

Motus Wildlife Tracking Program

2022 Annual Report

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In 2022 we had no volunteers help with this project.

The Motus Wildlife Tracking System (Motus) is an international collaborative research network that uses coordinated automated radio telemetry to facilitate research and education on the ecology and conservation of migratory animals. Motus is a program of Birds Canada in partnership with collaborating researchers and organizations. We are in the process of installing two towers at Calvert County Parks that will contribute data to the collaborative network. These data will also be used by CHESPAX to create a lesson for students to learn about migration while analyzing the data collected by these towers. In the future we hope to be deploying our own tags on Barn Owls and American Kestrels to better understand their movements and improve our conservation efforts of these species.

SKILLS NEEDED

- Need their own reliable transportation

VOLUNTEER DUTIES

At time this program is still being developed and there were no volunteer opportunities in 2022. We are hoping to create some opportunities for volunteers in the future. These may include:

- Assist with collecting/downloading data from tower sites
- Analyzing and organizing the data that is collected

REQUIREMENTS & EXPECTATIONS

These will be adjusted as opportunities are created

- Travel in the field to tower sites
- Keeping nest sites or known locations of sensitive species confidential

TRAININGS

- Learn and demonstrate ability to properly download data from a tower field site
- Once trained, you will receive a certificate that you can upload as a Qualification on your profile. You can then respond to be a volunteer in different opportunities.

PROJECT DATES

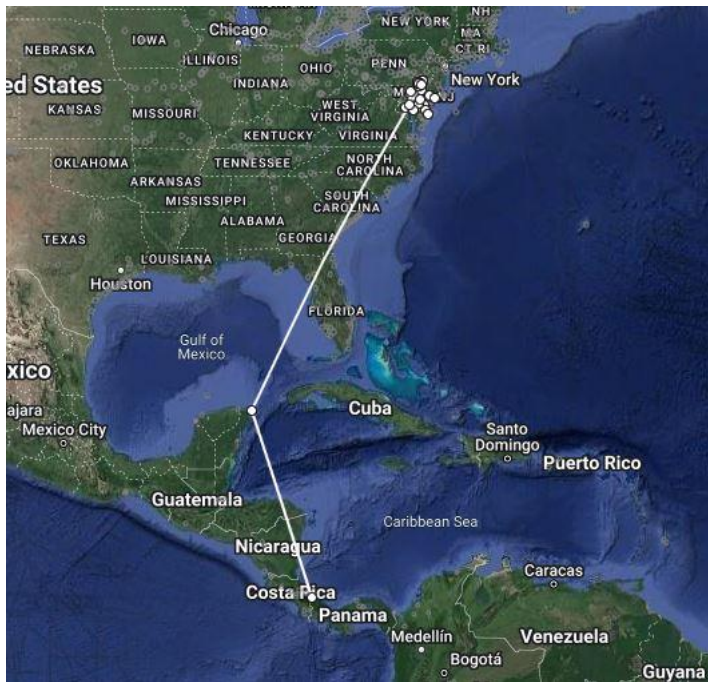
- KLP tower up and running on 4-13-2022
- Gatewood tower still needs installed trying to determine install location

SUMMARY OF 2022 ACTIVITIES

The Motus tower at Kings Landing Park is now up and running. Gene made all of the cables to hook up the antennas on the tower to the lightening protection and then to the Motus box (computer) inside. After getting everything hooked up there were issues with the Funcube dongles but after updating the firmware they were working properly. We can now access the data for this tower via this link <https://motus.org/data/receiverDeploymentDetections?id=8533> .

In 2022 we had 23 different birds detected including several Soras that Greg Kearns tagged at Patuxent River Park. Tom Harten of CHESPAX was given this link and will be incorporating it into a lesson for high school students studying migration.

The map below shows the detections of a Purple Martin that was picked up by our tower. It was originally banded in Kennett Square PA, and was last detected in Costa Rica!



The Gatewood “tower” will likely not use a tower but have the antenna mast attached to the top of the house. Gene is still trying to figure out what we will be the best product to use to attach the mast to the house and where to attach on the house. This will still require the same lightning protection system used at KLP which was about \$3000.

Gene applied for and received his own Master Banding permit through the Bird Banding Lab and will maintain the banding permit for CCNRD. Gene reached out to Kestrel researchers in Minnesota who are currently using Motus/CTT tags on American Kestrels. They shared info on attachment methods but they are still starting out and new to this and Gene will continue to look for other researchers to shadow.

FUTURE PLANS

Determine how to safely mount the Gatewood tower. It will not be able to operate until we have wireless or hard wired internet at that site though. Work with other researchers who are currently deploying tags on American Kestrels to gain experience with the attachment method so Gene can be approved on our BBL permit to deploy transmitters. We will work with Dave Brinker to obtain tags and learn the best attachment method for kestrels and other species.

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

Calvert Nature Society: www.calvertparks.org

Calvert County Natural Resources Division:
www.calvertcountymd.gov/NaturalResources

