

# MAPS Bird Banding Program

## 2022 Annual Report

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**Project Leader: Gene Groshon** [gene.groshon@calvertcountymd.gov](mailto:gene.groshon@calvertcountymd.gov) 410-535-5327

**JoAnne Lutmerding is also a project leader and guides us in running the station, providing the bands and banding equipment as well as helping out on banding days.**

Total Volunteer Hours: 101.5 hours

Volunteers: Mary Bell, Joanna Lutmerding, Scott Clark, Joe Clark, David Miller

Staff: Gene Groshon and Kim Curren

MAPS stands for Monitoring Avian Production and Survivorship, a bird banding research project that focuses on studying the population of birds in their breeding habitat. The data gathered during this project help to determine the productivity, recruitment and survival of different bird species. We follow a very specific protocol established by the Institute for Bird Populations. This is a continent wide project with more than 1,200 MAPS stations spread across nearly every state and Canadian province, having collected more than 2.5 million bird capture records since 1989.

This project involves capturing birds with mist nets in order to collect the data needed. Mist nets are made of a very fine material and are difficult for the birds to see. The nets are checked every 40 minutes and any birds captured are carefully extracted by trained staff. Once the bird is extracted it is given a small metal leg band that has a unique number stamped into it. This helps us to identify the bird if it gets recaptured. After determining the species and sex we take several measurements and then the bird is released. Photos are taken of some notable species or ones that are difficult to age. Often times there is not time for photos as we need to ensure the nets are getting checked on time.

We open the nets at sunrise and run 7 net checks every 40 minutes. The 12 nets are placed along a 1 mile loop through the park so we typically hike 8 miles a day often at a rigorous pace. The trail is narrow, sometimes wet and lined with sticker bushes and poison ivy so pants and sturdy hiking shoes/boots are recommended.

During our time operating the station we keep track of every bird species that is seen or heard within our banding area and take note of any breeding behavior. New volunteers help with these observations.

### SKILLS NEEDED

- Need their own reliable transportation
- Be able to hike 8 miles at a rigorous pace on varied terrain
- Able to identify local birds by sight and song (helpful)

### VOLUNTEER DUTIES

- Assist with spotting and identifying birds seen and heard
- Recording data during banding process

### REQUIREMENTS & EXPECTATIONS

- Arrive at start time (about 5:30 to 6:00am) to assist with opening the nets
- Hike 6-7 mile on uneven terrain (sometimes at a fast pace if it's a busy day)
- Work in hot and humid conditions for 6-7 hours with no time indoors

### TRAININGS

- New volunteers should email [gene.groshon@calvertcountymd.gov](mailto:gene.groshon@calvertcountymd.gov) to set up a day to come out and observe.
- Once trained, volunteers receive a certificate that can be uploaded as a Qualification on their profile on <https://calvertstewards.galaxydigital.com>. This will all them to respond in related opportunities.

## PROJECT DATES

- **Late April- Early May:** Possible trail clearing days and net setup day
- **Late May- Early August:** There will be 8 banding days from sunrise till about 11:30am

## SUMMARY OF 2022 ACTIVITIES

Gene applied for and received his own Master Banding permit through the Bird Banding Lab and will maintain the banding permit for CCNRD.

We had to remove 5 nets (8-12) due to the dam renovation project and installed 4 nets (13-16) at new locations.



We banded 68 birds and 23 recaptured birds that were previously banded by us either in the same year or prior years. Some notable species that we banded in 2022 include Brown Thrasher. Unfortunately, we did not capture any Prothonotary Warblers this season which is a first since MAPS has been operated at Ward. This is likely due to the excessive habitat clearing that was done for the dam project which filled in some wetland areas along one of the ponds. It will be interesting to look at species data in the next few years to see if other species show a noticeable decline since the 2022 season. We also conducted a habitat survey to identify the plants that are found within our banding area. This year we changed the banding dates to week days to work better with the staff's schedules.

## FUTURE PLANS

Gene Groshon will be taking over the lead of the project from Jo Anna Lutmerding. Gene will discuss with her to see if he will need to acquire the bands and banding gear. Jo Anna still plans to help on some days. We plan to continue the project for at least another 3-5 years to get a decent data set of before and after the park was developed.

## INTERESTING DATA ACROSS THE YEARS

Top 5 Most common species captured calculated by percent of total captures, listed largest to smallest

- 2017: NOCA, CARW, INBU, REVI, WOTH
- 2018: WOTH, NOCA, ACFL, REVI, INBU
- 2019: ACFL, LOWA, NOCA, OVEN, CARW
- 2020: COYE, EABL, NOCA, CARW, ACFL
- 2021: CARW, COYE, WOTH, ACFL, NOCA
- 2022: NOCA, CARW, ACFL, WOTH, COYE

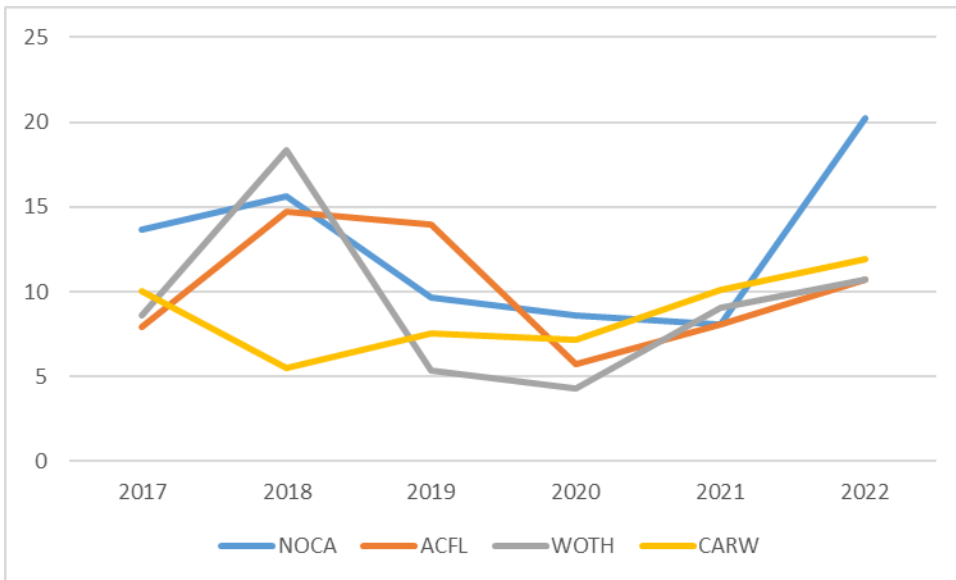
The below chart shows the most common species of capture calculated by the percentage of the year's total captures.

2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022*	
Species	% total	Species	% total	Species	% total	Species	% total	Species	% total	Species	% total
NOCA	13.67	WOTH	18.35	ACFL	13.98	COYE	16.55	CARW	10.1	NOCA	20.24
CARW	10.07	NOCA	15.6	LOWA	9.68	EABL	12.95	COYE	9.09	CARW	11.9
INBU	8.63	ACFL	14.68	NOCA	9.68	NOCA	8.63	WOTH	9.09	ACFL	10.71
REVI	8.63	REVI	8.26	OVEN	8.6	CARW	7.19	ACFL	8.08	WOTH	10.71
WOTH	8.63	INBU	6.42	CARW	7.53	ACFL	5.76	NOCA	8.08	COYE	7.14
ACFL	7.91	CARW	5.5	INBU	7.53	INBU	5.04	RWBL	7.07	DOWO	7.14
RWBL	6.47	WEVI	5.5	REVI	6.45	REVI	4.32	INBU	6.06	INBU	5.95
OVEN	5.76	OVEN	4.59	WEVI	5.38	RWBL	4.32	LOWA	6.06	LOWA	5.95
LOWA	5.04	RWBL	3.67	WOTH	5.38	WOTH	4.32	REVI	6.06	REVI	5.95
COYE	4.32	GRCA	2.75	TUTI	4.3	DOWO	3.6	NOWA	4.04	OVEN	2.38
DOWO	2.88	LOWA	2.75	COYE	3.23	AMGO	2.88	OVEN	4.04	RWBL	2.38
EAPH	2.88	BLGR	1.83	PROW	3.23	AMRE	2.88	CACH	3.03	WEVI	2.38
CACH	2.16	DOWO	1.83	RWBL	3.23	TUTI	2.88	EAPH	3.03	BLGR	1.19
EAWP	1.44	EAPH	1.83	DOWO	2.15	LOWA	2.16	PROW	3.03	BRTH	1.19
GRCA	1.44	EAWP	1.83	EABL	2.15	OVEN	2.16	WEVI	3.03	CACH	1.19
PROW	1.44	AMGO	0.92	RTHU	2.15	PROW	2.16	BLGR	1.01	EABL	1.19
RBWO	1.44	BLJA	0.92	BHCO	1.08	WEVI	2.16	BRTH	1.01	EAWP	1.19
RTHU	1.44	COYE	0.92	EAPH	1.08	BLGR	1.44	DOWO	1.01	TUTI	1.19
WEVI	1.44	PROW	0.92	GRCA	1.08	EAPH	1.44	EABL	1.01	AMGO	0
BHCO	0.72	TUTI	0.92	OROR	1.08	HAWO	1.44	EAWP	1.01	AMRE	0
HOWA	0.72	AMRE	0	YBCU	1.08	BGGN	0.72	GCFL	1.01	BGGN	0
HOFI	0.72	BGGN	0	AMGO	0	BHCO	0.72	SCTA	1.01	BHCO	0
NOPA	0.72	BHCO	0	AMRE	0	BRTH	0.72	SUTA	1.01	BLJA	0
SCTA	0.72	BRTH	0	BGGN	0	GRCA	0.72	TUTI	1.01	EAPH	0
YBCU	0.72	CACH	0	BLGR	0	OROR	0.72	YBCU	1.01	GCFL	0
AMGO	0	EABL	0	BLJA	0	RBWO	0.72	AMGO	0	GRCA	0
AMRE	0	GCFL	0	BRTH	0	YBCU	0.72	AMRE	0	HAWO	0
BGGN	0	HAWO	0	CACH	0	YEWA	0.72	BGGN	0	HOFI	0
BLGR	0	HOWA	0	EAWP	0	BLJA	0	BHCO	0	HOWA	0
BLJA	0	HOFI	0	GCFL	0	CACH	0	BLJA	0	NOPA	0
BRTH	0	NOWA	0	HAWO	0	EAWP	0	GRCA	0	NOWA	0
EABL	0	NOPA	0	HOWA	0	GCFL	0	HAWO	0	OROR	0
GCFL	0	OROR	0	HOFI	0	HOWA	0	HOWA	0	PROW	0
HAWO	0	RBWO	0	NOWA	0	HOFI	0	HOFI	0	RBWO	0
NOWA	0	RTHU	0	NOPA	0	NOWA	0	NOPA	0	RTHU	0
OROR	0	SCTA	0	RBWO	0	NOPA	0	OROR	0	SCTA	0
SUTA	0	SUTA	0	SCTA	0	RTHU	0	RBWO	0	SUTA	0
TUTI	0	YBCU	0	SUTA	0	SCTA	0	RTHU	0	YBCU	0
YEWA	0	YEWA	0	YEWA	0	SUTA	0	YEWA	0	YEWA	0

# RESULTS

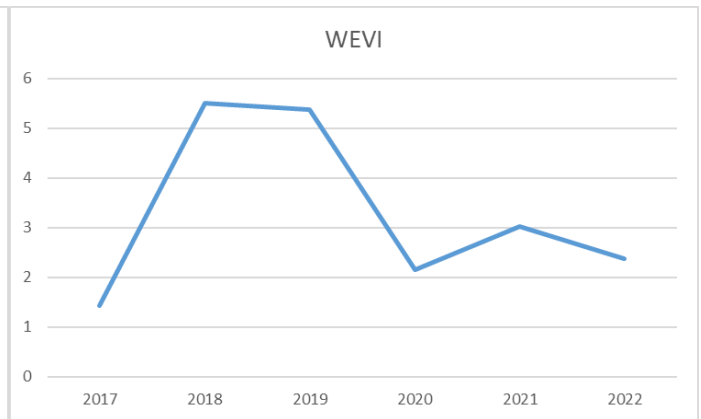
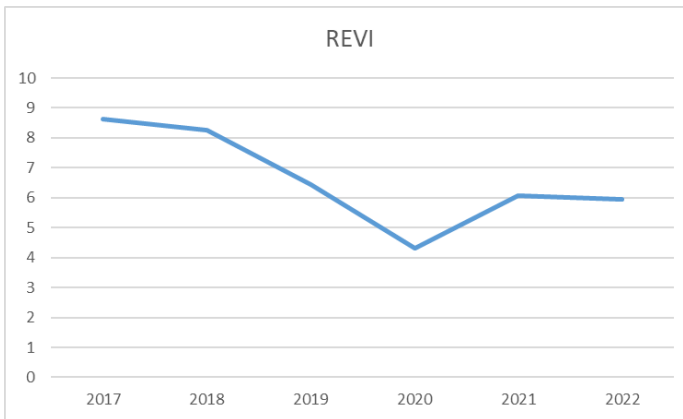
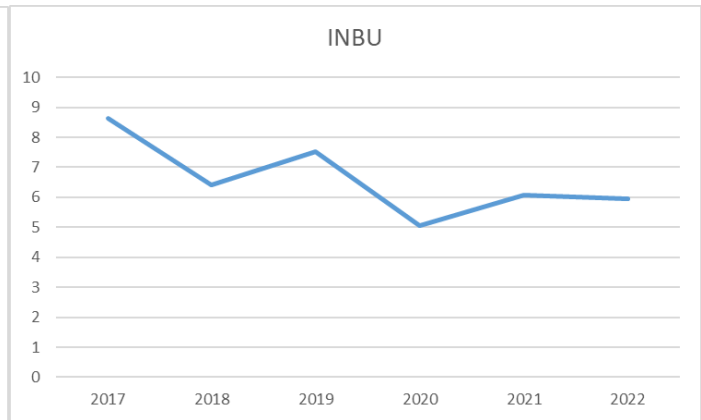
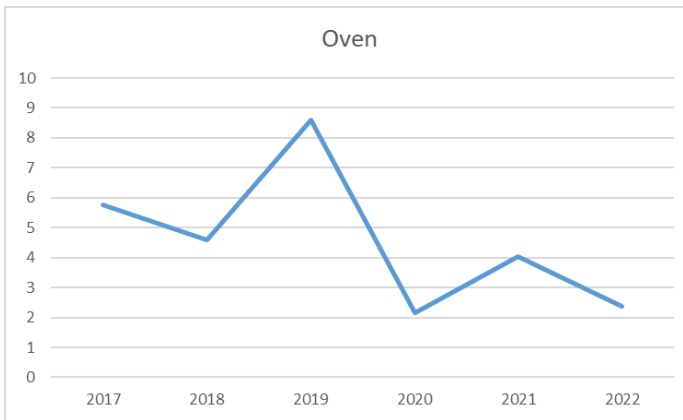
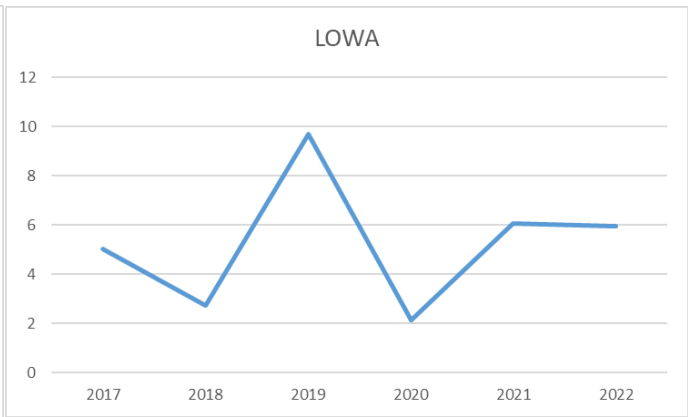
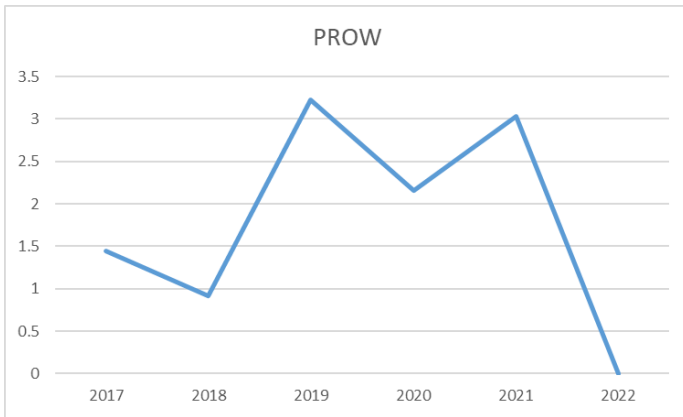
## Graphs showing the Species vs Percent Total Captures throughout the project

The following species had the highest average percentage from the top 5 species for each year  
The y-axis is percent of total captures for that species; the x-axis is years



## Notable Species

PROW: Prothonotary Warbler; LOWA: Louisiana Waterthrush; Oven: Ovenbird; INBU: Indigo Bunting; REVI: Red-eyed Vireo; WEVI: White-eyed Vireo



2022 photos



Male After Second Year Indigo Bunting



Adult Brown Thrasher



This Rainbow Scarab was safely removed from the nets



*Supporting Calvert County's nature parks and natural spaces*



# CALVERT STEWARDS

## VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

*A partnership between Calvert Nature Society and Calvert County Natural Resources Division*

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CALVERT STEWARDS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM  
c/o Natural Resources Division  
2880 Grays Road  
Prince Frederick, MD 20678  
(410) 535-5327

Volunteer Portal: <https://calvertstewards.galaxydigital.com/>

Calvert Nature Society: [www.calvertparks.org](http://www.calvertparks.org)

Calvert County Natural Resources Division:  
[www.calvertcountymd.gov/NaturalResources](http://www.calvertcountymd.gov/NaturalResources)

