

Bird Information, Research and Data Quarterly Report

October, November, December 2018

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



Photo by Patty Gherthner

Laura Cook (left) and volunteer John Kell (right) discuss the beauty and nuances of fall migrating birds and the importance of bird banding with Warner Park Nature Center visitors



Photo by Graham Gerdeman



Photo by Laura Cook



Photo by Patty Gherthner



Photo by Ron Manley

Sandy Bivens (left) with a Bay-breasted Warbler, a fall migrant for WPNC. White-breasted Nuthatches (middle) are commonly seen in Warner Parks & live here year-round. The Cedar Waxwing (right), another year-round bird & common in Warner Parks, are often seen in large flocks during winter foraging on native Hackberry fruit



Photo by Patty Gherthner



Photo by Laura Cook

B.I.R.D. volunteers and staff were visited this fall by Walter Sakai (far left), a master bander from California and an editor for North American Bird Bander, Western Section Editor. B.I.R.D. volunteers and staff (right) prepared for next year by prioritizing our bird research projects. The WPNC Bird Banding Station was launched 1982!

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BIRD Program Accomplishments

- Volunteers contributed **320 hours** and 105 volunteer visits
- 15 Bird Research Projects and 16 Programs connected with over **820 people**
- Planned winter and spring banding sessions and prioritized bird research projects with BIRD team and David Hanni from TWRA
- Assisted WPNC staff with a successful library book sale in preparation for library renovation
- Reviewed and updated Federal and State permits and met with sub-permittees under the nature center permit
- Labeled all nets & traps with WPNC Banding Station permit number
- John Kell attended the Inland Bird Banding Association Conference held in St. Louis
- Laura Cook presented *Protecting Middle Tennessee's Lands and Waters is Critical for Migratory Birds* during an October River Talks at the Cumberland River Compact
- Supervised 4 students from Dr. John Lewis' Lipscomb University's Field Zoology class to analyze 10-yr of recapture data for Northern Cardinals. This was the first time recapture data was entered electronically into the Bird Banding Lab's data sheet
- Continued training new BIRD staff, meetings, files, projects & programs, data management, Bandit, administration
- Attended and assisted with BIRD Committee and wrapped up Hummingbird Happy Hour. Exciting news - Elizabeth Lamar and Margaret Tyler have agreed to serve as chairs for the 2019 Hummingbird Happy Hour!
- Worked with WPNC & FOWP staff to submit a grant to the Garden Club of Nashville to revitalize the Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden at the Learning Center
- Completed Eastern Bluebird 2018 Report; Barn Swallow 2018 Report; Hummingbird Migration 2018 Banding Report
- Completed the Fall 2018 report for the Inland Bird Banding Association journal
- Sandy worked 209 hours & volunteered 68 hours; Laura worked 246 hours & volunteered 42 hours

BIRD Projects and Programs

- **Long-term Fall Migration Banding Project:** Despite the wet and cold fall season, 10 banding sessions, none cancelled due to weather. The season started off well on our second net run when we captured 3 species of thrushes (Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush) in the same lower section of our net. Other highlights from the season included good warbler days, 9 Swainson's Thrush during one session, several Acadian Flycatchers, and a Tufted Titmouse recapture that we originally banded as a hatch year bird in 2008. Overall we caught 142 birds (103 new, 36 recaptures, and 3 unbanded) with a total of 27 species. Special visitor Walter H. Sakai, North American Bird Bander Western Section Editor & author of Tabular Pyle which we use to identify age and sex of birds captured.
- **16 Bird Programs:** 16 bird-related and well-attended programs offered to the public with 337 participants. This included several successful bird hikes & a bird theme for this year's Nature Club. And despite the cold weather, we had a well attended Celebrate Bird Migration day with over 70 visitors to the banding station.
- **NTOS Bird Count:** In partnership with the Nashville chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society (NTOS), Rachel Anderson participated in the official Fall count on 29 September with 36 species. Kathy Shaw, Heather Gallagher, Laura Cook, Elizabeth Cook, & Sandy Bivens participated in the official interior Warner Park Christmas Bird Count with 32 species.
- **eBird Project:** All banding data entered on the eBird Warner Park Banding Station. Additionally, staff and volunteers submitted to the Warner Park Nature Center eBird account a total of 42 checklists of 108 bird species seen and heard in Warner Parks. This contributes to publically accessible status and trends research.
- **iNaturalist:** A new project in 2018 with coordinator, Patty Ghertner. Entered bird photos and 136 observations for 56 species from banding sessions to this citizen-science project.
- **Barn Swallow Project:** In November, BIRD Intern Sarah McCune from Lipscomb University presented her research at the National Association of Biology Teachers conference in San Diego titled, *Assessing the Ecological Services Provided by North American Barn Swallows*. She concluded nestlings from a single barn swallow nest consume over 136,000 insects. For the 15 nests at the WPNC Learning Center, this equated to over 1-million insects!
- **Bird Genoscape Project:** Submitted 7 feathers from priority bird species to researchers at the Center for Tropical Research to help map migration routes.
- **Project Feeder Watch:** Through 2018, Melissa Donahue and a team of 7 volunteers conducted 14 sessions, averaging 14 species per session. This project will continue through April 2019.