

# Motus Wildlife Tracking Program 2021 Report

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**Other staff working with this project: none**

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. This 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 this time this program is still being developed and there were no volunteer opportunities in 2020. We are hoping to create some opportunities for volunteers in the future. These may include:

- Assisting 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 should be up and running by spring 2022
- Gatewood tower still needs installed possible summer/fall 2022

## SUMMARY OF 2021 ACTIVITIES

In 2021 we had no volunteers help with this project. The installation was done by Gene Groshon, Andrew Brown, Ian Keely and Brian Bussard.

The Motus tower at Kings Landing Park has been installed with the antennas and grounding system. Gene still needs to make and hook up the connections that go from the lightning protection to the actual Motus box. The next step will be getting the tower online. In order to do this we will need a Motus account but Andy Brown spoke with Dave Brinker with MD DNR and Northeast Motus Collab and Dave said we can join in with them to avoid the annual fee. Gene has emailed Dave Brinker but has not heard back from him. Gene will try reaching out to him by phone once the connections are complete for the KLP tower.

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. This will still require the same lightning protection system used at KLP which was about \$3000 from Larry’s Electric.

Gene has reached out to some Kestrel researchers in Minnesota who are currently using Motus/CTT tags on American Kestrels. Gene will try to visit them in 2022.

## FUTURE PLANS

We are hoping to have the KLP tower up and running spring 2022 and the Gatewood tower by the fall of 2022. 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*

# 2021 Annual Report

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CALVERT STEWARDS VOLUNTEER PROGRAM  
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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)

