

Weekly Update June 4th to June 10th 2016

We started this week off with a bang; our annual event the Big Birding Breakfast! It was everything we hoped for, with about 70 people in attendance it was a great success. We caught some fun birds for our visitors during the event, and when we closed the nets in the later morning due to wind, we still had a few surprises up our sleeves. The event was perfectly timed for us to band two nestboxes for our guests: one Mountain Bluebird and one White-breasted Nuthatch, both from our House Wren and Tree Swallow nestbox grids. In between we led two nature walks to ensure that guests fully enjoyed the beauty of nature while they were out with us.



A White-breasted Nuthatch chick, probably just over 10 days old.

This week migration has been petering off, but we have still caught some fun species. A couple of Cedar Waxwings were a lot of fun, with the waxy tips on some of their flight feathers. A couple of late Mourning Warblers were pretty fun, and a few Gray Catbirds as well. The Gray Catbird is named for the catlike meow sound that they make. This week, we even caught a pair of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds! It is hard to imagine how such a tiny bird could even survive. We cannot currently band hummingbirds because you need a special permit, but it is possible we will start to receive training this summer. This couple were quickly set free.

Another big job we have undertaken this week is a major effort to close two of our MAPS stations and open two new ones. We have three MAPS stations and we operate 10 nets at each in the middle of the summer. The aim is to capture breeding birds, and then their offspring, to measure productivity of each species in the area. We are moving two of the stations because when they were first set up nearly 30 years ago, they were in edge willow habitat, and they are now in mature aspen forest. By moving the stations back to edge habitat we will catch more birds and different species. One station will remain the same so we still document species in the forest. This week we had the difficult job of clearing small patches of willows to make space for the new net lanes. They are looking pretty good!

In terms of other wildlife, we had an incredible volume of snowshoe hares around site this week. We've also seen a lot of deer – unfortunately one went straight through one of our nets. Thankfully the damage could be repaired. Phew!

Thank you to our awesome volunteers and interns: Megan, Nikki, Chris, Irene, Geoff, and our other interns.

Thank you as well to everyone who visited us this week including: Rebecca, Eli, Deanna, and Sylus, and Laurie, Jonathan, and Logan. A special thanks to all who came out for the Big Birding Breakfast!!

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Hairy Woodpecker	1	0	0	0	1	2
Downy Woodpecker	1	0	0	0	0	1
Alder Flycatcher	4	0	0	0	0	4
Trail's Flycatcher	4	0	0	0	0	4
Least Flycatcher	13	15	1	0	3	32
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	0	0	0	0	2	2
Black-capped Chickadee	0	3	0	0	0	3
House Wren	8	5	0	0	2	15
Swainsons Thrush	5	0	0	0	0	5
American Robin	1	0	1	0	0	2
Cedar Waxwing	4	0	0	0	0	4
Warbling Vireo	1	2	0	0	0	3
Yellow Warbler	8	6	0	0	0	14
Magnolia Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Mourning Warbler	3	0	0	0	0	3
Common Yellowthroat	1	0	0	0	0	1
Clay-coloured Sparrow	16	2	0	0	2	20
White-throated Sparrow	1	0	0	0	1	2
Dark-eyed Junco	1	0	0	0	0	1
American Goldfinch	4	0	0	0	0	4
Gray Catbird	2	0	0	0	0	2
Total	79	33	2	0	11	125

Birds Caught	125
Net Hours	368.5
Capture Rate:	33.92

Capture Rate was 33.92 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).