

Weekly Update May 7th to May 13th 2016

Banding has yielded a couple of new species this week, including a Swainson's Thrush, Orange-crowned Warbler, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Clay-coloured Sparrow, and Least Flycatcher. The Least Flycatchers are our most common bird and it is great to see them back. Weather has been fairly uncooperative this week, and banding has not taken off like we might expect. Wind and cool starts have kept the nets shut most of the week, and even when they are open they have not caught much. We have at least had a nice diversity of birds this week, despite the low catch rate. In a typical year migration would start to pick up in the second week of May, but this is not a typical year. We will have to wait and see when and how busy spring migration of songbirds will be this year. Maybe our birds are migrating straight over, or the bulk have not arrived yet. Hope to see them soon!



The first Orange-crowned Warbler of the year, a male.

The staff got some solid practise in for their birdathon coming up next week. We will be raising money for the BBO and birding for 24 hours on May 23rd. We got some practise for this birdathon this week with Irene the volunteer. It was her birthday, and she took us birding all around the Tofield area. We saw American Avocets, Willets, Gadwalls, and more. We'll be ready when that birdathon comes around!

This weekend included an extra special event; not only was it mothers day on Sunday (and we got a few mothers out), but it was also time to band our nesting Saw-whet Owl chicks. We have been checking on this nest only periodically in order to not disturb the nest or draw predators in, and so on banding day we were excited to find that all six young had hatched! They were sleepy from being woken up, but were very cooperative and soon were back in their nest safe and

sound. Within the next week or so they will grow their flight feathers and leave the nest. After that they will spend a short time as a fledgling, unable to fly and still dependant on the parents to bring food, but out and exploring their environment. We hope to see these owls again during Saw-whet Owl banding in the fall.

Staff have also got some lab maintenance done this week. We got our rain barrel water running for the season, after repairing and replacing the taps. We have worked on some major projects, including inventorying and repairing mist nets, putting up mesh around that lab to keep out resident animals, and dismantling our ancient pigeon cage, used to hold pigeons to be used as raptor bait in raptor traps. It has not been used in years and no longer has a purpose here. We also prepared the House Wren nestbox grid for the arrival of the House Wrens. This included a neat surprise; a White-breasted Nuthatch nest in one of the boxes!!! This was a pretty rare treat.

Thank you volunteers: Sara P-M, Chris Vervoorst, Loreley Caps, Irene and parents, Geoff and Gemma, Carissa and Michelle Wasyliw, Laurie Hunt and family, Jason, Azim, Jay, Emily, Jordan, Martjin, Megan, and Steve.

A big thank you to our visitors as well; Peter and Jerry and others.

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Least Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	0	1
Black-capped Chickadee	0	1	1	0	0	2
Hermit Thrush	0	1	0	0	0	1
Swainsons Thrush	8	0	0	0	0	8
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	0	0	0	0	1
American Robin	1	0	0	0	1	2
Orange-crowned Warbler	3	0	0	0	0	3
Myrtle Warbler	3	0	0	0	0	3
Clay-coloured Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
White-throated Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	19	2	1	0	1	23

Birds Caught 23
 Net Hours 172.25
 Capture Rate: 13.35

Capture Rate was 13.35 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).