Be a part of cutting-edge migratory bird research in Springfield!



A new research project looking at diet, habitat-relationships and behavior of migratory birds in Springfield's urban forests is happening close to your area. Every year billions of migratory birds make long-distance movements from Central and South America to Canada and back again. During these journeys, birds must find appropriate habitat along the way to rest and refuel. Are the birds that use urban forests finding enough food to make these epic journeys?

In Springfield City Parks, we are putting tiny transmitter 'backpacks' on birds that emit frequencies that can be picked up by our passive receivers. Our tags will be connected to the Motus Wildlife Tracking Network; a coordinated, international radio-telemetry array to track migratory movements of animals. This work is funded by the Society of Conservation Biology and the Cedar Tree Foundation through the Smith Fellowship program, and in collaboration with University of Massachusetts, Amherst, University of Delaware and the USDA Forest Service.

We are looking for schools, community centers, private yards or other organizations within 1km of the forests we are working in that would be interested in hosting a tower to remotely track bird movements. All equipment to construct the receiver tower will be provided by us at no cost to you. All we need is someone willing to host it.

Here's what we'd need from you:

- Permission to place a pop-up temporary receiver on a 30ft tower (or affixed to existing tall infrastructure e.g., a roof) at least between April-May and Aug-October in 2021 and 2022
- Permission to visit the receiver occasionally for maintenance and data downloads.
- If available, a Wi-Fi connection to download data or an electric source for power (if no electric is available, we can supply small solar panels).

For more information:
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