

Weekly Update April 16th to April 22nd 2017

This week, we were able to open nets for the first time! Unfortunately, we were only able to open on Thursday, as the weather continues to thwart us this year! This week temperatures around zero and rain and snow continued to prevent us opening nets, except on one day. While waiting staff finished checking that all our Tree Swallow boxes are in good repair for their arrival, and did two daily censuses to keep track of new arrivals.

The first and only day of banding this week caught five chickadees and sixteen Slate-coloured Juncos! There were two very interesting individuals. One was a Junco with an old healed broken leg, and was missing his toes on that leg. Because this injury was old and healed, and nothing was wrong with the other leg, this bird could still be banded on the uninjured leg. The staff usually see a couple birds with deformities including missing or broken legs, and these individuals seem to still do very well.

The very first bird caught this year was a recaptured Black-capped Chickadee. While this may not seem to be the most exciting, the individual that was caught was around the sixth last bird banded in the fall. This tells us that Chickadees really do hang around their territory all year!



Black-capped Chickadee banded last fall.

