



### **Wondering what your Birdathon contributions will go toward?**

Your kind donations support WVWA's important work in avian research and conservation! Many bird species are facing increasing threats, from development and habitat loss to global warming. WVWA works to protect and restore their habitat and collect data on their populations. We contribute to several national and intercontinental research projects aimed at discovering exactly what is driving their population declines, and actively manage our lands to ensure the existence and health of the habitats they need to survive. Take a look below to see what projects your contributions will benefit.

#### **Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Banding Station at Crossways Preserve**

Our summer banding station was established in 2015 to study the birds of Crossways and determine if and how our habitat improvements affect their populations, as well as what trends are occurring locally that may provide insight into regional and national population changes. The station has caught, banded, and collected data on hundreds of birds since its founding, hosted countless birding, camp and other educational groups, and trained several hard-working volunteers.

***Annual cost of operation: \$4,500***

#### **Nest Box Monitoring Project**

WVWA's Nest Box Monitoring Project provides habitat for several cavity nesting species across WVWA preserves, including Eastern bluebirds, tree swallows, and Carolina chickadees. The data collected is contributed to a national dataset managed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. An average of 47 nestlings are born, raised, and fledge from our preserves each year. The program has expanded yearly since 2015, and trained volunteers now help us monitor boxes and record information.

***Annual cost of project: \$2,500***

**Breeding Bird Surveys** To track which species use our preserved lands during the breeding season, document any changes in their populations over time, and identify species of concern for which management should be directed, WVWA completes Breeding Bird Surveys on many of our parcels each year. In May and June, staff wake up before dawn and spend several mornings identifying, counting, and recording birds. These data are logged in our own database, as well as submitted to eBird, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's online database, so that any researcher can make use of them.

***Annual cost of surveying and data entry: \$1,200***

**Chimney Swift Tower Project** Chimney swifts are a remarkable species that has seen heartbreaking population losses in the last several decades, largely due to habitat loss. WVWA has begun an initiative with our local Audubon chapter to create habitat for these amazing birds by building artificial chimneys to serve as nesting and roosting sites, and by working to identify, monitor, and protect the habitats they rely on.

**Cost of building one artificial Chimney Swift tower and monitoring sites through the year: \$2,000**

### ***Bird Conservation Menu***

***Any amount of Birdathon contributions helps!***

***Banding 3 birds.....\$10.00***

***New bird bags, binders for data sheets (and donuts for the crew!).....\$15.00***

***One new nest box.....\$25.00***

***One morning of Breeding Bird Surveys..... \$35.00***

***Extra banding pliers.....\$50.00***

***One 12m mist net for the banding station.....\$75.00***

***Removal of 1 acre of invasive species for forest and meadow birds.....\$100.00***

***Native plant restoration to provide food and cover for bird species.....\$150.00***

***One day of bird banding.....\$200.00***