



A hatch-year Least Flycatcher, with distinctive buffy wingbars

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update, July 24th to 29th, 2012

The final round of MAPS proved to be a busy one for us this year! We are catching a lot of hatch-year birds in varying states of molting; a few still heavily in pins on their body look pretty dishevelled. A few adults that we have caught are also starting to replace their flight feathers.

All of the young birds moving around now means that we had reasonably high capture rates (by MAPS standards), with 20 birds at BLAB, 19 at PARK and 7 at WEIR. Our morning banding at PARK was particularly exciting as most of the captures were in one net, all at the same time! We

also spotted an early fall visitor at WEIR when a Myrtle Warbler flitted through the willows by our banding spot.

Point counts gave us a chance to observe some of the other wildlife in the natural area. I enjoyed watching a female white-tailed deer and her fawn moving through the meadow, and Amélie found a beautiful Plains Garter Snake by the lab.

The staff were also able to go up to the Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory (LSLBO) for two mornings of banding. Being approximately 300 km north of us, migration was much more evidently underway there, with large flocks of warblers moving down the lakeshore on both mornings. It was great to work with Richard Krikun and Nicole Linfoot, who are both extremely knowledgeable, and to band some different bird species. We caught mostly Swainson's Thrushes and Ovenbirds, but also a handful of Black and White Warblers, American Redstarts and Canada Warblers (of course). I was really happy to be able to band a new species, a very scruffy hatch-year Bay-breasted Warbler.



Meaghan with a Canada Warbler at the LSLBO

Table 1. Results from round five of MAPS banding, July 24th to July 29th, 2012.

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Black-capped Chickadee	3	1	0	0	1	5
Downy Woodpecker	1	0	0	0	0	1
Least Flycatcher	22	2	0	0	2	26
Ovenbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Warbling Vireo	4	0	0	0	0	4
Yellow Warbler	8	0	0	0	0	8
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	40	3	0	0	3	46

Net Hours: 180 NH

Capture Rate: 25.55 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).