

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Weekly Update June 6th-12th, 2015

Another noteworthy week at the BBO as we finished up our spring migration monitoring program for the 2015 season. Altogether, we captured and assessed 792 birds...that's a lot of banding! Although we were all hoping to reach 800, 792 is still an impressive number and we are all flabbergasted at our luck with only having missed two days of banding because of poor weather. In total, we caught 45 different bird species, including a Wood Thrush and a Chestnut-sided Warbler (both are not common to the BBO area) – not to mention a striking Blue-headed Vireo and a Sharp-shinned Hawk!

As migration monitoring comes to an end, our MAPS program (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) begins. Instead of focusing on capturing migrating birds, MAPS is more concerned with birds that have set-up their territories in our area for the breeding season. Mist-netting is still used (in addition to point count surveys), however, we shift the locations of our nets to different sites around the natural area. By far, the most common species caught is the Least Flycatcher – giving us so much practice with that species, that we practically have that section of Pyle (the bander's reference book) memorized already!



Least Flycatcher – Photo Credit E. Cicon

Additionally, all of our internship programs are up and running. These internships give post-secondary students a chance to get experience in a future career field with some part-time work. This year we have many keen interns working on Tree Swallow and House Wren nest box projects, breeding bird grids, and butterfly surveys.



House Wren nest - Photo Credit E. Cicon

Thanks to Geoff & Gemma, Verena, Robert, Ashley & Scott, Danielle Simard, Cala, Jorgensen, Steve Anderson, Alyssa Bohart, Gwen Roy, Victoria Hansen (and family!), Nikki Paksar, Helen & Jackie, Irene & Tessa, Elly Knight, Dan, Mellissa, and all other interns, visitors, and volunteers for stopping by the lab this week. A special thanks to Jim Beck for filling in as bander-in-charge while our leader was taking some much needed R&R!

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Robin	1	1				2
Alder Flycatcher	3					3
American Goldfinch	3					3
Black-capped Chickadee	1					1
Brown-headed Cowbird			2			2
Clay-colored Sparrow	5	1				6
House Wren	4	4				8
Least Flycatcher	28	9	16		1	54
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2					2
Ruby-throated Hummingbird					1	1
Warbling Vireo	1					1
Yellow Warbler	6	6	6			18
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1				1
Total	54	21	24	0	2	102

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: = 108 NH

Capture Rate: = 94 birds/ 100 NH