

Weekly Update: July 22- 31

This is the last weekly update for the summer M.A.P.S program. As of July 31st this program will be complete and Crystal, Tessa, and I will begin to tackle the fall migrants on August 1st. The past week was filled with a few highlights and many, many mosquitoes. But don't let this stop you from coming out and visiting the birds and us. A little extra bug repellent will do!

The following chart is a summary of the birds caught during this last M.A.P.S rotation. As you can see, the Least Flycatchers are out (as always) and the young downy woodpeckers are making their first appearances.

Species	# New Birds	# Recaptures	# Recoveries	Total
Least Flycatcher	15	6	4	25
Song Sparrow	0	1	0	1
Downy Woodpecker	1	0	0	1
Warbling Vireo	1	0	0	1
Total	17	7	4	28

We started off the week with a point count, since the wind was a bit gusty. But the 21st was an eventful day. After the point counts, we ventured out with Chuck and Lisa Priestley and Anne, a visitor from California, to band three young Swainson's Hawks. These feisty young ones were almost ready to fledge, so we got to the nest just in time. It was great to hold the young raptors in hand. So much different than the songbirds!

Also, Theodore moved out. I realize we mention Theo quite often in our updates, but that's only because he's become part of the BBO family. Crystal and I said our goodbyes and then little Theo was set free in a lovely patch of spruce. We miss Theo's chatter, but we definitely do not miss him getting into our food!

An eerie silence has fallen over the swallow grid; however, we managed to find one nest box with young that had not yet fledged. Upon banding one of the nestlings, it flew away from the box with the moral support of a few adult tree swallows flying close by. Over the next few days we will check the boxes for late nesters or pairs that are trying to nest again.

The biggest highlight of this past week, for me anyway, was seeing a female Mourning Dove on her nest. Over a week and a half ago, Tessa found an egg in a small depression in the ground. Unfortunately whenever we tried to catch a glimpse of the adult bird, it would flush off the nest. We speculated as to what

species the egg was from and since few song birds nest on the ground we were a little perplexed. However, Crystal found a description of a Mourning Dove nest and egg in a field guide and we had heard a Mourning Dove (MODO) calling in that area, so we put two and two together and decided that the MODO was our best guess. On the 24th I got an amazing look at the female MODO sitting on her nest confirming our guess. Hopefully we can band the single nestling before it fledges.

Well, that's all the news from the BBO. We are looking forward to fall migration, as well our Northern Saw-whet Owl migration monitoring program begins on August 16th. It is going to be an exciting month! Come on out and visit any time, as we have said many times before, we enjoy the company.

Cheers,
Jill, Crystal and Tessa