

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update, June 1-15, 2013

Time keeps flying by at the BBO! Can't believe it's already mid-June!

The BBO hosted the 2013 BIG Birding Breakfast on June 1st, thanks to everyone who either attended or volunteered! Special thanks to Janos Kovacs who, as per usual, made some truly spectacular crepes! The BIG Birding Breakfast was a huge success. We caught 20 birds, including some Yellow Warblers, Clay-coloured Sparrows, Least Flycatchers, and a Warbling Vireo and House Wren, and made a craft with the kids!



Amélie Interpreting at the BIG Birding Breakfast.



Kevin with his first Chickadee!

Migration monitoring finished up with some fun birds. We caught a handsome Blackpoll Warbler, just as we thought the migration was wrapping up! We also caught a Ruffed Grouse, and several Least Flycatchers and House Wrens. The House Wren grids that were set up behind the lab, just off of Weasel Wynd, and off of Flicker Freeway have encouraged several House Wrens to stay on site to breed! We caught almost as many House Wrens as we have Least Flycatchers. We also caught a Black-capped Chickadee, which Kevin extracted! Which Kevin extracted on his own! Truly a banding milestone. The full breakdown of the June 1-9th, 2013 can be found in Figure 1.

A Breeding Bird Grid was set up over the last couple weeks. Two interns will be monitoring the Breeding Bird Grid this year. Other interns have been monitoring the House Wren grids, the Mountain Bluebird Trail, and the Tree Swallow grid. Another intern has been monitoring the butterfly populations on site, and yet another intern has been analyzing some of the Beaverhill Bird Observatory's data. Another few interns started a Golondrinas de las Americanas behavioural study on the Tree Swallows Lots has been happening on site as per usual!

Over the last few weeks, we have also set up the three MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) stations at Weir, Park and Blab with the help of some very hard working interns and volunteers. Special thanks to Katie Chestnutt, Caroline LeCourtois, and Steve Andersen who put up with pouring rain to give us a hand with set up. Since then we have started MAPS for the 2013 field season. We've already caught some really neat birds during MAPS, including a Red-eyed Vireo, and a White-throated Sparrow! The Red-eyed Vireo was a first for the season, and Amélie was really happy to finally have caught one after having heard them singing all spring!



Red-eyed Vireo.



Katie Chestnutt, Kurt Yakimovich, and Erin Campbell (from left to right) at our Park MAPS location.

Thanks to all the visitors that have stopped by on site! It's been great! Loads of visitors. Thanks again to everyone who came out for the BIG Birding Breakfast, thanks to Katie Chestnutt and Melissa Chisolm, two dedicated volunteer, and to all the interns that have come to observe banding in the morning: Emily Cicon, Roy Tian, Sara Friske, Michelle Zawowny, Rebecca Himsl, Norma-Jane Young, Caroline LeCourtois, Steve Andersen, Alec Forest, and Cassandra Durocher. Thanks also to the several visitors that have come to observe banding: Sean Vervoort, Nicole and Jim Hillyer and their four kids: Madison, Emma, Beth and Georgia, and Caitlin Mader. Lastly, thank you to Erin Campbell and Kurt Yakimovich from Nature Alberta who came out and who wrote a blog post about the Beaverhill Bird Observatory, which can be found on the Nature Alberta website.

Table 1. Results from Migration Monitoring June 1-9, 2013.

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Robin	2	0	0	0	2	4
Baltimore Oriole	1	0	0	0	0	1
Black-capped Chickadee	0	1	0	0	0	1
Blackpoll Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	1	0	0	1	2
Clay-coloured Sparrow	3	2	0	0	3	8
Gray Catbird	1	0	1	0	0	2
House Wren	6	13	1	0	4	24
Least Flycatcher	8	11	5	0	5	29
Ruffed Grouse	0	0	0	0	1	1
Warbling Vireo	1	0	1	0	0	2
Yellow Warbler	1	1	2	0	1	5
Total	24	29	10	0	17	80

Net Hours: 438 NH
 Capture Rate: 18.3 birds/ 100 NH

- 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. Results from MAPS banding (Round 1), June 10-15, 2013.

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Least Flycatcher	14	0	10	0	0	24
Red-eyed Vireo	1	0	0	0	0	1
Warbling Vireo	2	0	1	0	0	3
White-throated Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	18	0	11	0	0	29

Net Hours: 180 NH

Capture Rate: 16.1 birds/ 100 NH

- 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).