

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

January, February, March 2023

BIRD Program

- Volunteers contributed 624 hours during BIRD related programs including banding station, bird walks, Motus, and ensuring clean and filled bird feeders at our view stations. Amy Pardo has started volunteering weekly to help in the BIRD office on all kinds of mundane, yet important tasks. Devin Bickford has started with bird feeders on Saturdays. Volunteers Karl Hackenbrack and Allen and Carole Harris are trained and working on Motus. Our volunteers play such a critical role in all our accomplishments – so much gratitude (Photos 6 and 9)! Laura met with each to discuss goals and roles for 2023.
- Public programs engaged 504 visitors during 8 bird banding sessions, winter bird walks at Hill Forest and Burch Reserve (photo 1), a successful Winter Bird Day, and a FYI Naturalist Program on 2 years of Motus research = <https://youtu.be/BoKU-9sgd5w>
- Completed the BIRD Program 2022 annual report and sent to bird friends, reported to nature center committee.
- Legacy data entry continues. We are getting close to completion, with only a few years to go. Cheryl continues to help ensure we are current on our 2023 data (photo 3) . Sandy and Laura completed 2022 data entry into the new Bird Banding Laboratory data system.
- Continued to participate on the Bird Safe Nashville collaboration, focusing on implementing eight of the action items articulated in the Urban Bird Treaty (UBT) Nashville Bird Agenda.
- The Urban Bird Treaty Program core team submitted the Nashville Bird Agenda application to USFWS. Assisted The Nature Conservancy with the interview process to hire an Urban Conservation and Policy Fellow who will spend half of their time helping to coordinate with partners and stakeholders on the implementation of Nashville's Bird Agenda. On 30 March 2023, we received informal notification that Nashville will be accepted as an Urban Bird Treaty City - a formal announcement forthcoming. Shelby Bottoms Nature Center will host World Migratory Bird Day, a requirement of the UBT, on May 13th with a formal signing of the UBT with the Mayors Office, USFWS, and Nashville partners.
- Preparations continue for us to host the 2023 IBBA conference on 10-12 November 2023 - Vera Roberts, Kathy Shaw, Sandy, Susan Bradfield, Jessica Steele, and David Aborn core team with help from Molly, Samantha, Jane, and Jenny
- Purchased new hummingbird and potter traps from Kyle Shepherd. We tested out the Potter traps during winter banding and they worked great (photo 10)
- We have had fabulous interns: Aspen Sanders from Tennessee State University and Anna Sawyer, Amelia Browning and Lexi Price from Lipscomb University, Anna Sawyer have played a significant role in helping us with Motus. Aspen stepped right in to help with everything nature center – from feeding birds to data entry to public programs. (photo 7).
- Received funding from the Tennessee Ornithological Society for a grant to purchase equipment for our upcoming Northern Saw-whet Owl research. Sent Mapp Foundation FYI naturalist
- Completed the final draft of our 30-year MAPS analysis and report. Sent the report to our Bird Research Advisory Committee. Once we receive comments back we will finalize and assess submission to professional publications.
- Eagle Scout Julius Fox finished completed building fences around the bluebird boxes in the overflow parking are. Thanks to Eagle Scout Augie Antis, who built to specification 30 bluebird boxes for us, we installed new bluebird boxes in overflow and also at the renovated Percy Warner Golf Course.
- Migration and breeding season is just around the corner. The BIRD team spent these months prepping for

the upcoming season for Eastern Bluebirds, Barn Swallow, Purple Martins, hummingbirds and the spring migration banding which started on 31 March.

- Our 40 years of fall bird banding data was used in an analysis for a paper in the the Journal of Animal Ecology. Six decades of North American bird banding records reveal plasticity in migration phenology. By Kyle G. Horton, Sara R. Morris, Benjamin M. VanDoren, and Kristen M. Covino. J. Anim Eol 2023: 92:738-750.

BIRD Research Projects

- **Winter Banding:** On-going since 1983. We engaged 338 park visitors at our banding station during 8 banding sessions. Overall, we captured 323 birds –115 new, 208 recaptures, and 7 unbanded compared with 215 birds in 2022. Weather conditions were unseasonably warm and we captured lots of Downy Woodpeckers and White-breasted Nuthatches (photo 4 and 5).
- **Motus:** Two of the 3 radio-tagged Hermit Thrushes have spent the winter with us at Warner Parks (photo 9). Our fabulous interns and volunteers spent hours searching for and locating these birds. Our hope is to better understand their winter habitat use in the Parks. We also had our first Purple Martin radio-tag fidelity with a martin that was radio-tagged as a nestling from at the nature and then returned to the area on 07 March. It appears to have spent a week or two in the area. Will it return? Will it be detected by another Motus receiver station?
- **Bird Genoscape Project:** Through our federal permit approval, we collected specific feathers from targeted species at our banding. These feathers are then submitted to the [Bird Genoscape Project](#) who use the genetic information on the feather tips to identify breeding origin and migration movements (photo 2).

Photos

1. Winter Hill Forest Bird Walk on a chilly morning. Photo Laura Cook
2. Feather samples submitted to the Bird Genoscape Project. Photo Jacob Job
3. Volunteers Cheryl Brummal and Cleo complete data entry for all of 2022. Photo Laura Cook
4. Female White-breasted Nuthatch. Photo Laura Cook
5. The banding team on the last day of 2023 winter banding. Photo Caroline Crews
6. Volunteer Teresa Marchetti doing a fabulous job of recording bird banding data. Photo Laura Cook
7. TSU intern Aspen Sanders using the Motus CTT Locator to search for radio-tagged Hermit Thrushes. Photo Laura Cook
8. Volunteer Graham Gerdeman with a female Red-bellied Woodpecker. Photo Laura Cook
9. Radio-tagged Hermit Thrush in Long Hollow Photo by Stacy Elliot
10. Kyle Shepperd delivers hand-made Potter Traps for winter banding to Sandy Bivens. Photo Laura Cook





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