

## Weekly update July 18<sup>th</sup> to July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The last round of MAPS has arrived. With vegetation measurements complete, the staff are cleaning up from MAPS and preparing for Fall Migration! Setup for Migration Monitoring went well; all 13 nets are in good condition and ready to run.

With the help of a number of volunteers, we finished up our vegetation measurements this week. These measurements are designed to measure habitat that birds of various types might use. This includes tree species and density, crown closure, understory plant cover, and shrub cover. We surveyed a ~500m<sup>2</sup> area around the lab, including the area that our nets are in. This survey will allow us to document the change in vegetation as shrubs and trees begin to spread into the area previously occupied by Beaverhill Lake. Hopefully we can learn a lot from this data and we will better understand the changing ecosystem that the BBO is in!



One of the measurements taken for our vegetation plots is percent cover of canopy. This affects the light levels available for understory plants that grow underneath the trees.

In addition, we have been pleasantly surprised to find our 6 new bat boxes have been very successful in attracting the little critters! Only two boxes have not yet been occupied, and we find at least 1-2 bats every time we check the boxes. These bats can be seen flying in the clearings around the lab only after it is fully dark, and they fly almost too fast to be seen.

The favourite of this round of MAPS was a hatch year White-breasted nuthatch. We caught 4 species on the last day of MAPS: White-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, Warbling Vireo, and of course Least Flycatcher. With such relatively high diversity, perhaps it is a sign of things to come? We welcome fall migration and say farewell to MAPS!!!

Thank you to Robin Moore and family, Verena and Aurora, Danielle and Cala, Kaeleigh Stinnissen, and Megan for visiting us and we hope to see you again during Fall Migration!

	Banded	Repeats	Returns	Other	Total
Least Flycatcher	17	7			<b>24</b>
Hermit Thrush	1				<b>1</b>
White-breasted Nuthatch	1				<b>1</b>
Warbling Vireo	1				<b>1</b>
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				1	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>28</b>

Net hours = 36

Capture rate: = 78 birds/100 net hours