

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update, July 1-10, 2013

Some how it's already July! The time just flies by at the lab. And it seems that summer is finally here. The weather has been unbelievably hot. On July 1st, Canada Day, the temperature reached 34.7 °C in the shade! On July 2nd, the temperature got even hotter! It was 38.2 °C in the shade by 1 o'clock! At this point, the staff decided it would be a good idea to retreat to air conditioning, to escape the soaring temperatures, and went and did some computer work in the Tofield library and waited for the temperature to go down before banding some nest box chicks.

The staff have banded several chicks from nest boxes over the last few days; they have banded House Wrens, Mountain Bluebirds and Tree Swallows. So far 419 chicks have been banded on site, with plenty more to band! The House Wrens, which nest a bit later, still need to be banded. Only to very first House Wren clutches have been banded so far. There are also plenty of Tree Swallows and Mountain Bluebirds that have second clutches or that are late nesters that will need to be banded in the next week or so.

The staff have also checked some American Kestrel nest boxes. The staff were invited to go check some boxes with Al Degroot and banded 18 chicks!

Round 3 of MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) has been a quiet one. Only American Robins, and Least Flycatchers were caught. A total of 12 birds were caught during the mist netting at Park, Weir and Blab. The breakdown of the captures is show in Table 1. During point counts, however, lots of birds were recorded! Tennessee Warblers have been consistently calling at Weir, and several Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos have been spotted and heard on site! The Long-eared owls have also been making regular appearances during point counts. Some of the young have fledged and were observed perched in trees near the nest during point counts.



Amélie with a 22 day-old male American Kestrel chick that she banded while checking nest boxes with Al.



Kevin banding chicks with two volunteers, Julia and Michael.

The staff has also been busy doing several other chores, such as: patching mist nets, doing data entry, and maintaining the lab. Amélie was also invited to give a talk at the Camrose Wildlife Stewardship Society (CWSS). She gave a talk about owls, and they went on a virtual owl prowl and learned to identify several species of owls, and learned the kinds of owl projects that the BBO is involved with or runs. The staff returned to Camrose a few days later to assist with their Purple Martin Geolocator project, which was a blast!

While the staff were in Camrose and taking some well deserved days off, Geoff Holroyd graciously

installed a rain water barrel system that gravity feeds rainwater into a tap located on the kitchen sink! He also helped organize the shed and the lab! Al Degroot also came out and installed a screen door, and trim around some of the windows. The staff are unbelievably thankful, the lab is shaping up nicely! It's very exciting to see how far the lab has come in the last year or so!

Thanks to everyone who has been on site and who has been lending a hand! The staff has been very fortunate to have several interns come on site: Sian Ford, Alexandria Tiffinger, Steve Andersen, Carly Lynch, Erin Campbell, Meagan Butler, Emily Cicon, Rebecca Himsl, Michelle Zarowny, and Cassandra Durocher. Several volunteers have also come out, thanks to Neil Foley, Julia Jackson, and Michael Donnelly. Thanks also to two very hard working board members: Geoff Holroyd and Al Degroot, who have helped an incredible amount with lab maintenance.

Table 1. Results from MAPS banding (Round 3), July 1-5, 2013.

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
American Robin	3	0	0	0	0	3
Least Flycatcher	5	1	3	0	0	9
Total	8	1	3	0	0	12

Net Hours: 180 NH

Capture Rate: 6.6 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).