

# SONGBIRD BANDING AND RAPTOR RESEARCH:

LIVE TRAPPING (SONGBIRDS ONLY), IN-HAND AGEING AND SEXING TECHNIQUES, AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES



2024 EAGLE HILL  
NATURAL HISTORY  
SCIENCE SEMINARS  
ON THE COAST OF  
EASTERN MAINE

**Instructors: Adrienne Jo Leppold, David Brinker, Alison Fetterman, and Todd Alleger**

**Dates: August 18th - August 24th, 2024**

More than 300 species of birds occur in Maine at some point in their life cycle and Maine is a nexus of activity for both breeding and migrant birds. This course has been scheduled to overlap the transition period from the breeding season into fall migration. While this course is designed to help the amateur birder take their interest in birds to the next level, it is also useful for professional or aspiring biologists and students looking to gain experience with the handling and banding skills necessary for many research and monitoring projects. Through a mix of classroom presentations, specimen study, and field mist-netting, participants will learn the operation of mist nets and safe extraction of birds, be exposed to trapping techniques used for raptors, handling skills for a suite of species, in-hand aging and sexing techniques, and data collection procedures. Participants will have the unique opportunity to get up close and personal with birds. In addition to meeting course objectives, this hands-on approach will improve species identification skills and stimulate the learning of avian life habits. Field work will be supplemented by lectures and discussions covering the history and ethics of bird banding, avian life histories, energetics, molts and plumages, and emerging tracking technologies. Come take advantage of this intensive opportunity to learn new, or hone existing, bird handling and research skills.

**GENERAL INFO**

**CALENDAR**

**APPLY**



## about the instructors

**Adrienne Jo Leppold** ([adrienne.j.leppold@maine.gov](mailto:adrienne.j.leppold@maine.gov)) is the state songbird specialist with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. She has her Ph.D. from the University of Maine, completing her dissertation on landbird migration throughout the Gulf of Maine. She has banded/handled over 100,000 birds, primarily working with songbirds, near-passerines, raptors, and seabirds. She is certified as a trainer by the North American Banding Council and has co-authored manuals used by banding stations throughout North America.

**David Brinker** ([dbrinker@verizon.net](mailto:dbrinker@verizon.net)) is an ecologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resource's Natural Heritage Program where he has worked on biodiversity conservation since 1989. He is the founder of Project OwlNet and co-founder of Project SNOWstorm, two highly successful cooperative efforts to study migrating and wintering owls using bird banding and radio telemetry. Since 1994, he has led the Central Appalachian Goshawk Study in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. He holds a federal Master banding permit and has banded thousands of raptors and colonial nesting waterbirds since 1975. He has authored or co-authored papers on Northern Goshawk population change, Red-tailed Hawk migration, Northern Saw-whet ecology and movement, American Oystercatcher distribution, as well as on secretive marsh birds and colonial nesting waterbirds.

**Alison Fetterman** ([avf@wctrust.org](mailto:avf@wctrust.org)) is a bird conservation associate and Northeast Motus Collaboration project manager at Willistown Conservation Trust (WCT). She is a federally licensed bird bander operating at the Rushton Woods Banding Station (RWBS), which includes the study of migratory passerines, breeding birds, and migrant Northern Saw-whet Owl research. She manages the banding data and has authored a ten year summary and annual reports for the banding station. In addition, she teaches Ornithological Principles at the University of Pennsylvania in the graduate program of Environmental Studies

**Todd Alleger** ([talleger@abcbirds.org](mailto:talleger@abcbirds.org)) is the Atlantic Flyway Motus Coordinator for the American Bird Conservancy and NABC certified bander. He has 12 years of experience working primarily with songbirds, near passerines, and small owls and with a variety of mist-netting protocols including MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity & Survivorship), target netting, Project OwlNet, and constant effort migration.