

Bird Information, Research and Data Quarterly Report

January, February, March 2019

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



Winter Banding visitors included local school groups (right) & Lipscomb University's Ornithology class (above). The Song Sparrow (far right) is more commonly observed here in the winter but can be seen & heard in the summer as Nashville is at the southwestern edge of its breeding range.



Carolina Wrens (left) are common year-round residents of Warner Parks, while White-throated Sparrows (right) winter here in Nashville & will head north to New England & Canada in April to breed.



Thank you to our amazing B.I.R.D volunteers and staff!! At the banding table (left): Amy Potter, Leah LaRocco, Sandy Bivens, Laura Cook, Kathy Shaw, Alison Salas, John Kell, & Diana McLusky. With a Downy Woodpecker (right): Susan O'Neil, Patty Ghertner, Laura Cook, John Kell, & Leah LaRocco.

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BIRD Program Accomplishments

- Volunteers contributed 326 hours during 111 volunteer visits.
- 15 Bird Research Projects and 11 Bird Public Programs connected with over 310 people.
- BIRD team planned Spring, Mobile Station, & MAPS banding sessions; prepared for the 83rd year of the Bluebird Nesting Box Project, & kicked off the Hummingbird Happy Hour committee with chairs Elizabeth Lamar and Margaret Tyler.
- With financial support from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, purchased equipment for our first Mobile Banding Station. This new research project will launch in April with a focus on Spring migrants and will be led by volunteer John Kell. A special thank you to Diana McLusky for her assistance in organizing the mobile station equipment.
- With Dr. John Lewis, professor at Lipscomb University and member of our BIRD Committee, worked with BIRD staff to develop a database plan that once implemented will allow us to enter historical recapture data, current year-of data, and analyze long-term banding trends & significant bird life-history results.
- Launched a Lunch & Learn training for our BIRD volunteers following some of our winter banding sessions as a way to dive deeper into specific bird banding topics such as feather tracks, first aid, and iNaturalist training. Thank you to Kathy Shaw, Denise Weyer, Devon Blackburn, and Patty Ghertner for leading these sessions.
- Volunteers Leah LaRocco, Patty Ghertner, and Amy Park were trained to remove birds out of traps to be banded during the winter bird banding season.
- Worked with Paul Pleiman at the University of Arkansas to compile 30-years of Warner Parks Bluebird Nest box data (1985-2014) for his master's degree project.
- Participated in the WPNC strategic planning process.
- Continued training new BIRD staff & volunteers, attended WPNC meetings & winter staff in-service, files, data management, administration.
- Entered all of the 2018 banding records into Bandit. Worked with the Bird Banding Laboratory to assess & reconcile band inventory for the WPNC Banding Station.
- Completed 4th Quarter and Annual BIRD reports, provided content for FOWP annual report.
- Sandy worked 247 hours & volunteered 67 hours; Laura worked 341 hours & volunteered 12 hours.

BIRD Research Projects and Public Programs

- **Long-term Winter Banding Project:** Despite February setting record rainfall levels, 12 BIRD volunteers assisted with 7 banding sessions, with only 1 cancelled due to rain.
 - This was a big Downy Woodpecker season with 15 new banded and 45 recaptures!
 - We also had a significant Tufted Titmouse recapture in February. We first banded this bird at the WPNC Banding Station on 23 June 2008— making this an 11 year old bird!
 - On 29 January, we were delighted with a 4-sparrow day; capturing White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, & White-crowned Sparrow.
 - The most common bird this banding season was Tufted Titmouse with a total of 63 new & recaptures.
 - Overall we caught 250 birds (91 new, 155 recaptures, and 4 unbanded) with a total of 17 species.
- **Project Feeder Watch:** Starting in November 2018, Melissa Donahue and a team of 7 volunteers have to date conducted 38 sessions, averaging 15 species per session. This project will continue through April 2019.
- **eBird:** A special thanks to volunteer Cheryl Brummal who entered information into eBird for all hummingbirds banded at the WPNC Banding Station from 2000-2018.
- **Bird Public Programs:** 11 bird-related and well-attended programs offered to the public with 214 participants. These included Saturday morning Coffee Beans, iSpy programs and a public Winter Bird Banding day held in the library with 60 visitors and Lipscomb University's Ornithology class.
- **Eastern Bluebird Nest Box Program:** Coordinator Diana McLusky updated equipment, prepared data sheets, and worked with her team of bluebird volunteers (Sandy Bivens, John Kell, Sue Shallow, Kim Bailey, and Laura Cook & family) to prepare nest boxes for the upcoming season.

