Bird Information, Research and Data Highlights

January, February, March 2021









From left to right: Lipscomb University's Ornithology class learns about Motus—they even located our wintering Hermit Thrush with an attached LifeTag transmitter! Leah LaRocco shares a banded bird with park visitors. Rachel Anderson leads our first of the year bird hike on a chilly morning. Eagle Scout Jack Sudderth completes his Chimney Swift roost tower project located at the nature center —thanks Jack!









From left to right: A Tufted Titmouse first banded by us in Oct 2016. A recaptured Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler that is at least 7 years old. Our first-ever recaptured Golden-crowned Kinglet first banded by us in Nov 2020. A recaptured Hermit Thrush; first banded by us in 2016, recaptured in Oct 2020 and fitted with a LifeTag transmitter, then recaptured by us in March 2021. This Hermit Thrush is 4 years old and is still here, going on 167 days with us. When will it leave? Where will it breed? Will another station pick up its signal? Will it return to us again next fall?









From left to right: Elizabeth Cook is a trained volunteer & assists with the Eastern Bluebird nest box project. Covid restrictions made winter banding a quieter than normal season —Sandy banding and recording on her own. The SWEAT crew helps to install our new Purple Martin gourd system on the nature center campus. Volunteer John Kell installs a new bluebird box at the Hodge House. Started in 1936, our bluebird research is the oldest, continuous Eastern Bluebird nest box project in the U.S.

Celebrating our 40 year legacy of avian research



Bird Information, Research and Data (B.I.R.D.) Quarterly Report January, February, March 2021

Celebrating the WPNC Bird Banding Station 40 year legacy of avian research

BIRD Program

- 2021 marks the 40th year of the Warner Park Nature Center Bird Banding Station!
- Due to Covid & safety precautions, we continued with a small banding team. Even so, our dedicated volunteers contributed 285 hours. A special thank you to Kathy Shaw, Sandy Bivens, Leah LaRocco, & Elizabeth Cook.
- With Covid restrictions we did not host our annual Winter Banding Day but we engaged 210 park visitors at the banding station & through FYI Naturalist, iSpy Saturdays, virtual elementary school visits, & a winter bird hike led by Rachel Anderson. A special thank you to Dr. Dawn Wilkins from UT Martin for her presentations on woodpeckers which can be viewed on the Warner Park Nature Center YouTube channel.
- Team lead Diana McLusky has prepared the bluebird team for the nest box season which runs from March through September. The first bluebird egg this year was laid on 25 March near Hwy 100.
- Check out our various bird-related blogs at warnepark.blogspot.com & www.warnerparks.org.
- Congratulations to Diana McLusky & Sandy Bivens for publishing in the TN Ornithological Society's journal The Migrant. This article tells the story of a nestling banded here at Warner Park that emigrated & bred in Wisconsin—unusual as bluebirds in Tennessee are considered resident birds.
- Jack Sudderth completed his Eagle Scout project on the nature center campus—a beautiful Chimney Swift tower that will provide habitat for nesting & migrating swifts. Thanks Jack!
- Thanks to a generous donation, the nature center campus now has a second Purple Martin gourd system. We hope this will encourage more martins to nest here.
- Congratulations to Paul Pleiman on completing his Master's Degree thesis: Effects of longterm variation in temperature on reproductive phenology in Eastern Bluebirds. Paul used 30 years of Warner Parks bluebird data to complete his analysis.
- Volunteers Nancy Cole, Tahira Mohyuddin, Hannah Ericson, Daniel Charlton, & Jordan Jurnisky continue to make progress on our 40 year database. Sandy Bivens has been working with the Bird Banding Laboratory to resolve data issues from previous years. We are looking forward to presenting some fascinating banding information soon.
- Mohyuddin has been a A Research Advisory Team was formed to assist the BIRD Program with research priorities, huge help with data entry data analysis, & scientific publications. A special thank you to Dr. David Aborn at UT Chattanooga, Dr. John Lewis at Lipscomb University, Dr. Darlene Panvini at Belmont University, & David Hanni at TN Wildlife Resources Agency & our volunteers Diana McLusky, John Kell, Kathy Shaw, & Susan Bradfield for serving on this team.
- Completed year-end reports, including the Inland Bird Banding Association fall 2020 report.

BIRD Research Projects

 Winter Banding: Covid delayed the start of winter banding but we still had 6 banding sessions. The smaller banding crew captured 222 birds (59 new, 3 unbanded, & 160 recaptured). Interesting recaptures: first-ever Golden-crowned Kinglet recapture, a 9 year old Downy Woodpecker, and 7 year old Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler. The most common new banded birds were Carolina Chickadees & most common recaptures were Tufted Titmouse.



released after being banded Photo by Alan Plummer

- Motus: Our Motus research project (an international, collaborative research network that uses coordinated automated radio telemetry to study landscape-scale movements of animals) continues to provide us with fascinating information.
- We trained staff & volunteers to use the CTT Locator, a handheld receiver that can detect transmitter signals. This allowed us to ensure the birds with transmitters were moving well & behaving normally with the attached transmitter.
- We had two Hermit Thrush spend the winter with us. We know this because we attached solar LifeTag transmitters on the birds this fall. One, banded in Nov 2020, spent 105 days here before departing during the February snow storm. The second was a bird we had first banded in 2016. We recaptured it for the first time in October 2020 & then again in early March. So far this bird has spent 167 days with us. When will it depart? Will another receiver station detect it?!



Our bluebird story in The Migrant

Volunteer Tahira

Red-bellied Woodpecker