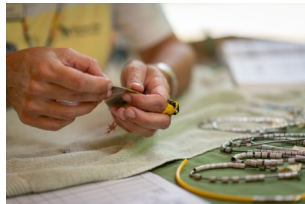


Bird Information, Research and Data Highlights

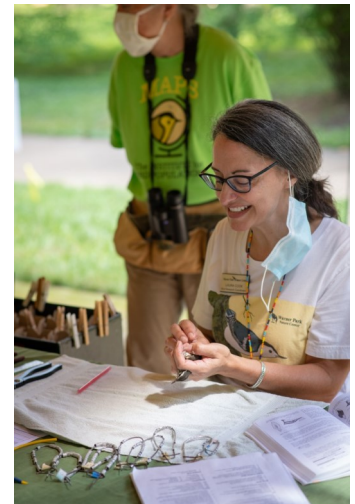
April, May, June 2020



Social distancing at the MAPS (summer research on breeding birds) banding table (left). Volunteer & federally permitted bird bander, Susan Bradfield, shares her knowledge and wonder with park visitors (center). The SWEAT team stops by the banding table to learn about MAPS from our fabulous bird banding team (right).



From left to right: a second-year male Indigo Bunting, a nestling Tree Swallow from one of our bluebird nest boxes, Laura assessing molt (feather replacement) on a male Kentucky Warbler that had been previously banded in 2017, a Wood Thrush, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, & a female Brown-headed Cowbird



BIRD Intern Perri Haga assists with the Eastern Bluebird Nest Box Project—here with a nestling Tree Swallow (left). Sandy Bivens recording data during a MAPS session (center). For all banding projects, our data is submitted to the USGS Bird Banding Laboratory who also issues our federal banding permits. For MAPS, we also submit this data to the Institute for Bird Populations where researchers can use this data to assess how bird populations are doing throughout their range. Laura Cook banding a Louisiana Waterthrush during a MAPS banding session (left).

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

April, May, June 2020

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

Well, this was an interesting spring for all of us. First, we hope this finds you and your families healthy.

WPNC and the BIRD Program continues to follow the Mayor's Reopening Framework & CDC guidelines. This has meant that we worked remotely from 21 March— 27 May, cancelled some projects, and delayed others. We remain committed to the safety of the birds, our volunteers, staff and park visitors. And despite everything, our team of volunteers, staff, and interns were impressively productive.

BIRD Programs

- Volunteers contributed 219 hours. BIRD team engaged with 118 park visitors.
- Progress was made on our long-term bird banding data and recapture data sets.
- We have moved in to the new BIRD office that includes window bird collision prevention (<https://abcbirds.org>), new tables and chairs in the expanded classroom, & a beautiful tile mosaic created by BIRD friends & volunteers. We encourage you to visit the new bird garden at the Library that includes native plants & trees & a beautiful water feature.
- For the first time in 37 years, we cancelled the Spring Migration Banding Project.
- Public programs such as Saturday iSpy, Spring Migration Bird Hikes, and the Spring Nature Fest were cancelled. These missed programs were supplemented with online social media posts, blogs, and a virtual City Nature Challenge.



BIRD Research Projects

- **Eastern Bluebird Nest Box Project:** We typically start this project in mid to late March when the first eggs are being laid. We waited until we entered Phase 2 of the Mayor's Reopening Framework before our all-volunteer team (Kim Bailey, Cathy Barker, Sandy Bivens, the Cook family, John Kell, & Sue Shallow) started nest box checks at the end of May. We are happy to be back collecting data on this project— which started with Amelia Laskey in 1936! A special thank you to Diana McLusky for coordinating this project.
- **Spring TOS Bird Count:** While our lives came to a screeching halt in mid-March, the birds seemed to thrive. By all accounts, this was a spectacular spring migration season here in Middle Tennessee. On 02 May, Sandy Bivens and Kathy Shaw socially-distanced while conducting the spring bird count. This year was one of the highest counts ever for Warner Park with over 60 species of birds!
- **Breeding Bird Survey:** On 03 May, Sandy Bivens, with assistant-extraordinaire Bob Parrish, conducted our annual Breeding Bird Survey. This is Sandy's 36th consecutive year conducting the survey. With 43 species, the highlight was an Eastern Meadowlark, singing in front of the Steeplechase stables.
- **Barn Swallow Project:** For the 5th consecutive year & in partnership with Lipscomb University, we're thrilled to have Perri Haga, our summer BIRD intern, join us. Perri is assisting with recapture data entry & banding Barn Swallow nestlings at the Steeplechase—all while conducting her own research on Barn Swallows.
- **MAPS:** Monitoring Avian Productivity & Survivorship is a continent-wide research program in partnership with the Institute for Bird Populations. **This year is our 30th season!** We had to start a month later than we typically do, but our first session on 02 June was a social-distancing, cool birds, mask-wearing success. A special thank you to Kathy Shaw & Sandy Bivens for coordinating this project.
- **Motus:** Volunteer Steve Ghertner has continued to help us prepare for the installation of the receiver station at WPNC (scheduled for 13 July). This project uses automated radio transmitters to help us better understand bird movements, migration, & site fidelity to Warner Parks. Stay tuned for more details!

We wish you all good health.

Thank you for your continued support of the BIRD Program which is fully funded by Friends of Warner Parks.

If you are not already, please consider becoming a member at <https://www.warnerparks.org/>

