

Bird Information, Research and Data Highlights

January, February, March 2020



Ethel & Sandy teach a young scientist about the importance of data entry (left). The banding team squeezes into the Administration building while the BIRD office in the Library undergoes renovation (center). We had a great turnout for our Winter Bird Banding Day (right).



This female Red-bellied Woodpecker is 3-years old (left). White-breasted Nuthatches (center) are year-round residents with a uniquely-shaped bill to forage for insects & seeds. White-throated Sparrows have two color morphs; white-striped like this one (right) or tan-striped & are here in Middle Tennessee during their non-breeding winter season.



A special thank you to all of our many friends & volunteers who make this possible!

Clockwise from upper left: Steve Ghertner, engineering department for our Motus project; Dr. Joe Little (grandson of Dr. Katherine Goodpasture) with Sandy; Cody Cook & his helper install a bluebird nest box at Steeplechase; Sandy & John Kell with Master Bander & Motus harness trainer Amy Wilms; Patty Ghertner retrieving captured birds; Kathy Shaw, Mark Armstrong, John Kell, & Sandy Bivens with Motus harness trainer Carl Wilms; Kathy Shaw & Diana McLusky admiring a White-breasted Nuthatch; Connie Landon (Laura's mom) working on recapture data entry; the 2020 Bluebird Nest Box project team—Laura, Sandy, Sue Shallow, Kim Bailey, Cathy Barker, Diana McLusky, & John Kell.



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

January, February, March 2020

Warner Park Nature Center, Friends of Warner Parks, and Metro Parks and Recreation

BIRD Program Accomplishments & Public Programs

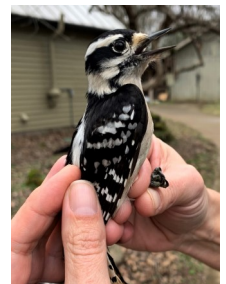
- Volunteers contributed approximately 475 hours. Such a remarkable & dedicated crew—thank you!
- Long-term Winter Banding & the Winter Banding Day connected with 271 park visitors.
- In-service training with WPNC staff & preparing for upcoming research projects band inventory, Purple Martin Project, Eastern Bluebird Nest Box Project, & Hummingbird Migration Project.
- We also used this time to complete our 2019 banding data entry to the USGS Banding Lab & to the Tennessee permit office, & submitted our Fall banding report to the Inland Bird Banding Association. We received our TN State banding permit & continued with our recapture data entry project—thanks to Nancy Cole, Daniel Carlton, & Connie Landon for their volunteer work on this.
- Volunteers Patty Ghertner & Leah LaRocco continue to improve their bird handling skills & Justin Hiltner has begun his banding training. Hannah Rowling, a student at Tennessee Tech University, has started volunteering with as well.
- Sandy completed digitally scanning 38 years of banding field sheets. A significant accomplishment!
- The Library renovation is complete! We have begun to move in to the new BIRD office that includes window bird collision prevention (<https://abcbirds.org>) & a beautiful tile mosaic created by BIRD friends & volunteers. A new bird garden has been installed around the Library building & includes native plants & trees & a beautiful water feature. Our Grand Opening had to be postponed, but we'll let you know when it's rescheduled.
- We kicked off our Eastern Bluebird Nest Box Project with new volunteer Cathy Barker joining the team & had our 1st egg on March 22. On February 3rd, Diana McLusky & Laura joined the Mark Fraley podcast to talk about WPNC's Eastern Bluebird Nest Box Project. You can listen at <https://www.markfraley.com/>.
- In January, WPNC & BIRD hosted TWRA's TN Bird Conservation Partnership, a consortium of bird researches across the state. Laura presented on WPNC's BIRD Program & Banding Station.



Justin Hiltner starting his banding training with Kathy Shaw (top); Rachel Anderson creates beautiful tiles for the Library (left); Sandy completes scanning project (right)

BIRD Research Projects

- **Long-term Winter Banding:** Temperatures were mild during our 9 banding sessions. Highlights from the season included recapturing a Hermit Thrush we first captured in fall 2015, & recaptured again in winter 2017 & fall 2019. Similar to winter 2019 when we captured 60 Downy Woodpeckers, this winter we also captured a large number with 51 captures (13 new & 38 recaptures). We captured 11 Red-bellied Woodpeckers, 8 of which were recaptures, including one we first banded in September 2019 during our Mobile Banding. Overall for the winter season, we captured 450 birds (138 new, 306 recaptures). Carolina Chickadees were our most common bird with 176 captures (48 new & 125 recaptures).
- **Motus:** Our 16th research project will help us to understand bird movements, migration, & site fidelity to Warner Parks using automated radio transmitters & a tower receiver station at WPNC. With recent events, the launch of this project has been delayed. However, great progress was made this winter that included:
 - BIRD hosted a Motus harness training at WPNC in early February. Master bander Amy Wilms & Carl Wilms came down from the Audubon's Mary Gray Bird Sanctuary in Indiana to train our team on transmitter harness making & properly attaching them to small songbirds.
 - Laura & volunteers Patty & Steve Ghertner joined the TN Motus Cooperative at Bernheim Arboretum & Research Forest in Kentucky to learn about their 3 Motus receiver towers.
 - Sandy, John Kell, Kathy Shaw, & Laura continued their Motus harness training in Chattanooga with partners from the Tennessee River Gorge Trust & University of Tennessee Chattanooga.
 - Significant news for this project: In March, we learned the USGS Bird Banding Lab approved our auxiliary permit application to attach transmitters for our Motus research on movements of Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, Veery, Gray-cheeked Thrush, & Swainson's Thrush. We look forward to getting started as soon as we can return to the nature center.



Female Downy Woodpecker



Amy & Carl Wilms train our team for the Motus research project

The BIRD Team, Warner Park Nature Center, Metro Parks, & Friends of Warner Parks hope this finds you doing well during this unusual time. We look forward to getting back to our research & to seeing you again soon for a bird hike or banding session. In the meantime, please check FOWP & Warner Park Nature Center's social media sites for suggestions & activities you can do from home.