

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update, June 1-15, 2012



Magnolia Warbler

Time keeps flying by at the BBO!

Migration monitoring finished up with some fun birds. We both really enjoyed the SY Magnolia Warbler, who really did look like a teenager with his scruffy 'do. The Gray Catbirds were a nice find in the net, it is cool to see that they are breeding onsite again this year. Our most common catch was the Least Flycatcher, who can be heard throughout the natural area, followed by the Baltimore Orioles who are also a common sight around the lab this spring. We had a few un-common birds in the nets as well: Amélie came around the corner just in time to see a Green-winged Teal tumbling out of net 8! By far the favourite catch was the Cedar

Waxwing though, they are such handsome birds and it is really neat to see the "waxy" tips on their wings up close.

A group of Pine Siskins returned to the feeders for a couple of days, and the Baltimore Orioles continue to empty the hummingbird feeder every day or so. They do leave enough to entice the Ruby-throated Hummingbird to return every so often too. We were also really excited to spot a handful of bats hunting in the clearing on a few warmer mornings.

The end of migration monitoring also means the beginning of MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) and a lot of time setting up the three stations (BLAB, PARK and WEIR) in the natural area. There was a lot of deadfall this year, both from over the winter and from the recent winds, to clear out from the net lanes and pathways. The first round of banding and point counts went smoothly; I can say that it is *much* more enjoyable running these stations without the crazy swarms of mosquitoes. Thanks Lisa for covering the BLAB point counts.



Cedar Waxwing wing shot



The BBO was also involved in a Purple Martin geolocator study, being run by the Stutchbury lab at York University. We headed down to Camrose for the day to help trap adults, so that they could be banded and fitted with a geolocator. We spray painted the bands yellow in hopes of making spotting any returning birds easier, as the devices need to be retrieved so that the data they collect can be downloaded. It was great working with the Purple Martin house "landlords", what an amazingly enthusiastic group of people!



The "run-and-cover-the-hole-with-a-paint-roller" trapping technique, and one of the geolocators

Table 1. Results from Migration Monitoring June 1-10, 2012.

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
American Goldfinch	2	0	2	0	0	4
American Robin	1	1	1	0	0	3
Baltimore Oriole	4	9	1	0	0	14
Black-capped Chickadee	0	2	0	0	0	2
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	2	1	0	0	3
Cedar Waxwing	1	0	0	0	0	1
Clay-coloured Sparrow	2	1	0	0	0	3
Gray Catbird	4	0	0	0	0	4
Green-winged Teal	0	0	0	0	1	1
House Wren	4	1	0	0	1	6
Least Flycatcher	9	24	4	0	2	39
Magnolia Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Pine Siskin	1	0	0	0	0	1
Song Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Swainson's Thrush	6	0	0	0	0	6
Yellow Warbler	3	3	2	0	1	9
Warbling Vireo	2	1	1	0	0	4
	41	44	12	0	5	102

Net Hours: 100 NH

Capture Rate: 102.0 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).

Table 2. Results from MAPS banding (Round 1), June 11-15, 2012.

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
American Goldfinch	1	0	0	0	0	1
Baltimore Oriole	2	2	0	0	0	4
Brown-headed Cowbird	4	0	0	0	1	5
Cedar Waxwing	2	0	0	0	0	2
Hairy Woodpecker	0	1	0	0	1	2
Hermit Thrush	0	1	0	0	0	1
Least Flycatcher	19	0	11	0	4	34
	28	4	11	0	6	49

Net Hours: 180 NH

Capture Rate: 27.2 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).