



100 Years of Bird Banding in America History of Patuxent's Bird Banding Lab

A webinar presented by the Friends of Patuxent on October 20, 2020
in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the
Bird Banding Lab at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, MD

A recorded version of the webinar is available by [clicking here.](#)

The Friends of Patuxent gratefully acknowledges the support of the National Wildlife Federation in presenting this program.

Our Presenters



Rich Dolesh, Chair, Friends of the Patuxent

Rich has been a volunteer at Patuxent for nearly three decades and a board member of the Friends since the Friends began. He worked to support the proposal for the construction of the National Wildlife Visitor Center and served as the co-chair of the long-running and successful Patuxent Wildlife Art Show for its first 10 years.

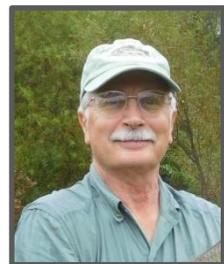
Rich has had a personal and professional dedication to conservation during his nearly five-decade career beginning at the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and since 2002 at the National Recreation and Park Association. Rich is a member and former chair of the Conservation Committee of the Maryland Ornithological Society and serves on the boards of the Patuxent Riverkeeper, the Black Swamp Creek Land Trust, and the Park and Resources Conservation Foundation. Rich writes extensively about conservation and nature and has written articles in National Geographic Magazine, The Washington Post and Parks and Recreation Magazine. He was recently awarded the Cornelius Amory Pugsley Medal by the American Academy of Park and Recreation Administration in national recognition of his service to parks and conservation.



Tom O'Connell, Director, Patuxent/Leetown Center

Tom is Director of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and the Leetown Science Center where he leads a team of interdisciplinary scientists to conduct research to support the management needs of the Department of Interior and other Federal and state agencies. Previously, Tom worked 23 years for the State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) Fisheries Service where he began as a fisheries biologist and served 7 years as the State's Fisheries Director.

Tom grew up in Western New York and obtained a Bachelor of Science degree from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse. Tom has a personal passion and sincerity in protecting natural resources in balance with societal needs using sound science for the enjoyment of today and tomorrow's generations. Tom, his wife and their four children spend as much time as they can outdoors, enjoying fishing, hunting, camping and sports.



John Tautin, former Chief of Bird Banding Lab, PWRC

John Tautin is a retired biologist now living on a farm in Northwestern Pennsylvania, close to where he grew up roaming field and stream. His early interest in fish and wildlife led him to the Pennsylvania State University where in 1969 he earned a Bachelor of Science in Zoology. After serving two years in the US Army and earning a Master of Science in Wildlife Science from Utah State University, John joined the US Fish and Wildlife Service and later the US Geological Survey for a 30 year career in migratory bird conservation, much of it associated with the collection and analysis of bird banding data. In his last position (1989-2003), he was Chief of the US Bird Banding Laboratory at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, located on the Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, Maryland.

In retirement, John has served as Executive Director of the Purple Martin Conservation Association, regional coordinator for Pennsylvania's Second Breeding Bird Atlas, director for the French Creek Valley Conservancy, director of the Crawford County Agricultural Land Preservation Board, and volunteer for many wildlife surveys, including Erie [PA] Bird Observatory's bird banding project.



Tony Celis-Murillo, Acting Chief of Bird Banding Lab, PWRC

Antonio is a Biologist in the Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL), Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. He works with the BBL team to strengthen the data management system for bird banding and band encounters data sets, provide technical assistant to bird banders, support research projects that use banding data, and coordinate efforts in North America and the Western Hemisphere. Antonio also works with specific banding data sets to examine bird population patterns, including bird migration, movements, population dynamics and survival of species of concern. Antonio is also an affiliated researcher at the Illinois Natural History Survey (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign) and a National Geographic Society explorer studying various aspects of avian ecology and behavior with the overarching goal of improving conservation efforts.

Antonio earned a B.S. in Biology from the Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Morelos, México (2002), a Masters from the School of Integrative Biology from the University of Illinois (2008), a Ph.D. in Natural Resources and Environmental Science from the University of Illinois (2015) and held a postdoctoral position at the Illinois Natural History Survey (2016).