

Weekly Update June 18th to June 28th 2016

We have been very busy this week! We finished our last few days of Migration Monitoring, and squeezed our first two rounds of MAPS into a pretty short time period, made possible by a small amount of overlap between our migration monitoring and MAPS program this year. Our new MAPS stations have been incredibly successful! On one day of overlap between the two programs, our migration Monitoring nets caught 13 birds while one of our new MAPS stations, LILA, caught 51! Until Migration Monitoring starts again these updates will cover a week to a week and a half of time to go along with our rounds of MAPS.

Interesting birds that we have caught, particularly from the new MAPS sites, include Red-winged Blackbirds, Song Sparrows, Cedar Waxwings, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, and Gray Catbirds. All but the Red-winged Blackbird can be caught at our Migration nets as well, but we catch few of them normally. We caught a Philadelphia Vireo which was a bit unusual as well. MAPS did not get all the cool catches either; the most interesting catch of our last day of Migration Monitoring was a couple of Pine Siskins! They have been teasing us with large numbers of them at our feeders for several weeks, but they rarely go near the nets. This species typically does not nest here, but it seems that this year they might be.



Red-winged Blackbird female. Their faces are more typically pinkish to buff coloured.

Our earliest nesters have begun to fledge lately too. We regularly see a big Black-capped Chickadee family at the feeders, and have seen both Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers being fed by parents. These young birds can fly but will still spend a few weeks being fed by parents until they learn to forage on their own. We have also been doing tons of nest searches and finding nests of Robins, Yellow Warblers, House Wrens and Least Flycatchers.

This week we did some work in collaboration with the Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton. They were raising a Back-capped Chickadee clutch whose nest had been damaged in Edmonton. This week we banded and released the young, who are able to feed themselves, into the Beaverhill Natural Area. The hope is that they will have fewer predators such as cats here, as well as a reliable source of food from the bird feeders. Good luck little guys!

A highlight to finish off this week was the banding of a Long-eared Owl nest that staff found on site! After an earlier observed nest had failed, we were crossing our fingers extra for this one. Incidentally, we caught an adult bird in our MAPS mist nets that morning, totally unrelated to the chick banding. We think it might be our biggest bird caught during MAPS for a long time!

In the next weeks we have more chick banding coming up too; our next big adventure aside from continuing MAPS will be our yearly Tree Swallow chick banding. We have a lot of little swallows to band from our nearly 200 nestboxes.

Thanks to Helen, Irene, Victoria, Janos, Victoria, Alyssa, Alyshia, Kayleen and friend, Cala, Rollie and Sonya Perrot, Denise Davis-Taylor, Kim and Jade, Colby and Bianca, Nikki Pascal, Andrew, Geoff and Gemma, and Jeremy. You keep the Observatory running!

Migration Monitoring

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Hairy Woodpecker	1	0	0	0	0	1
Downy Woodpecker	1	0	0	0	0	1
Least Flycatcher	2	6	0	0	0	8
House Wren	1	0	0	0	0	1
Cedar Waxwing	1	0	0	0	0	1
American Robin	2	1	0	0	0	3
Yellow Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	0	0	0	0	1
Warbling Vireo	0	0	1	0	0	1
Clay-coloured Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Tennessee Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Song Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Baltimore Oriole	1	0	0	0	0	1
Pine Siskin	3	0	0	0	0	3
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	18	8	1	0	0	27

Birds Caught 27
 Net Hours 148.75
 Capture Rate: 18.15

Capture Rate was 18.15 birds/100 Net Hours.

MAPS Round 1

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Yellow-bellied						
Sapsucker	2	0	0	0	0	2
Alder Flycatcher	2	0	0	0	0	2
Least Flycatcher	31	0	5	0	2	38
House Wren	4	0	0	0	0	4
Black-capped						
Chickadee	7	1	1	0	0	9
Warbling Vireo	2	0	0	0	0	2
Hermit Thrush	1	1	0	0	0	2
American Robin	2	1	1	0	0	4
Cedar Waxwing	4	1	0	0	0	5
Yellow Warbler	20	1	2	0	0	23
Tennessee Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rose-breasted						
Grosbeak	2	0	0	0	0	2
Clay-coloured Sparrow	2	0	0	0	1	3
Song Sparrow	4	0	0	0	0	4
White-throated						
Sparrow	2	0	0	0	0	2
Gray Catbird	3	0	0	0	0	3
Baltimore Oriole	0	0	1	0	0	1
American Goldfinch	1	0	1	0	0	2
Red-winged Blackbird	6	0	0	0	0	6
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	0	0	0	0	2
Total	98	5	11	0	3	117

Birds Caught 117
 Net Hours 180
 Capture Rate: 65.00

Capture Rate was 65.00 birds/100 Net
 Hours.

MAPS Round 2

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	2	0	0	0	4
Downy Woodpecker	1	0	1	0	0	2
Least Flycatcher	26	8	6	0	0	40
Trail's Flycatcher	2	0	0	0	0	2
Alder Flycatcher	0	1	0	0	0	1
House Wren	0	1	0	0	1	2
Gray Catbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
American Robin	4	0	0	0	0	4
Yellow Warbler	17	5	1	0	1	24
Hermit Thrush	1	1	0	0	0	2
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black-capped Chickadee	1	1	0	0	0	2
Warbling Vireo	5	2	0	0	0	7
Long-eared Owl	1	0	0	0	0	1
Tennessee Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Song Sparrow	3	1	1	0	0	5
Philadelphia Vireo	1	0	0	0	0	1
Black and White Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Baltimore Oriole	1	0	0	0	0	1
Tree Swallow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Red-winged Blackbird	5	0	0	0	0	5
American Goldfinch	2	0	0	0	0	2
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	0	2	0	0	4
Total	78	22	11	0	2	113

Birds Caught 113
 Net Hours 180
 Capture Rate: 62.78

Capture Rate was 62.78 birds/100 Net Hours.

- 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).