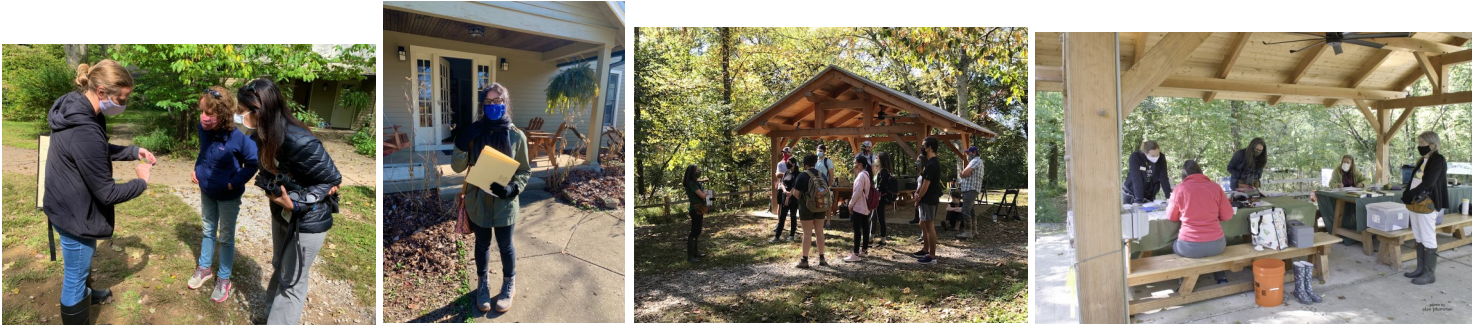


Bird Information, Research and Data Highlights

October, November, December 2020



From left to right: Rachel Anderson, Kim Bailey, & Leah LaRocco aging a Magnolia Warbler. New volunteer, Tahira Mohyuddin, is helping to enter recapture data into our database. Lipscomb University's Field Zoology class spent the afternoon with us learning about banding, capture/recapture, & Motus. The banding team keeps busy at the Program Shelter.



From top left to right: Rachel Anderson finishes banding this Magnolia Warbler. Kathy Shaw & Sandy Bivens captured this second year (gender unknown) Northern Saw-whet Owl. Laura Cook inspects a Hermit Thrush just prior to release with its newly acquired LifeTag transmitter as part of our Motus research project.



From left to right: Rachel Anderson aging a Yellow-rumped Warbler. Laura Cook & John Kell place a LifeTag transmitter on a thrush. Heather Gallagher, Leah LaRocco, Kim Bailey, Kathy Shaw, Sandy Bivens, & Elizabeth Cook assist with the annual Christmas Bird Count. Eleanore Law, part-time naturalist, helps to clean out the Purple Martin gourds. New volunteer Alan Plummer uses his photography skills during banding sessions.

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

Please consider becoming a member at <https://www.warnerparks.org/>



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

October, November, December 2020

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

BIRD Program

- Due to Covid & safety precautions, we continued with a small banding team for the fall season. Even so, our dedicated volunteers contributed 178.5 hours. A special thank you to Warner Park Nature Center staff for stepping in to help with banding— Rachel Anderson, Heather Gallagher, Kim Bailey, Vera Roberts, & Melissa Donahue— thank you!
- Photographer Alan Plummer began volunteering with us to document banding sessions, banded birds, & birds with Life Tag transmitters (see the Motus report below). Welcome Alan!
- Despite no publicly advertised banding sessions nor our annual Fall Migration day, we still engaged 471 park visitors at the banding station & through our virtual webinars, iSpy Saturday fall birds, & a bird hike led by Rachel Anderson.
- We are so pleased to share that Denise Weyer has received her Federal Master Banding Permit for her banding efforts at Shelby Bottoms Nature Center (& will continue as a sub-permittee at Warner Park). And after 9 years of volunteering & training, Rachel Anderson has received her Federal Banding Sub-Permit. A big congratulations to both!
- We were able to submit all of 2020 banding records into the USGS Banding Lab before the end of the year (no small feat) & we continue to make progress on our master banding data base thanks to volunteer Jordan Jurnisky. And volunteers Tahira Mohyuddin & Daniel Charlton are helping with our recapture data base.
- 2020 reports are available for individual projects such as Eastern Bluebirds, Purple Martins, Barn Swallows, & Hummingbird Migration. Please let Laura Cook know if you are interested in receiving a copy.
- Vera Roberts & Laura Cook hosted the Garden Club of Nashville for a tour of the Sandy Bivens Bird Garden which highlights the benefits of native plants, diverse birds, a beautiful water feature, & rain barrels.



Sandy Bivens Bird Garden

BIRD Research Projects

- **Fall Migration:** Our 39th year of fall migration banding was a success with 14 sessions, capturing 287 birds including 42 recaptures such as a 5-year old American Goldfinch that we first banded in 2016 (*in the same net!!*) What these numbers don't reflect is that this is an *irruption winter*. We captured our first Pine Siskin since 1990 & on our last session banded 8 Pine Siskin & 59 American Goldfinch! It was also one of our best falls for capturing thrushes—25 total—which was great for our Motus project!
- **Motus:** The Motus Wildlife Tracking System is an international, collaborative research network that uses coordinated automated radio telemetry to study landscape-scale movements of animals. Thanks to a grant from the Barbara J. Mapp Foundation, the BIRD Program is contributing to this cutting-edge research in 3 ways:
 - * Installed the first dual-frequency receiver station in the Tennessee for the two leading radio frequencies used by researchers in the Americas. This fall, we had the state's first foreign detection (a bird not banded by us) with a Tree Swallow tagged by a Cornell University in August 2019 at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge in central New York.
 - * This Fall, placed Life Tags (light-weight, digitally coded, solar-powered radio transmitters) on targeted bird species to understand the role urban parks for their habitat & conservation needs. Our research uses five species of thrushes to assess if Warner Parks is an important habitat for migratory stopover & wintering & breeding birds. We exceeded our fall goal by deploying Life Tag transmitters on 9 Swainson's Thrush, 9 Gray-cheeked Thrush, 2 Hermit Thrush, & 1 Wood Thrush. As of December, the two Hermit Thrush are still here at Warner Parks (one of these was a bird we first banded in 2016)! Will it spend the winter with us? Will it return again next winter? Where will it go for the summer? With Motus, we might answer those questions!
 - * The BIRD team is a founding member of the Tennessee Motus Cooperative (soon to become the Southeast Motus Working Group), an informal team of researchers sharing lessons learned & building a coordinated network of receiver stations throughout the state (& soon the southeast!)
- **Northern Saw-whet Owl:** In 2007, thanks to a grant from the TN Ornithological Society, the WPNC Banding team captured a Northern Saw-whet Owl, an irruptive bird species that occurs here during winter in larger numbers every few years. We attempted to capture again in 2008 & 2009 at Warner & in 2012 at Bells Bend Nature Center, with no luck. On November 5th of this year, Kathy Shaw & Sandy Bivens captured a second-year saw-whet—congratulations!
- **Christmas Bird Count:** On 19 Dec, a small team of volunteers documented 38 species for interior of Edwin Warner Park.



Rachel Anderson banding a Pine Siskin