
Warner Parks Bird Information Research and Data (B.I.R.D.) Program

2022 ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT



B.I.R.D. PROGRAM SUPPORT

The BIRD Program is fully funded by Friends of Warner Parks in partnership with the Warner Park Nature Center and Nashville Metro Parks and Recreation.

A very special thank you to all of our donors, partners, supporters, and sponsors, most notably the Andrea Waitt Carlton Family Foundation and Barbara J. Mapp Foundation.



2022 Research Highlights

YEAR EST.	PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS
1927	Nashville Chapter Tennessee Ornithological Society Bird Counts Project to assess long-term populations trends. Number of species observed in our area for each count: 94 spring, 77 fall, & 46 Christmas count.
1936	Bluebird Nesting Team of seven monitored 44 nest boxes where 169 bluebirds hatched from 235 eggs and 124 fledged –down to 57% success from 62% in 2021. Of those banded: 124 bluebird nestlings and 9 adults with 9 adult recaptures. Other fledged cavity nesters: 16 Carolina Wrens, 12 Tufted Titmice, 4 Carolina Chickadees, and 24 Tree Swallows.
1982	Long-term Fall Migration Bird Banding During 17 banding sessions: 292 birds captured, 93 of those recaptures. Vaughn’s Creek was dry for much of season.
1983	Long-term Winter Bird Banding Due to a covid delay, eight sessions captured 215 birds, 102 of those recaptures including a Tufted Titmouse banded as hatch-year bird 11 years ago.
1983	Long-term Spring Migration Bird Banding Five sessions with 105 birds captured, 40 of those recaptures. Rainy but there were good numbers of Louisiana & Northern Waterthrushes.
1985	Breeding Bird Survey 310 birds of 55 species—the most species ever documented in the 38 years of this survey. Highlights: Wood Thrush, Hooded Warbler, and Blue Grosbeak.
1991	Monitoring Avian Productivity & Survivorship (MAPS) Continent-wide research with Institute of Bird Populations—WPNC station oldest in Southeast. 10 sessions captured 176 birds of 33 species, 54 of those recaptures, including a Kentucky Warbler at least 7 years old.

2022 Research Highlights

YEAR EST.	PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS
1997	Project FeederWatch Partnership with Cornell Lab of Ornithology & National Audubon. During 2021-22, we had 14 volunteers who observed 832 birds of 34 species. Results submitted to Project FeederWatch.
2002	Hummingbird Banding 10 sessions with team of 13 volunteers and captured 118 hummingbirds. An adult female first banded by us as a young hatch-year on 17 Aug 2021 was recaptured by us on 18 August.
2002	Purple Martin At WPNC, seven active nests with 33 eggs and fledged 23 (down to 70% from 88% in 2021). Banded 32 nestlings and radio-tagged 24 nestlings at WPNC, Ellington Ag Center, and Bells Bend. Results submitted to Purple Martin Conservation Association.
2007	Northwestern Saw-whet Owls No owls captured despite our biggest effort to date with eight banding sessions (135 net hrs).
2015	eBird Cornell Lab of Ornithology & National Audubon. Results from each banding session for birds banded, seen, and heard are reported.
2018	Barn Swallow Project Completed Two park-wide surveys and monitored 49 active nests with 144 young fledglings (egg to fledge rate of 71%), and banded 39 nestlings. Results contributed to the iNaturalist Swallow Tracker Project.
2020	Motus Radio-tagged 54 birds (7 Swainson's Thrush, 3 Gray-cheeked Thrush, 6 Veery, 4 Hermit Thrush, 10 Wood Thrush, 24 Purple Martin). Highlights: 2021 male Wood Thrush returned for the season, 2 Swainson's Thrush and a Purple Martin detected in Costa Rica, and a Veery detected in Mexico. Our stations had 8 foreign tagged detections—2 Lesser Yellowlegs, 1 Purple Martin, and 5 endangered Gray Bats.

2022 Program Highlights



- BIRD was a founding member of Bird Safe Nashville, a coalition of citizens who envision a city where both migratory and resident birds thrive. City Council and Mayor's office signed a Lights Out Nashville resolution encouraging businesses and residents to pledge to turn off lights during spring and fall migration.
- Core team member of the Urban Bird Treaty Program—a USFWS program to improve habitat, reduce hazards, and increase education for birds in urban areas. The goal is receive an official designation by spring 2023.
- Rachael Payton, an avian specialist at the Nashville Zoo, began her banding training with us with a goal to revitalize the bluebird and banding projects at the zoo.
- Leah LaRocco volunteered with us for several years and most recently trained with us to apply for her federal hummingbird banding permit. She will continue to be a strong friend and partner to the BIRD Program on her new adventures.
- Connected with Finca Cántaros Environmental Association where our first foreign detection occurred for radio-tagged Swainson's Thrush.
- Helped host 5 Tennessee State University interns during the spring. Azia Tanks focused her efforts on radio-tagged Hermit Thrushes and wrote a blog for Friends of Warner Parks.
- Anna Money, our fabulous summer BIRD intern from Lipscomb University, assisted with all aspects of our work and presented at the Purple Martin Conservation Association's annual meeting about our work on martins.

2022 Program Highlights

- Presented numerous presentations to Garden Clubs, Sierra Club, FYI Naturalist, and as guests on WPLN's This is Nashville.
- Sandy Bivens was awarded the Elizabeth Abernathy Hull Fund Award from the National Garden Club of America to recognize an individual who through working with children in the environment, has inspired their appreciation of the beauty and fragility of our planet.
- Celebrated the former BIRD committee's work to transition the BIRD Program from a metro funded program to a Friends of Warner Parks fully funded program.
- Engaged in the Purple Martin migratory roost displacement issue with the Mayor's office, Nashville Downtown Partnership, the Nashville Schermerhorn Symphony, The Nature Conservancy, and many other partners.
- Attended and presented at the annual Inland Bird Banding Association's annual conference in Ohio on our Purple Martin and Motus work on five species of thrushes.
- Hosted the American Bird Association's Bird of the Year reveal party at the Warner Park Nature Center and presented a Motus workshop for attendees.



2022 BY THE NUMBERS



2022 Volunteers & Staff

THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING TEAM OF WONDERFUL, DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF.
THIS YEAR, 65 VOLUNTEERS COMMITTED 2,392 HOURS.



Sandy Bivens
Laura Cook
Kathy Shaw
Diana McLusky
Susan Bradfield
John Kell
Ethel Kawamura
Leah LaRocco
Patty Ghertner
Amy Pardo family
Ann Acheson
Anne Snyder
Austin Anderson
Ava Cassidy
Barnes Family
Beth Preston
Beverly Guanieri

Bob Parrish
Carolyn Ackland
Caroline Schism
Charlotte Barnes
Cheryl Brummal
Chris Sloan
Debbie Bright
Denise Weyer
Elizabeth Cook
Emily Badri
Evelyn Paret
Frank Fekel
Graham Gerdeman
Heather Gallagher
Karl Hackenbrack
Kim Bailey
Kelly Wright

Kristina Savona
Linda Breggin
Lisa Brown
Marcia Eden
Marcus Snyder
Margie Hunter
Mary Ann Mize
Mary Glen Williamson
Mary Griffin
Melissa Donohue
Melissa Harris
Meryl Lunn
Missy Rogers
Matt Jenkins
Nancy Cole
Paul Yoder
Perry Wasdin

Rachael Payton
Rachel Anderson
Rachel Tuggle
Shannon Alpert
Starr Nolan
Steve Ghertner
Sue Shallow
Susan Peoples
Tahira Mohyuddin
Tammy Gross
Teresa Marchetti
Thomas Copeland
Toni Rodgers
Vera Roberts