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

2024 ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT



Photo by Graham Gerdeman.

B.I.R.D. PROGRAM SUPPORT

The BIRD Program is a partnership between Friends of Warner Parks, the Warner Park Nature Center, and Nashville Metro Parks and Recreation.

The program is fully funded by Friends of Warner Parks thanks to the generosity of donors, partners, and sponsors, notably, the Andrea Waitt Carlton Family Foundation and the Barbara J. Mapp Foundation.



2024 Research Highlights

YEAR EST.	PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS
1927	Tennessee Ornithological Society & Audubon Christmas Bird Counts Project to assess long-term population trends. Number of species observed for Warner Parks bird count: 87 in spring, 77 in fall, and 45 in late December.
1936	Bluebird Nesting Team of 6 volunteers and staff monitored 49 boxes where 273 bluebirds hatched from 325 eggs and 235 fledged – an increase from last year when 174 fledged. Of those banded: 219 bluebird nestlings and 12 adults with 21 adult recaptures. Other fledged cavity nesters: 6 Tufted Titmouse & 34 Tree Swallows. These results are reported to the North American Bluebird Society.
1982	Long-term Fall Migration Bird Banding During 13 banding sessions: 353 birds were captured, 69 of those were recaptures. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Cedar Waxwing, & Purple Finches captured this fall. A Lawrence's Warbler observed in area but not captured.
1983	Long-term Winter Bird Banding Only held 5 banding sessions because of weather. Captured 173 birds, 80 of those were recaptures including 7-year-old American Goldfinch and Downy Woodpecker. Most common species captured Carolina Chickadee.
1983	Long-term Spring Migration Bird Banding Held 6 banding sessions with 82 birds captured, 23 of those were recaptures. Highlight capture was a Cape May Warbler. Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes that were radio-tagged had fabulous detections in the northern US and Canada as they migrated north for their breeding season.
1985	Breeding Bird Survey Our 40th year! We documented 332 birds of 51 species. There have only been 6 years with 50 species or more. Highlights: Wood Thrush singing, American Kestrel, Scarlet and Summer Tanagers, Eastern Meadowlark, Blue Grosbeak, Killdeer, Eastern Kingbird, Common Yellowthroats, and Northern Parula.
1991	Monitoring Avian Productivity & Survivorship (MAPS) Continent-wide research program in partnership with the Institute for Bird Populations – WPNC station is one of the oldest in Southeast. 10 banding sessions captured 140 birds, 31 of which were recaptures. Of note, no Kentucky Warblers captured but we did have a Canada Warbler as it was migrating north.

2024 Research Highlights

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1997	Project FeederWatch In partnership with Cornell Lab of Ornithology & National Audubon. From November 2022 to April 2023, 13 volunteers observed up to 784 birds of 32 species. Highlights were Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, & Golden-crowned Kinglets. Results submitted to Project FeederWatch.
2002	Hummingbird Migration Banding 10 sessions with a fabulous team of volunteers captured 135 hummingbirds, including 19 recaptures but no adults from previous years. Volunteer Patty Ghertner received her federal hummingbird permit!
2002	Purple Martin Nest Success Volunteers monitored nests each week. At WPNC, 12 active nests with 66 eggs and 53 fledged. Banded 55 and radio-tagged 26 nestlings at WPNC & Ellington Agriculture Center. Results submitted to Purple Martin Conservation Association.
2007	Northern Saw-whet Owl Migration Changed protocol this year and held 3 park-wide night playback call surveys to determine if Saw-whets are in the park. One evening banding attempt but no owls captured or detected. One more survey planned for mid-January 2025.
2015	eBird Results from each banding session for birds banded and seen/heard are reported to eBird managed by Cornell Lab of Ornithology.
2015	Bird Genoscape Project Contributed 49 feather samples from 17 species to the Bird Genoscape Project where they use genetic information from the tip of birds' feathers to identify the breeding origin of birds captured during migration.
2018	Barn Swallow Nest Success Volunteer Teresa Marchetti monitored nests at WPNC and Steeplechase to assess nest success – the only 2 locations in the park with active nests. WPNC fledged 24 swallows but only 57% fledged at Steeplechase because of a predation event. Concerned with fewer birds and lower nest success within Warner Park.

2024 Research Highlights

YEAR EST. PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

2020

Motus

Radio-tagged 56 birds (18 Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, and Veery; 5 Hermit Thrush, 6 Wood Thrush, 27 Purple Martins). Several fabulous spring migration detections with thrushes detected north into Canada. Fall thrushes helped us learn Warner Parks is an important migratory stopover. We joined a first of its kind, hemispheric research project led by US Fish & Wildlife Service on Wood Thrushes - learning our breeding birds don't depart here until early October. Our Purple Martin fledglings detected at the Nashville roost and migrating south to South America. Over 20 volunteers trained to use the handheld to detect radio-tagged birds here in the park. A grant from the Barbara J. Mapp Foundation continued to support this research.



Volunteers Karl Hackenbrack, Amelia Browning, & Anna Sawyer testing radio-transmitter detections for our Motus research. Photo by Laura Cook.



A radio-tagged Swainson's Thrush helps us understand the importance of Warner Parks as a migratory stopover and contributes to our overall understanding of migration. Photo by Graham Gerdeman.

2024 Program Highlights



New BIRD staff member Jenna Atma bands an Eastern Bluebird nestling.



A female Rose-breasted Grosbeak captured at the banding station.

- Our BIRD Program continues as a founding member of Bird Safe Nashville, a coalition of citizens supported by Harpeth-Cumberland Audubon Society, who work to ensure hazards to birds are minimized and Nashville is a city where migratory and resident birds thrive.
- We serve as a core team member of the Urban Bird Treaty Program – a highly partner engaged US Fish and Wildlife Service program to improve habitat, reduce hazards, and increase education for birds in urban areas.
- Patty Ghertner volunteered and trained with us, just receiving her federal hummingbird banding permit in 2024. Volunteer Rachael Payton has trained with us and recently received her Master Bander permit for the Nashville Zoo. Jenna Atma received her federal banding sub-permit.
- Lipscomb University students Lexi Price and Amelia Browning were summer bird interns assisting with the Wood Thrush Motus project as well as Barn Swallows, MAPS, and Motus.
- Our Bird Feeder Volunteers are amazing! They maintain, clean and fill feeders at WPNC throughout the year, including the numerous hummingbird feeders, to attract birds to the campus for our research and public engagement.
- Fabulous and well-attended events at WPNC - Winter Bird Day, the Hummingbird Celebration, Bird Walks during winter, spring and fall migration.
- Reused the old trailhead kiosk near the banding station to create new Bird Program education information about ways to help birds, understanding the life cycle of a bird, why we band birds, and highlighting some our research projects.

2024 Program Highlights

- Hosted the Tennessee Bluebird Society's annual meeting. Nashville Zoo and Bird Program volunteer Rachael Payton was the keynote speaker. BIRD Program presented to numerous Garden Clubs and The Nature Conservancy.
- Collaborated with the Mayor's office on Purple Martin Task Force. Worked with The Nature Conservancy and Urban Bird Treaty to host Purple Martin education and watch parties at the downtown roost. Purple Martin press included WSMV, Sidewalk Nature, City Cast Nashville, and Nashville Banner.
- Hosted well-attended Ollie Vanderbilt Adult Learning bird classes taught by Belmont University's Stacy Elliott in spring and fall.
- The area used to capture wild birds for our bird banding research is now closed to the public. With the main trailhead moved and the area fenced, this will allow the area to be a safe haven for wilds. The temporary fence will be replaced with a permanent spilt-rail fence - the first section completed by Eagle Scout Jack Farringer this summer. Working with the Warner Park Nature Center and Friends of Warner Parks, we will continue to remove invasive plant species from the area and plant native understory species.
- Laura Cook and Jenna Atma attended the Inland Bird Banding Association's (IBBA) annual conference in Little Rock, Arkansas. An important professional development conference to expand our skills and make connections. Sandy Bivens will serve on the Board of the IBBA.

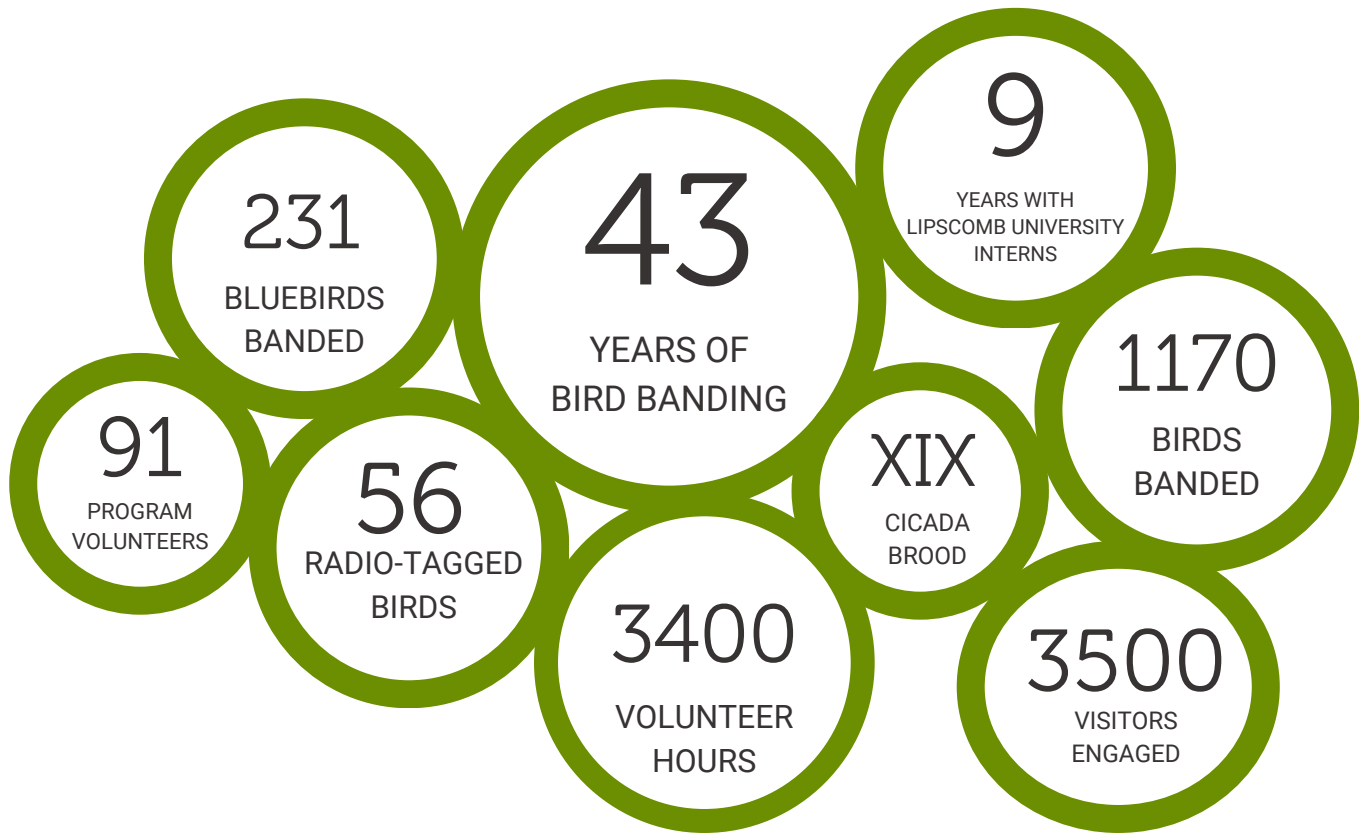


A Lawrence's Warbler was observed in the bird area along Vaughn's Creek. A first ever observation for Warner Parks, this bird is a double hybrid from a Blue-winged Warbler and Golden-winged Warbler. Photo by Graham Gerdeman.



A new educational kiosk located by the bird banding station provides information about our research, why we band birds, and how you can help birds. Artwork by Jenna Atma and designed by Rachel Anderson.

2024 BY THE NUMBERS



Top left: A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher feeds her young near the banding station, photo by Charlie Curry. Bottom left: Some of the bird banding team. Right: A banded Eastern Bluebird. This male was paired with a banded female bluebird and raising 5 young in a bluebird box in the Ridgefield area of Warner Parks, photo by Terry Cook.

2024 Volunteers & Staff

THE BIRD PROGRAM'S EDUCATIONAL ENGAGEMENT AND RESEARCH PROJECTS COULD NOT HAPPEN WITHOUT OUR AMAZING TEAM OF WONDERFUL, DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF. THIS YEAR, 85 VOLUNTEERS DONATED OVER 3400 HOURS TO OUR BIRD PROGRAM.



Addition Bean
Aurora & Boo Pfeiffer
Amelia Browning
Amy Pardo & family
Ann Acheson
Anna Sawyer
Anne Snyder
Bailey Crable
Beth Adams
Beth Preston
Bob Parrish
Bryce Amacker
Cheryl Brummal
Chris Sloan
Christina Barnes
Clare Crenshaw
Cody & Elizabeth Cook
Daniel Redwine
Deana McNett-Burke
Debbie Bright
Devin Bickford
Diana McLusky

Elyse Dilks
Emily Culbertson
Evelyn Paret
Frank Fekel
Ian Rosenwasser
Gina Osborne
Graham Gerdeman
Jacob Wyco
Jane Flautt
Jereomy Hornbuckle
Jiaying Yang
Joe McLaughlin
Joeseph Martin
John Kell
Karen Schneider
Karl Hackenbrack
Kassie White
Kathy Hart
Kathy Shaw
Kelli Fly
Kim Bailey
Kim Cheffins

Kimberly Aiken
Kren Teren
Larry Ritchie
Leah LaRocco
Lexi Price
Louise Merritt
Maggie Gigandet
Malinda Herse
Marcus Snyder
Margie Hunter
Mary Glynn Williamson
Mary Griffin
Maryle Linn
Matt Jenkins
Melissa Donahue
Michelle McAtee
Mike Smith
Mimi Speciale
Olivia LaGrande
Parker Tallman
Patty Ghertner
Perry Wasdin

Rachel Anderson
Rachael Payton
Rachel Anderson
Robert Windham
Robin Cohn
Rory Fraser
Sandy Bivens
Shannon Alpert
Starr Nolan
Stephanie Durman
Steve Ghertner
Sue Shallow
Susan Bradfield
Susan Chestnut
Tahira Mohyuddin
Teresa Marchetti
Terry Cook
Thomas Copeland
Toni Rogers
Vera Roberts
Virginia P'Poole