

Weekly Update July 9th to July 19th 2017

Round four of MAPS is complete! This round there was a lot of cool captures including a Baltimore Oriole fledgling, lots of young Yellow-Bellied Sapsuckers, Least Flycatchers, Swamp Sparrows, Yellow Warblers, and the first Marsh Wren babies of the season! A total of 134 birds were captured and the weather cooperated for all three banding days, which was a lovely change of pace.

The BBO staff spent two and a half days participating in a Purple Martin Marathon this week! Along with Geoff Holroyd, Glen and Pam Havenegaard, their son Carson, Stephanie and Frida, they travelled around central Alberta, going to landowner's properties, banding their Purple Martin colonies. With the assistance of trap doors, lots of patience, plus scopes/binoculars, they selectively targeted previously banded adult to get the recapture data from them. Afterwards, all martin houses were lowered to the ground and then all nestlings of a suitable age were banded.

Not only did BBO staff and crew band at private properties, but they also went out to the Sherwood Park Fish & Game Association Shooting Range and the Ellis Bird Farm! At the Ellis Bird Farm, they met up with Myrna Pearman, Alishia Richie, Claudia, Sarah, and Jordan who had all the houses preset with trap doors and as one, after the sun had set, they went out and cut all the lines holding the doors open! Lots of fun bird banding in the dark were had by all! Overall, an estimated 500+ birds were banded in those 2.5 days.

Kevin and Luke spent an afternoon at Elk Island along with Rickie, the Northern Saw-Whet Owl, promoting the BBO and attending a National Park's Day event.



Purple Martin Female



The lost Pied-Billed Grebe chick that was trying to befriend some cattle

Forty to fifty American White Pelicans were spotted on Lister Lake this week, which was very exciting to see! As well, Luke and Kevin rescued a Pied-Billed Grebe chick that had wandered off into the pasture and was trying to make friends with the cows. The cattle were indeed very interested in the little fellow, almost trampling him with their curiosity, but thankfully he was safely relocated back to Lister Lake before anything bad could occur.

Thanks to all the volunteers that came out this round! It was great to have all the extra hands on deck! Jeremy, Myla-Rae, Brandi and Maya came out to work on their internship projects, Trevor Gillis and Irene Crossland helped us loads with banding, Helmi and her friend were a great surprise and pleasure to have once more, and it was so much

fun helping to teach Amelia about bird banding! We also had a family of 5 come through for a day trip which was lovely, and the kids even got to watch some bird banding. So thanks everyone for your hard work, you help keep the BBO going and we couldn't be more grateful!

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
American Robin	2					2
Black-capped Chickadee	3	1				4
Brown-headed Cowbird	2					2
Cedar Waxwing	10					10
Clay-coloured Sparrow	20	1			1	22
Common Yellowthroat	3					3
Downy Woodpecker	1					1
Gray Catbird	2	1				3
House Wren	1					1
Least Flycatcher	30	5	4		1	40
Marsh Wren	4					4
Song Sparrow	2	1			1	4
Swainson's Thrush	1					1
Swamp Sparrow	5	1				6
Tennessee Warbler	10					10
Warbling Vireo	1					1
White-throated Sparrow	1					1
Yellow Warbler	7	6	1			14
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	4				5
Total	106	20	5	0	3	134

Birds Caught 134

Net Hours 180

Capture Rate: 74.44444

Capture Rate was 74.44 birds/100 Net Hours.