

## Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update, July 25-31, 2013

Some how it's the end of July! Time just flies by at the lab. Amazingly, the staff completed the last round of MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) and are about to start fall migration! Although the staff have greatly enjoyed MAPS, which offers a unique opportunity to go explore, hike and work in different areas of the natural area, they are looking forwards to changing programs back to migration. Specifically, they're looking forwards to catching a larger volume and variety of birds.



The staff at LSLBO!

The staff went on a three day exchange from July 22-24 to the Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory (LSLBO) which got them very excited for fall migration! They saw several neat species, such as Canada Warblers, Palm Warblers, Yellow Warblers, American Redstarts, Black-and-white Warblers, Lincoln Sparrows, and Song Sparrows. The staff had the chance to work with the banders there, Nicole and Rich, and to meet Patti, the LSLBO's Executive Director. It was a very valuable experience for the staff. They were given the opportunity to see several species and age classes that they don't usually see at the BBO, to learn from some very experienced bird banders and to see the operations of another bird observatory!

Round 5 of MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) has been a busy one. Six species were caught; Least Flycatchers, Black-capped Chickadees, House Wrens, Hermit Thrushes, Brown-headed Cowbirds, and White-throated Sparrow. A total of 25 birds were caught during the mist netting at Park, Weir and Blab. A Brown-headed Cowbird chick was caught at Blab, which was interesting to see! The breakdown of the captures is show in Table 1. During point counts, lots of birds were recorded too! Tennessee Warblers and Cedar Waxwings have been consistently calling at Weir, and several Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos have been spotted and heard on site! The Long-eared Owls have still been making regular appearances during point counts at Blab, they're lovely to see!

The staff has seen lots of wildlife on site lately. There have been ridiculous amounts of Wood Frogs hopping around as well as several Snowshoe Hares! Stu, the Snowshoe Hare that lives under the lab, has been seen regularly. He has been snacking frequently on the staff's plants in front of the lab.

Due to being rained out for several mornings during the last round of MAPS, several chores have been completed at the lab. Nets have been diligently patched in preparation for fall migration, the papers have been organized into binders, and several afternoons have been spent entering data. The nets have also been set up at the migration net lanes.

The staff was also fortunate enough to conduct some aerial surveys of the Beaverhill Lake bed in a



One of the deeper pools that was observed by the staff during their aerial survey of the Beaverhill Lake bed.

small fixed wing plane, a Cessna 172. Lots of free flowing water and waterfowl was observed from the air! It was very interesting to see. Several patches of the lake bed seem to be waterlogged, and a few deeper pools were also observed in the lake bed. Here's hoping this is the start of the return of the lake!

Thanks to everyone who has been on site and who has been lending a hand! The staff has been very fortunate to have several interns come on site: Steve Andersen, Erin Campbell, Meagan Butler, Emily Cicon, Norma Young, Nicole Boucher, and Michelle Zarowny. Several volunteers have also come out, thanks to Neil Foley, Melissa Chisolm, Meaghan Jacklin, Rachel Keglowsch and Irene Crosland!

Table 1. Results from MAPS banding (Round 5), July 25-31, 2013.

| <b>Species</b>         | <b>Banded</b> | <b>Repeat<sup>1</sup></b> | <b>Return<sup>2</sup></b> | <b>Foreign<sup>3</sup></b> | <b>Other<sup>4</sup></b> | <b>Total</b> |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Black-capped Chickadee | 1             | 0                         | 0                         | 0                          | 0                        | 1            |
| Brown-headed Cowbird   | 1             | 0                         | 0                         | 0                          | 0                        | 1            |
| Hermit Thrush          | 1             | 0                         | 0                         | 0                          | 0                        | 1            |
| House Wren             | 0             | 1                         | 0                         | 0                          | 0                        | 1            |
| Least Flycatcher       | 12            | 4                         | 4                         | 0                          | 0                        | 20           |
| White-throated Sparrow | 1             | 0                         | 0                         | 0                          | 0                        | 1            |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>16</b>     | <b>5</b>                  | <b>4</b>                  | <b>0</b>                   | <b>0</b>                 | <b>25</b>    |

*Net Hours: 180 NH*

*Capture Rate: 13.9 birds/ 100 NH*

- 1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO.
- 2 Banded at the BBO > 90 days prior to recapture (e.g. in a previous year).
- 3 Banded at a location other than the BBO.
- 4 Caught in a mist-net but not banded (e.g. escaped net).