

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Weekly Update June 27th-July 3rd, 2015

This week marks the wrap-up of our third round of MAPS (wow, it sure does go by quickly!), which means only two more rounds until we start up fall migration monitoring. As per usual, we were all treated to three days of Least Flycatchers; however, we also had some fun finds this round, with a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and a hatch year American Robin at our Weir station. We've slowly been noticing the hatch year birds starting to emerge, with Black-capped Chickadees earlier in June, and now American Robins. On top of these cool catches, we also caught (for the second MAPS round in a row) a Least Flycatcher that was banded in Minatitlan, Veracruz, Mexico back in 2013. The staff were a little confused by this bird's odd band number, as it had a website listed on the band instead of our standard number system; however, we learned that there is no centralized banding office in Mexico, like we have in Canada, so banding stations personalize their own bands. This is the second year the BBO has caught this bird, and it just goes to show how resilient these little guys can be.

For me, this week was the end of a House Wren research project that I've been working on for the past two weeks. The idea is to create a House Wren aging guide for future BBO staff and interns, not to mention other bird banders, to assist them in choosing the best date to band this species. The project involved daily checks on House Wren nest boxes in order to get photos and measurements of the chicks at their different ages. As the nestlings grow, they also become less and less cooperative, creating a bit of a challenge for myself and the various staff and volunteers who agreed to provide an extra set of hands. Challenging as it was, it was an amazing experience to watch how quickly the nestlings grow and change.



A side-by-side comparison of a House Wren nestling a day after it hatched and 11 days after hatch. Photo credit: E. Cicon

Thanks to all the volunteers, visitors, and interns who stopped by the lab this week, including: Nikki Paskar, Steve Anderson, Alyssa Bohart, Suzanne Cicon, Allyn Esau, Cala Jorgensen, Danielle Simard, Drew Priddle, Martijn Dieleman, Steve, Brie, and Lindsay.

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Goldfinch	3					3
American Robin	3					3
Brown-headed Cowbird	1		1			2
House Wren	1	1				2
Least Flycatcher	17	24	7	1		49
Tree Swallow	1					1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1					1
Total	27	25	8	1	0	61

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).

Net Hours: = 38 NH

Capture Rate: = 161 birds/ 100 NH