

Weekly Update July 23rd to July 29th, 2016

Another MAPS round done (...well, almost)! We're still flooded out of our Sora Pond site (SOPO), but there may still be hope to band there this round, if water levels decrease. Also, let's not forget that our fully functional MAPS sites are still yielding fantastic birds. LILA, our site adjacent to Lister Lake, even caught a Marsh Wren this week!

While running our MAPS sites, we have also started fall migration monitoring out of the lab, meaning that we have to have awesome volunteers – as, while the staff are capable of a lot, we just can't be two places at once. At our migration sites, we're all getting practiced up on processing the puzzle that is birds in the fall. In the fall, we have to differentiate between birds born this season (hatch year birds) and birds born in previous years (after hatch year birds). Sometimes, this can be easy, but other times it's a bit more challenging. One of the ways we can figure out this problem is by looking at which feathers the bird is replacing. For example, in the photograph below, the Rose-breasted Grosbeak is changing out his old flight feathers (brownish in color) and replacing them with shiny new ones (black in color). We know, by reading Pyle, that only birds born in previous years will be doing this; therefore, we know it's an after hatch year bird. Easy, right?



Rose-breasted Grosbeak wing molt. Photo Credit: E. Cicon

We're also working very hard in preparation for the Young Ornithologists' Workshop happening next week. The organizers have plenty of fantastic presentations and activities planned for the attendees and we can't wait to teach some future biologists the basics of banding.

Thanks to Harsh, Rohit, Sam, Fraser, Stacey, Tanya, Breanne, Martijn, Victoria, Dan, Robin, Geoff, Helen, Olga, Emma, Hazel, Jamie, Alyssa, and Irene for being fantastic visitors and volunteers!

Migration Monitoring

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Alder Flycatcher	1					1
American Goldfinch	2	1				3
Black-capped Chickadee	2	5				7
Cedar Waxwing	3					3
Clay-coloured Sparrow	35	5				40
Common Yellowthroat	1					1
Downy Woodpecker	1					1
Gray Catbird	1					1
House Wren	11				2	13
Least Flycatcher	67	10	3		1	81
Ovenbird	1					1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1					1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2		1			3
Ruby-throated Hummingbird					1	1
Song Sparrow	3				1	4
Swainson's Thrush	3					3
Tennessee Warbler	9	2				11
Warbling Vireo	1	2				3
Yellow Warbler	8					8
Total	152	25	4	0	5	186

Birds Caught	186
Net Hours	477.75
Capture Rate:	38.93

Capture Rate was 38.93 birds/100 Net Hours.

BLAB

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Black-capped Chickadee		5				5
Cedar Waxwing	1					1
House Wren					1	1
Least Flycatcher	6	6				12
Total	7	11	0	0	1	19

Birds Caught 19
Net Hours 60
Capture Rate: 31.67

Capture Rate was 31.67 birds/100 Net Hours.

LILA

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
American Goldfinch	1					1
Cedar Waxwing	1					1
Hermit Thrush	2					2
House Wren	1					1
Least Flycatcher	3					3
Marsh Wren	1					1
Song Sparrow	4					4
Swainson's Thrush	1					1
Tennessee Warbler	2					2
White-throated Sparrow	1	1				2
Yellow Warbler	4				1	5
Total	20	1	0	0	1	23

Birds Caught 23
Net Hours 60
Capture Rate: 38.33

Capture Rate was 38.33 birds/100 Net Hours.