

Bird Information, Research and Data Spring 2019 Highlights

April, May, June 2019

BIRD Program Accomplishments & Public Engagement

While our research is critically important, as important is our public engagement & outreach to promote a better understanding of birds & the importance of conserving their habitat.



Some of our amazing BIRD Volunteers: (Left) First spring banding session, Diana McLusky, Kathy Shaw, Sandy Bivens, Patty Ghertner, Laura Cook, Leah LaRocco & Emily Moorman. (Center) Sandy Bivens, Susan Bradfield, & Patty Ghertner. (Right) Kathy Shaw & John Kell



BIRD Interns, Dylan Lee (L) Perri Haga (R) work with Jean Louise Barnes, Education Intern, to lead an iSpy program on Barn Swallows

- Public engagement: This quarter we engaged with 1,276 park visitors including 715 during BIRD research and another 563 during public programs such as spring migration hikes, iSpy, garden club presentations, school groups, and the Spring Nature Celebration.
- Volunteers contributed 558 hours during 162 volunteer visits!
- BIRD team planned upcoming hummingbird banding and the Fall banding & program schedule. Continue planning for Hummingbird Celebration Day on Aug 24th & Hummingbird Happy Hour on Sept 5th with committee chairs Elizabeth Lamar and Margaret Tyler.
- We are excited to announce financial support from the Barbara J. Mapp Foundation to help us launch our 16th research project called Motus which will allow us to place transmitters on targeted birds to track their (and any other tagged species) migratory movements. To learn more please visit motus.org.
- A generous donation from Lisa and Neil Dashiell allowed us to purchase new bird traps.

- Participated in the launch of the Tennessee Motus Cooperative & assisted The Nature Conservancy staff and partners to install the first Motus tower in Tennessee at the Bridgestone Preserve at Chestnut Mountain. The intention of the cooperative is to have a state-wide tower network to receive and collect data on any animal movement with an attached transmitter that is part of the Motus network.
- With Dr. John Lewis, Lipscomb University and member of our BIRD Committee, we welcomed our 4th year of BIRD Summer Interns. In addition to helping out with BIRD related projects, interns Dylan Lee and Perrianna Haga will research reproductive success of our Barn Swallows at WPNC.
- With WPNC staff, hosted a volunteer celebration dinner to express our profound gratitude to our many volunteers for their dedication, commitment, expertise, and friendship.
- Packed up the Library building & moved the BIRD office to the Administration Building in preparation for the big Library renovation. This is possible because of a generous donation from Susan O'Neil. The renovation should be completed by the end of the year.
- Thanks to an anonymous donor, we have a new program shelter near the pond that will also be used as our bird banding station. A roof, fan, and lights will be installed soon. We are very excited to have this beautiful space for our public banding sessions!
- Continued training BIRD staff, interns, & volunteers; attended WPNC staff & strategic planning meetings; & continued with data management & administrative tasks.
- Sandy worked 227 hrs & volunteered 64 hrs; Laura worked 399 hrs & volunteered 45 hrs.



BIRD Summer Intern, Perri Haga, holds an Eastern Bluebird nestling for the first time during one of our regular nest box visits

See back page for Research accomplishments this quarter
Respectfully submitted by Laura Cook, BIRD Research Coordinator

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

April, May, June 2019

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

BIRD Long-term Research Projects

Throughout the year, BIRD leads 15 Bird Research Projects. This quarter we focused on 9 Research Projects:

1. **Long-term Spring Migration Banding Project:** Six banding sessions in April, capturing 96 birds of 23 species, 34 of these were recaptures. We recaptured a 5-year old White-breasted Nuthatch that we first banded in October 2015 as a hatch-year bird.
2. **First-ever Mobile Banding Station at Indian Springs.** John Kell led this new spring migration project to compare species numbers and composition at this more interior park location with our traditional banding station at WPNC. Thanks to support from FOWP & TWRA which allowed us to purchase new station equipment. During 5 banding sessions, we captured 39 birds of 16 species, only 3 of them recaptures. Highlights were capturing 3 species of thrush—Wood, Gray-cheeked, & Swainsons Thrush!



Left to right: Red-bellied Woodpecker; Mobile banding at Indian Springs with Laura Cook, Sandy Bivens, Kathy Shaw, John Kell, & Susan Bradfield; a long-distant migrant male Blackpoll Warbler; a second-year male Blue Grosbeak (only the 3rd Blue Grosbeak captured at this banding station!)

3. **Project Feeder Watch:** Melissa Donahue led this research project, our 22th season! Sponsored by Cornell Laboratory, this winter-long survey of birds that visit feeders is used to help scientists track broad scale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance. This season 21 counts tallied 33 species of winter birds at the Learning Center feeders. Highlights: 7 species of sparrows & some great sightings including Hairy Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, and Hermit Thrush. Many thanks to our dedicated volunteers: Beth Adams, Jean Louise Barnes, Virginia Barnes, Laurie Campbell, Kerry Carden, Rebecca Dandekar, Katie Doyle, Margie Hunter, & Beth Preston.
4. **Nashville Tennessee Ornithological Society Spring Bird Count:** To assess long-term bird population trends. During this year's count in May we tallied 56 species.
5. **Breeding Bird Survey:** Sandy Bivens & Bob Parrish completed the 35th year of the breeding bird survey in Warner Parks!! This project helps track status and trends of



Spring TOS Bird Count Team: Vera Roberts, Wesley Roberts, Rachel Anderson & Laura Cook

breeding birds during 3-min counts at 25 permanent points. This year resulted in above average counts with 49 species.

6. **Eastern Bluebird Nest Box Program:** On-going since 1936 & with the help of volunteers and led by Diana McLusky, this project focuses on occupancy rate and breeding success of bluebirds (and other cavity nesters such as Tree Swallows). This project runs through the conclusion of breeding season in September.

7. **Purple Martins:** Led by Heather Gallagher to assesses reproductive success at WPNC. To date, 13 nestlings have been observed and 12 of those banded at the gourds on the WPNC campus.

8. **MAPS:** In May, we launched our 29th year! This project, led by Kathy Shaw & Sandy Bivens is a continent-wide collaborative effort managed by the Institute for Bird Populations to research bird populations, understand breeding habitat, and the relationship between bird population changes and weather, climate, or habitat loss. The MAPS banding season will conclude at the end of July.

9. **Barn Swallow nest success at the Learning Center & survey of Warner Parks.** In June, conducted our 2nd annual park-wide Barn Swallow survey to assess population trends & located a total of 86 nests. BIRD interns are studying Barn Swallow nesting success at the Learning Center & to date we have banded 29 nestlings. This project contributes to the iNaturalist Swallow Tracker Project.



MAPS co-lead Kathy Shaw & a Northern Parula