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## Wood Thrush Migratory Connectivity Using Motus Tracking Stations

David A. Aborn

*University of Tennessee at Chattanooga*

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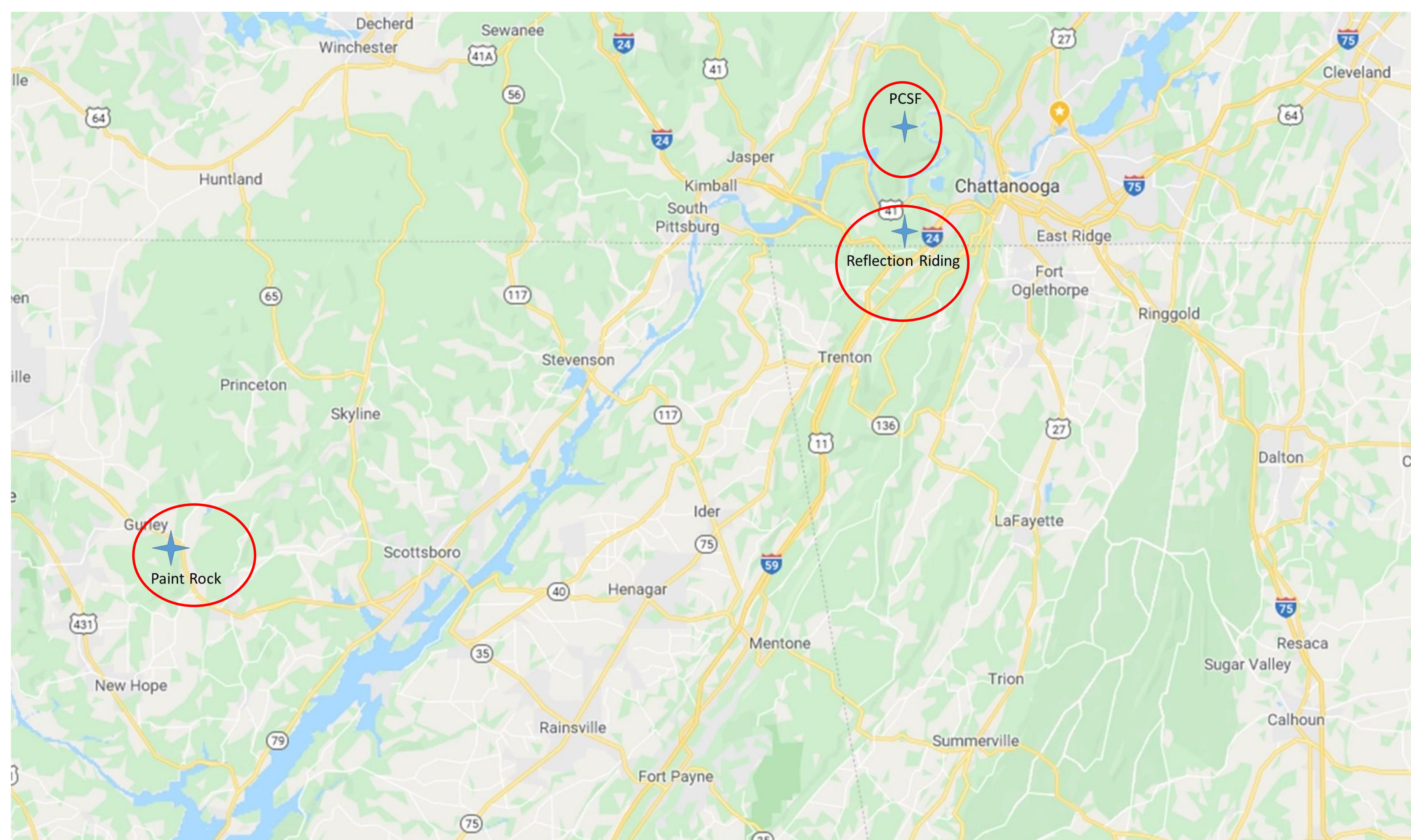
# Studying Migratory Connectivity of Wood Thrushes Using Motus Tracking Stations

David A. Aborn, Ph.D, Dept. of Biology, Geology, and Environmental Science

## SYNOPSIS

- ❖ Much is unknown about movements of migratory birds
- ❖ Such knowledge is needed for proper management and conservation
- ❖ Difficulties following birds *en route* and on wintering grounds
- ❖ Motus automated wildlife tracking stations offer a potential solution
- ❖ Wood Thrushes, a species in decline, may be aided by data gathered from Motus
- ❖ I will compare migratory stopover movements and departure dates from urban vs. less urban areas

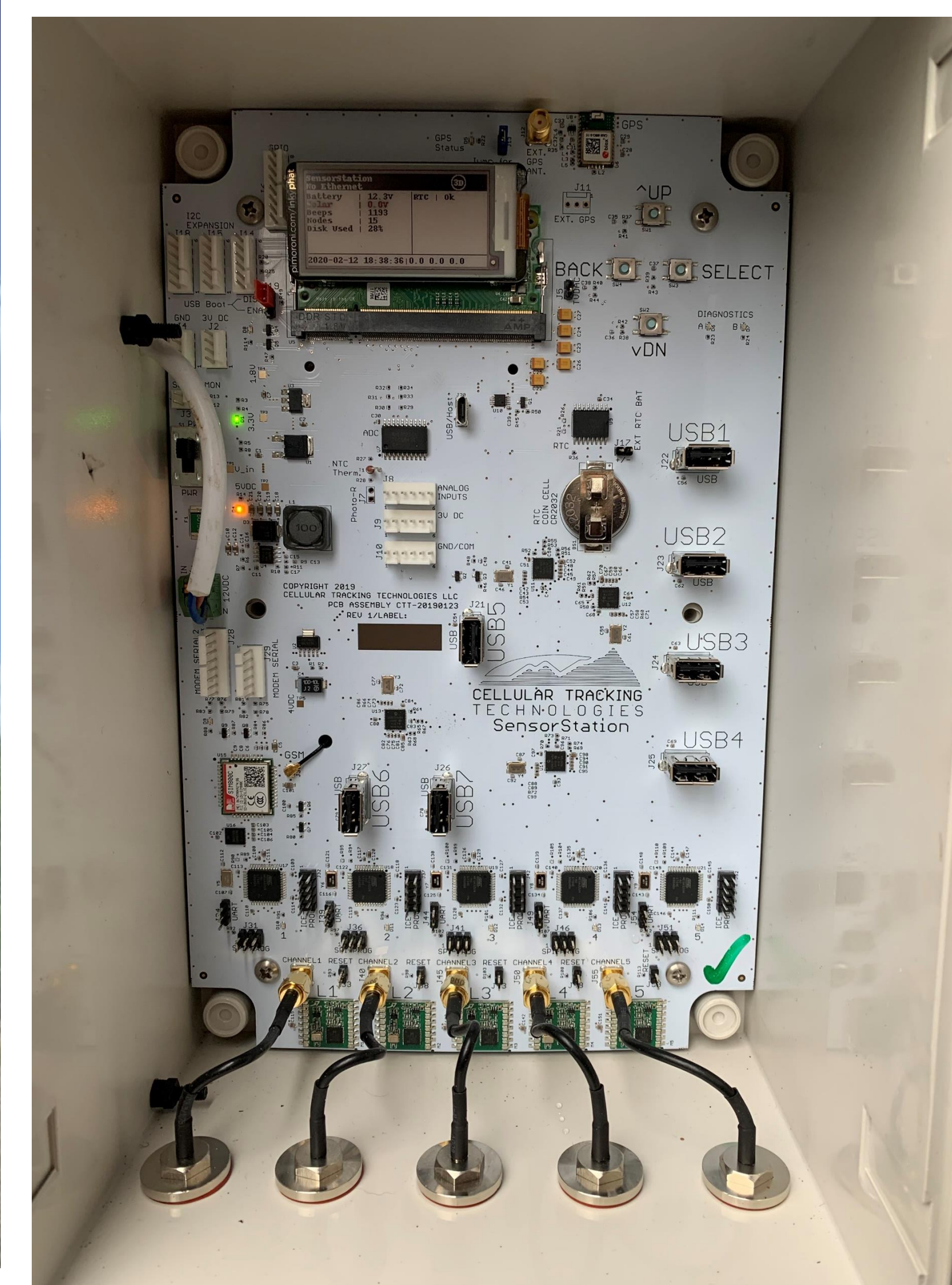
- Two-thirds of birds in North America are migratory
- **Migratory connectivity** = interaction of events occur during the breeding season, *en route*, and on the wintering grounds
- Miniaturization of tracking devices, have made it possible to record the movements of migrants throughout their annual cycle
- Motus is a network of receiving stations that are tuned to a common transmitter frequency, allowing for any animal wearing a Motus tag to be detected by any station
- Gap in Motus coverage in SE United States
- 3 stations; Reflection Riding Arboretum and Nature Center, Prentice Cooper State Forest, Paint Rock Forest Research Center (AL)
- Focal species: Wood Thrush (*Hylocicla mustelina*). Species is declining rangewide, including TN and AL.



Location of Motus Stations for this project



Motus station in White County, TN



Electronics of a Motus station



Wood Thrush



Red-winged Blackbird wearing a Motus tag. Photo courtesy of Cellular Tracking Technologies