

# **MEDIA RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 12, 2017**



*Media Note: Please see the map and additional info on <https://www.nipnats.com/motus-tower-project/>*

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## **Putting North Bay on the map for wildlife tracking**

**June 12, 2017 (North Bay, ON)** The Nipissing Naturalists are working with the North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority to raise \$10,000 to install a Motus Wildlife Tracking Tower at the Laurentian Escarpment Conservation Area as part of an international wildlife tracking effort.

The Motus Wildlife Tracking System is a collaborative research network that uses coordinated automated radio telemetry arrays to study movements of small animals. Motus towers are now located throughout North America, and now, into South America and internationally.

“Although there are currently more than 350 Motus towers - each passively receiving tracking information from tagged animals, including birds, bats, and even butterflies - there are still some substantial gaps in coverage throughout northern Ontario, including here in North Bay. The two closest towers, each with a reception field of 15-20 km in diameter, are located in Kawartha Lakes and at the Hilliardton Marsh in New Liskeard,” said Fred Pinto, President of Nipissing Naturalists.

This leaves a large gap in tracking migration routes through the North Bay / Nipissing Region. This area sees much activity through the spring and fall migration seasons.

“Over the past few decades, we’ve seen troubling declines in many species, including shorebirds and aerial insectivores, such as swallows and flycatchers. The Motus wildlife tracking network helps us better understand migration patterns and population health for species who live here year round, and those who travel through,” he added.

The equipment - including a SensorGnome, antennae, connectors and cables - as well as the cost of a tower or pole and installation will cost \$10,000. Contributions of any amount will help ensure North Bay’s contribution to wildlife tracking and research around the world.

“The Nipissing Naturalists are a dedicated group of volunteers who have a passion for stewardship in our community. It’s an ideal collaboration to house the tracking tower at the Laurentian Escarpment Conservation Area and partner in fundraising for its purchase and installation,” said Troy Storms, Supervisor of Field Operations at NBMCA.





















































