

## Martha Waldron

Martha Waldron is an avid ornithologist being an avid birdwatcher, bander, researcher and raptor rehabilitator. Starting as a high school student in the '50's Martha has pursued her interest in birds. She has traveled extensively throughout the United States gathering invaluable insight into bird identification, bird behavior and bird migration. Her expertise led her to participate in scientific censuses of breeding birds, diminishing species, and bird populations.

Martha became a master bird bander in the earlier '70's with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In banding well over 3200 winter migratory purple finches, gold finches, pine siskins and numerous other songbirds. She started banding raptors when the raptor rehabilitation program was in its infancy in 1979. She has banded small raptors, such as screech owls and kestrels, to the largest of our regional raptors, the American Bald Eagle. She banded eagles for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency eagle hacking project at Reelfoot Lake, as well as Mississippi kites, American kestrels, ospreys and peregrine falcons hacked in west Tennessee. The number of raptors banded is over 1700 birds representing 17 species.

Martha's research efforts were instrumental in establishing the Wolf River Wildlife Management Area in southwest Fayette Co. She has published articles in the state ornithological journal, The Migrant, and edited both editions of Seasonal Occurrences of Birds in Shelby County. Martha is a valuable asset to the Rehabilitation Center. She is an excellent bird handler, and she is weary of health concerns for the Center's birds. It also goes without mention that Martha's enthusiasm and diligence are underpinnings for her volunteer work and dedication to the center.