

Weekly Update July 26th to August 8th 2017

This crazy week has encompassed both the start of Migration Monitoring and the end of our successful MAPS season! Our catch rates for both are displayed below.

Our second annual Geoff Holroyd's Young Ornithologists Workshop was a huge success! We were joined for one week by Nataliya, Cole, Isabel, Annalena, Dawson, Megan, and Jon, as they expanded their birding and banding skills. Activities varied substantially across the week, with afternoons spent studying bird skins, learning about Sphinx Moth caterpillars and viewing preserved specimens from around the world, listening to experts speak, and birding as much as possible! Young Ornithologists visited the weir many times and drew a lot of attention from other naturalists by recording species on eBird such as a Ferruginous Hawk over Beaverhill Lake. After a few days of banding, these Young Ornithologists went on a Big Birding Day, and recorded up to 117 species! Awesome! Finally, the Young Ornithologists got to learn about and participate in bird conservation. They toured Phil and Helen Trefry's farm and learned about peregrine falcon rehabilitation and release, and then, in collaboration with WildNorth, they assisted with the release of a number of ducklings ready to make their way in the world. The BBO staff would sincerely like to thank guest speakers including David Lawrie, Gerald Romanchuk, Brenda Dale, Kim Blomme, Geoff Holroyd, and Helen Trefry for making this event such a success. Thanks to Irene Crosland for your expert mycological tour, and dessert, and special thanks to Helen for preparing all the food! Yum!



Young Ornithologists 2017, with BBO staff and volunteers. Photo by Helen Trefry.

This week was full of cool bird surprises. Perhaps our most unexpected surprise was that American Coot chicks seem to be getting very adventurous. We found two big Coot chicks on two different days that had made their way to the clearing in front of the BBO lab. Both times, we carried them back out to the weir where there is food and cover to be found. Good luck little guys!



Meghan with young American Coot. Photo by Sara Pearce Meijerink.

We are eager to go with BBOs education program for the winter! BBO has been extremely lucky to receive the Community Environment Action Grant to fund our winter programs. Changing climates are unfortunately a negative impact on bird populations and survival. Conservation of birds is complicated by the fact that they migrate long distances, and an unfortunate side effect is that it is more difficult to figure out how problems like climate change influences them. That makes research by BBO and education of the public even more important, and we will continue to do both to the best of our abilities.



Staff photo after receiving the Community Environment Action Grant.

As we continued banding our Migration Monitoring program after the Young Ornithologists left, we had a very neat capture on a slow day. What seemed at first to be an ordinary Yellow Warbler was actually pretty extraordinary! The band number was very unfamiliar, and after looking the bird up on our data entry program, we discovered that this female Yellow Warbler had been banded 10 years and 2 days before being re-caught at the banding station! She returned for her band-iversary. It is rare but not impossible for small warblers to live such long lives. The oldest Yellow Warbler on record was 11 years old and was banded in New York.



10 year old Yellow Warbler. Photo by Luke Zhou.

Finally, Kevin Methuen represented BBO at the release of a new “Barn Owl” vodka at Hansen Distillery with our juvenile Saw-whet Owl Ricki. They are raising money with the sales of their new vodka to help support Ricki. They are aiming to raise enough money to feed Ricki for a year. Buy some to help feed Ricki!

Thank you to our awesome volunteers: Jeremy, Luke, Alyshia, Helen, Geoff, Delanie, Amelia, Steve, Cassandra and Cole, Zach, and Irene. Special thanks to Geoff and Helen for organizing and running the Young Ornithologists Workshop this year!

Migration Monitoring

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Least Flycatcher	51	14	0	0	2	67
Trail's Flycatcher	5	0	0	0	0	5
Black-capped Chickadee	6	9	1	0	0	16
House Wren	12	3	0	0	0	15
Philadelphih Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Warbling Vireo	3	1	0	0	0	4
Cedar Waxwing	8	2	0	0	0	10
Yellow Warbler	16	1	1	0	1	19
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	0	1	0	0	0	1
Downy Woodpecker	1	1	0	0	0	2
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	4	1	0	0	0	5
Clay-coloured Sparrow	5	0	0	0	0	5
Tennessee Warbler	28	9	0	0	0	37
Ovenbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Savannah Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Black and White Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Common Yellowthroat	1	0	0	0	0	1
Song Sparrow	3	0	0	0	0	3
Lincoln Sparrow	2	0	0	0	0	2
Red-winged Blackbird	3	0	0	0	0	3
American Goldfinch	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	152	43	2	0	3	200

Birds Caught 200
 Net Hours 594.75
 Capture Rate: 33.63

- 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).

MAPS

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Least Flycatcher	17	2	3	0	3	25
Trail's Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	0	1
Black-capped Chickadee	5	3	0	0	0	8
House Wren	2	0	0	0	2	4
Hairy Woodpecker	0	0	1	0	0	1
Warbling Vireo	7	0	0	0	0	7
Marsh Wren	1	0	0	0	0	1
Yellow Warbler	13	2	1	0	0	16
Clay-coloured Sparrow	5	0	0	0	1	6
Tennessee Warbler	3	0	0	0	2	5
Song Sparrow	2	0	0	0	0	2
Lincolns Sparrow	1	0	0	0	1	2
Gray Catbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
White-throated Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	59	7	5	0	9	80

Birds Caught 80
 Net Hours 180
 Capture Rate: 44.44

Capture Rate was 44.44 birds/100 Net
 Hours.

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- 4 Caught in a mist-net but not banded (e.g. escaped net).