

Bird Information, Research and Data Highlights

July, August, September 2019



Over 900 park visitors attended Celebrate Hummingbird Day (left); 250 guests enjoyed a beautiful evening at Hummingbird Happy Hour (center); 129 visitors were treated to 13 different bird species during Celebrate Fall Migration (right)



Some of our recent favorites (clockwise from above): White-eyed Vireo; Green Heron; Red-eyed Vireo; Ruby-throated Hummingbird; Northern Parula; Blue Jay



Photo by Charlie Curry



A special thank you to all of our volunteers & supporters who make this possible. A few examples include our volunteers (left) Susan Bradfield, Elizabeth Cook, & Heather Gallagher; BIRD Committee (center) Janeth McKendrick, John Lewis, Vera Roberts, Laura Cook, John Kell, Chris Sloan, Graham Gerdeman, Kathy Shaw, & Diana McLusky; & some members of our fall banding team (right) Sandy Bivens, Laura Cook, Emily Moorman, Beth Preston, Callie Rogers, Patty Ghertner, Diana McLusky, Kim Bailey, and of course, John Kell!

Respectfully submitted by Laura Cook, BIRD Research Coordinator, Sandy Bivens, & Kathy Shaw

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

July, August, September 2019

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

BIRD Program Accomplishments & Public Programs

- Volunteers contributed 625 hours during 168 volunteer visits.
- Long-term Bird Research Projects and 7 Bird Public Programs connected with over 1,684 park visitors!
- Celebrate Hummingbird Day: Thank you to The Wood Thrush Shop, Nashville Public Library, Turnip Green Creative Reuse, Friends of Warner Parks, Nature Center staff, & all of our amazing volunteers for a fabulous day.
- Hummingbird Happy Hour: A very special thank you to co-chairs Elizabeth Lamar & Margaret Tyler, Friends of Warner Parks, artist Lexi Armstrong, musicians Annie Sellick & Pat Bergeson, our sponsors & guests, & of course - the hummingbirds for making this experience, the BIRD program's largest fundraising event of the year, such a beautiful evening.
- Celebrate Fall Migration: Our amazing team of volunteers treated park visitors to an impressive selection of resident birds & fall migrants including Ovenbirds, Bay-breasted Warbler, American Redstarts, Magnolia Warbler, & Gray-cheeked Thrush.
- Lipscomb University Summer Interns: Completed our 4th year, this summer with interns Perri Haga & Dylan Lee who focused on breeding success of Barn Swallows at the Learning Center building, shared their knowledge during an iSpy, & will present their research results this spring at Lipscomb University.
- Celebrated volunteer-extraordinaire Diana McLusky's milestone birthday & years of dedicated service to Warner Parks & the BIRD program including leading the Bluebird Nest Box Project. We can not ever thank her enough for her knowledge, friendship, & consistent support.
- Congratulations to dedicated BIRD volunteer John Kell for receiving his Master Bander Federal permit in July! Laura Cook & John Kell attended hummingbird banding training in West Virginia in August & Laura received her Federal hummingbird permit in September.
- In September, we launched our 38th season of Fall Migration Banding at Warner Park & first-ever Fall Mobile Banding Project. Come visit us at the banding table. Dates are posted on the WPNC website.
- Continued training BIRD volunteers, attended WPNC meetings, data management, & administration. Submitted Spring 2019 report for Inland Bird Banding Association.
- Sandy worked 217 hours & volunteered 153 hours; Laura worked 378 hours & volunteered 28 hours.

BIRD Research Projects

- **MAPS:** Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship is a continent-wide breeding bird banding program in partnership with the Institute of Bird Populations. This summer was our 29th year— the longest running in TN and the Southeast! This project is coordinated by Kathy Shaw & Sandy Bivens with assistance from 13 volunteers during ten, 6-hour banding sessions.
 - While all of the birds we band are fabulous, a highlight was during our last banding session when we caught a Green Heron (our first ever during MAPS) who earlier had entertained the banding team by catching frogs at the pond.
 - Overall for MAPS we caught 128 birds (81 new, 47 recaptures) of 30 species, including 6 species of warblers.
 - All MAPS banding sessions are on the eBird Warner Park Banding Hotspot & iNaturalist Warner Park Biodiversity Project.
- **Eastern Bluebird Nest Box Program:** Started in 1936 & now coordinated by Diana McLusky with the help of volunteers Sandy Bivens, John Kell, Sue Shallow, Kim Bailey, & the Cook family (Laura, Terry, Cody, & Elizabeth). A good year with 147 Eastern Bluebird young & 9 adults banded & 15 adult recaptures. Nest success = 80% young birds fledged after hatching. We also banded 16 young & 2 adult Tree Swallows who were nesting in the bluebird boxes.
- **Barn Swallow Project:** Summer BIRD interns helped band 34 nestlings & monitor nest success at 16 nests at the Learning Center. We banded 34 of the 48 nestling that successfully fledged, a nest success rate of 75%. At the end of June, we conducted our 2nd annual Barn Swallow survey of Warner Parks with a total of 86 nests (55 new, 31 old) at 4 locations across the park, the majority of those at the Steeplechase Barn. These results contribute to the iNaturalist Swallow Tracker Project.
- **Purple Martin Project:** Heather Gallagher monitored the martin gourds near Nature Play. A successful year with 4 active nests & 14 young banded. We look forward to their return next spring!
- **Hummingbird Migration Project:** At WPNC, Heather Gallagher & a dedicated, skilled set of 20 volunteers held 11 banding sessions in August and September & banded 91 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. A special thank you to our volunteers who regularly maintained 30+ feeders. Projects at Bells Bend Outdoor Center, Beaman Park Nature Center & Shelby Bottoms Nature Center processed a total of 83 hummingbirds (78 new and 5 recaptures) and were coordinated by Kathy Shaw & Sandy Bivens.

You may have seen the recent research published in *Science* highlighting the significant decline in bird populations throughout North America. It's a reminder of the importance of a long-term banding station such as Warner Park & citizen science contributions. We encourage you to go to 3billionbirds.org to learn how you can help stop this decline.

