

Weekly Update May 29th to June 4th 2018

We had the busiest day of spring migration 2018 to date on the 31st of May, with 60 birds caught that morning. We saw a great diversity of species that morning as well, including many warbler species and the first Red-eyed Vireo of the year. However, the rest of this week has been relatively slow. A quick look at the numbers from last few years shows that we are catching far fewer birds this spring than we were catching during migration monitoring in previous springs.

Migration seems to be slowly drawing to a close as birds are beginning to find territories of their own to settle down into in which they will build a nest and raise a family. We are preparing for this change in season by trimming the vegetation on the trails and around the net lanes of our three MAPS stations.

BBO received 4 beautiful new picnic tables from Alberta Parks thanks to Greg Ottaway who was able to pull a few strings for us, and just in time for the Big Birding Breakfast! Alberta Parks will also be helping BBO update and standardize its signage. Hopefully this big step will for good for the BBO as it grows.



A female Brown-headed Cowbird:
one of many birds caught May 31st



Smiles at the Big Birding Breakfast

This past weekend (June 2nd and 3rd) we held one of our annual fundraisers the Big Birding Breakfast. Guests who dared to brave the bugs enjoyed a delicious breakfast in the company of some great people and beautiful birds. The kids seemed to have enjoyed themselves the most as seen by their bright smiling faces. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the event, especially to Helen Trefry for her help in the organization of the event and for bringing Ricki the educational Northern Saw-whet Owl and Zeus the Peregrine Falcon to entertain the guests; Janos Kovacs, and Claude and Ariane Roberto for cooking crepes; Joyce and Al DeGroot for preparing and bringing out the bacon; Geoff Holroyd and Andra Bismanis for leading walks to the weir.

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Downy Woodpecker	1					
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2					
Alder Flycatcher	1					
Unid. Trail's Flycatcher	15	1				
Least Flycatcher	13	7	4		2	
Warbling Vireo		2				
Red-eyed Vireo	1					
House Wren	1	1				
Swainson's Thrush	7					
American Robin		1	1			
Grey Catbird	2					
Mourning Warbler	3					
Common Yellowthroat	2					
American Redstart	2					
Magnolia Warbler	3					
Yellow Warbler		8	5			
Chipping Sparrow	1					
Clay-colored Sparrow	7	6				
White-throated Sparrow	2					
Brown-headed Cowbird	2		2			
	65	26	12		2	105

Net Hours: 312

Capture Rate: 33.65/100 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).