year reveal party for the American Birding Association at WPNC. Laura and volunteer Karl Hackenbrack hosted a Motus session for 20 attendees and even found a radio-tagged Hermit Thrush at the end of the session.
- Assisted with the annual WPNC Winter Solstice event on 21 December. A special thank you to photographers Graham Gerdeman, Lauren Karp, and Mary Glynn Williamson for their beautiful owl photographs and contribution to WPNC. Another thank you to Debbie Sykes with Nashville Wildlife Conservation Center for an educational table about owls.
- Year-end reports completed for research on Eastern Bluebirds, MAPS, Fall migration.
- Attended 4 training sessions hosted by the USGS Bird Banding Laboratory for their new banding portal where our annual banding data will be submitted.

### **BIRD Research Projects**

- **Fall Migration:** On-going since 1982. We engaged 607 park visitors at our banding station during 17 banding sessions. Overall, we captured 292 birds - 202 new, 93 recapture, 5 unbanded compared with 124 birds in 2021. Weather conditions were cooler than most falls but also very dry. Vaughn's Creek where we have our nets was very low and almost completely dry in October. We captured more Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and Veeries than normal. Respectively, this may have been due to additional field nets and starting the banding at the end of August.

• **Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Launched in 2007, to date only 3 saw-whets have been captured at Warner Parks. The goal of 2022 was to document how much time saw-whets spend in the parks. Are they migrating through, or do they spend the winter with us? With the addition of the Harpeth Hills Golf Station Motus receiver station in Fall 2021, we hoped to answer this question. The banding team received training from Master Bander Amy Wilms and received auxiliary permit permission to radio-tag saw-whets. Funding from the Mapp Foundation allowed us to purchase 3 PowerTag transmitters from Cellular Tracking Technologies. The team dedicated staff and volunteers contributed the highest effort to date for this project with 8 banding sessions (135 net hours) from 01 November – 16 November. Unfortunately, no saw-whets were captured. Our intention is an increased effort in 2023 with hopes of contributing to a large radio-tagging effort coordinated by Project OwlNet

• **Motus:** In 2022, we radio-tagged 54 birds with LifeTags from Cellular Tracking Technologies as part of our Motus study. During Fall migration we radio-tagged 6 Swainson's Thrush, 3 Gray-cheeked Thrush, 5 Veery, and 4 Hermit Thrushes. Prior to Fall 2020 when we began Motus and in the 40 years of banding we have only ever captured 15 Veeries – so capturing 5 Veeries this fall was very exciting.

• **Christmas bird count:** On 17 December, volunteers Graham Gerdeman, Laura Cook, Elizabeth Cook, Wayne Klockner, Benjamin Pardo, Amy Pardo, Kim Bailey 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, Willow Pond, and Harpeth Trace. These have been on-going in Warner Parks since 1927! This year was chilly and quiet, but we had 1,288 birds of 46 species (48 total) including a Purple Finch, White-crowned Sparrows, and a Hairy Woodpecker.



Male American Goldfinch. Rachael Payton releasing a Carolina Chickadee during fall bandings. A beautiful Chestnut-sided Warbler on its migration south for the winter. BIRD team at the Magee Marsh as part of the 2022 Inland Bird Banding Association conference.