

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update July 20th – 29th , 2019

This week BBO staff were treated to warm, clear summertime weather. The perfect way to kick off the first day of Fall Migration Monitoring! The sunshine also allowed MAPS banding to be easily completed on schedule, with time to spare.



An Eastern Kingbird

Highlights from MAPS this weeks includes, a Common Yellow-throat, four Tennessee Warblers, a rarely captured Eastern Kingbird, a most unusual Cedar Waxwing, and a Myrtle Warbler, our first migrant of the year! Earning the oddball award of the week, an after-second year female Cedar Waxing sported red waxy tips on the ends of a few retrices. Typically, Cedar Waxwings only have waxy tips on the ends of their secondary flight feathers rather, than their tails. This anomaly definitely lead staff scratching their heads.

So far migration monitoring has only yielded local breeders. However with the Myrtle Warbler banded during MAPS, staff are hopeful to see more migrants shortly, especially as we head into August.

When staff were not busy banding at one of our MAPS stations, or running Migration Monitoring, the afternoons were used to catch up on much needed office work or field tasks, including; data entry, R-coding, report writing, climate change blogs, net cross repair, feeder and trail maintenance.

This week, staff were faced with high pitched squeaking within the walls. The sound was thought to originate from an orphaned baby bat, but after removing some lumber two adult Little Brown Bats were found roosting within the walls of the lab! Who would have thought the BBO had built in mosquito control.

The BBO staff is thankful for the continuous support from all our board members, volunteers, visitors and interns including; Members of the Bayne Lab, Shaye, Steve Anderson, Helen Trefry and Geoff Holroyd. Your time and effort helps to keep the BBO up and running. We sincerely thank you!



Waxy tips on a Cedar Waxwing's tail

Table 1: Summary of MAPS banding from July 20 -29th

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
American Goldfinch	1					1
American Robin	2	1				3
Blk-capped Chickadee	12	5				17
Clay-coloured Sparrow					1	1
Common Yellowthroat	1					1
Eastern Kingbird	1					1
House Wren		1				1
Least Flycatcher	47	16				67
Marsh Wren					1	1
Myrtle Warbler	1					1
Purple Finch	1					1
Song Sparrow	13					13
Swamp Sparrow					1	1
Tennessee Warblers	4					4
Unid. Trail's Flycatcher	2					2
Yellow Warbler	12					12
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker					1	1
Total	103	23	0	0	5	134

Net Hours: 160	
Capture Rate: 83.75/100 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).

Table 2: Summary of Migration Monitoring from July 20 -29th

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
American Goldfinch	3				1	4
Blk-capped Chickadee	4	1	1			6
Clay-coloured Sparrow	1	2				3
Downy Woodpecker	1					1
House Wren	5	1			1	6
Least Flycatcher	27	10	2		5	44
Swainson's Thrush	3					3
Yellow Warbler	2	1				3
Total	46	15	3	0	7	70
		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).				
Net Hours: 125		3 Banded at a location other than the BBO				
Capture Rate: 53.6/100 hours		4 Caught in a mist-net but not banded (e.g. escaped net).				