

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update, June 20-29, 2014



Amélie with one of the Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.

Our MAPS program continues! This round of MAPS started with a bang and it continued for the entire round! On our first morning of round three, we caught two Rose-breasted Grosbeaks! The first was a second year male, and the second was an after second year male. It offered a really great opportunity to compare the two plumages! The second year male had very distinctive contrasting greater covers and primary covers. The primary coverts were brown, and the more recently replaced greater covers were significantly darker, and were black.

we caught were Brown-headed Cowbird, Clay-colored Sparrow, Downy Woodpecker, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and (last but not) Least Flycatcher.

We caught a total of 27 birds, the highest total for MAPS so far this year. The species

This round we also worked on banding Tree Swallow chicks, both in the grids on site, and the boxes that line the road on the way into the lab. So far 183 chicks have been banded. The banding of Tree Swallow chicks should continue over the next couple weeks, and House Wren chick banding will start just as Tree Swallow chick banding starts to wind down.

We have also set up new bat boxes this year, and have been monitoring five bat boxes this year. We have observed little brown bats using one of the boxes closest to the lab. In addition to bat boxes, several duck boxes have been set up, as well as a third House Wren grid across the Weir. In the upcoming weeks a fourth and final House Wren grid will be set up across the Weir, further East from the latest grid.

Another project we have been working on is a collaborative project with the Bayne lab at the University of Alberta. We have been setting up Automatic Recording Units (ARUs) around the natural area to analyze the effect of edges on songbird populations, and to determine the



Tree Swallow geolocator. (Pencil included for scale)

density of Yellow Rails in the natural area.

Geoff Holroyd and Helen Trefry have been leading the Tree Swallow geolocator project again this year. They recovered 13 of the 40 geolocators that were deployed last year, and they deployed another 30 this year!

The nest search effort has remained high, with 53 nests found so far. Some of the highlights have included a Downy Woodpecker nest, a House Wren nest in the back of the lab, and the Ruby-throated Hummingbird nest of course!

Another busy round of MAPS! Thanks to everyone who came out and helped us with our various ongoing projects!

Table 1. Results from MAPS round 1, June 20-29, 2014.

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	0	1	0	0	3
Clay-colored Sparrow	0	1	0	0	0	1
Downy Woodpecker	0	0	1	0	0	1
Least Flycatcher	10	3	7	0	0	20
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2	0	0	0	0	2
Total	14	4	9	0	0	27

Net Hours: 180 NH
Capture Rate: 15.0 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).