

Wings Over Wetlands Project Made Possible By Entergy



Seventeen individuals attended the first Bird Banding Workshop session held at the Algiers Regional Library.

Woodlands Conservancy, a nonprofit dedicated to preserving and restoring Louisiana's forested wetlands, was one of 17 local organizations funded through Entergy's Environmental Initiatives Fund for 2024. The funding for Woodlands Conservancy's "Wings Over Wetlands" project allowed the hosting of a 2-Day Bird Banding Workshop on Saturday, March 22nd at Algiers Regional Library and Saturday, April 19th at Woodlands Preserve. The workshop, led by Woodlands Conservancy's primary bander, Jed Pitre, offered participants an introduction and up-close look at the science of bird banding. Throughout the day, participants were also able to rotate using sets of binoculars whose purchase was made possible by Entergy to view birds up close to aide in identification.

Bird banding is a critical tool for wildlife research, helping scientists track populations, migration routes, and habitat needs. Since 2013, Woodlands Conservancy has been operating two field stations on a monthly basis in partnership with Barataria-Terrebonne Estuary Program and the Louisiana Bird Observatory. The research pro-

gram uses banding data to compare bird usage of healthy forested wetland areas that have not been restored and those that have had non-native, invasive vegetation removed.

"We were thrilled to partner with Entergy to bring this special opportunity to our community," said Katie Brasted, Executive Director for Woodlands Conservancy. "We hope this workshop deepened participants' appreciation for wild bird conservation and research."

Funding from this partnership also supported the planting of 360 bird-beneficial native plants and shrubs around the banding station's net lanes. These plantings will enhance habitat quality, providing food and shelter for migratory and resident birds while improving the long-term ecological value of the site.

For more information about future bird banding opportunities and other events, visit woodlandsconservancy.org or follow Woodlands Conservancy on Facebook or Instagram.