

Weekly Update April 9th to April 15th 2016

This week unfortunately we hit a bit of a cold streak. No snow, but many mornings well below freezing, and some rain and lots of wind. Because of this, catch rates were pretty low. Things began to pick up a bit by the end of the week, and we feel pretty hopeful for next week, with a forecasted high of 25, in April!

In terms of banding it was interesting to catch our first female Juncos. At first we observed only older males, then we began seeing and catching our younger males, and now the females are coming through as well. We are seeing these birds near our feeders and throughout the natural area in flocks of around seven birds, and we have been periodically catching them.

Despite the weather, migration has been good on some fronts. Geese, swans, and cranes are still flying overhead, and midweek, we experienced our first major Snow Goose migration event with over 7000 Snow Geese flying over the lab! The largest flock was flying continuously over the lab for five minutes. We have also noticed a large influx of American Robins in the Natural Area, with many flying around in flocks of ten. A Song Sparrow was seen near the feeders, so far only heard out by the visitor parking lot. Then, at the end of the week, the first Tree Swallow was seen and heard overhead!



Two American Robins in a tree.

It has been a good week for keeping the BBO ship shape. While not banding we have cleared Harrier Highway of fallen trees for emergency vehicle access, we have replaced equipment that is no longer functional, inventoried owl nets for the fall, checked owl boxes in the natural area, replaced guidelines and adjusted sagging nets, and ensured we are up to date on data entry.

Over the course of the week we have found chickadees and woodpeckers excavating nests, and observed Hairy Woodpeckers mating! Chickadees like most small cavity nesters cannot fully excavate their own nests, but are able to modify existing cavities on a small scale to suit their needs.

On the occasional day where it got up to 15 degrees or above in the morning, insects have been coming out in spades. Ladybugs, spiders, flies, and other bugs would all break out at once to take advantage of the sunshine.

Thanks to our visitors and volunteers who came out this week. We appreciate your help. Irene, Jeremy the Pigeon Racer, Helen and Jackie, Jeff Manchuk, Rena and Fraser Methuen, and Haeli came out to see us this week.

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Black-capped Chickadee	1	2	1	0	0	4
American Tree Sparrow	5	1	0	0	0	6
Dark-eyed Junco	4	0	0	0	0	4
Total	10	3	1	0	0	14

Net Hours 240.5

Capture Rate: 5.82

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birds/100 Net Hours.

- 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).