

Weekly Update April 30th to May 6th 2017

Another wonderful week at the BBO has come and gone. A lot of new species have been caught during spring migration this week. Our first Lincoln's Sparrows, Song Sparrows, White-Crowned Sparrows, Orange-Crowned Warblers and Myrtle Warblers were banded! Plus we had a large surprise land in our nets in the form of a female mallard who somehow magically flew up into the third shelf of a mist nets and did NOT break the net! Instead, she dragged the whole net down (no birds were injured) and gave Meghan quite a surprise when she came across her.

Another surprise to the BBO staff this week was when, on census, Sara watched a Bald Eagle fly over the old lake bed and saw 2000+ ducks being flush up! So there has to be a lot of water still out in the lake, even if it's not completely visible from the natural area.

Lister Lake currently still has a lot of water and due to this, the trail Harrier Highway has been flooded all week long. Meghan and Sara went for a walk along the trail to see how bad the flooding was and after enjoying the sighting of many frog eggs floating along and hearing the wood and chorus frogs singing away, they decided to put up a warning sign for visitors to read. Visitors are still able to walk to the lookout safely, but if going any further will require rubber boot, unless they either opt out to take a game trail around the flooding, or access the lab via Accipiter Alley.

Intern orientation occurred this week and we had most of our thirteen interns come out to the BBO to meet their mentors and get a walk around the nature area. This year we have; four Tree Swallow interns, two House Wren interns, two breeding bird grid interns, two bat interns, one amphibian intern, one butterfly intern and one species at risk intern. Everyone was happy to be out and about at the lab.

We topped the week off with a visit from Al De Groot who took Sara, Meghan and Irene out to band a nest with two Great Horned Owl chicks in it. The chicks were fluffy and fierce and were returned to their nest safely with some new bling on their legs.

It was great seeing so many visitors at the lab this week. Many families came through on the weekend, including a family of eight and Anna Daku and her sons. We were also happy once more for a visit from Steve, the butterfly man and bringer of all delicious baked goods. Irene came out for some birding fixes as did Jeremy and John. Kyle and Zach also came through for some volunteering and thank you to Geoff Holroyd for helping to set up our rain water system! We appreciate everyone who came out!



Meghan and the female Mallard!



Intern Group Photo for 2017!

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
American Robin			2		1	3
Black-capped Chickadee	2	1	2			5
Downy Woodpecker	2					2
Lincoln's Sparrow	2					2
Mallard					1	1
Myrtle Warbler	1					1
Orange-Crowned Warbler	1					1
Slate-Coloured Junco	3					3
Song Sparrow	4					4
White-Crowned Sparrow	2					2
Total	17	1	4		2	24

Birds Caught 24
 Net Hours 342.75
 Capture Rate: 7.002

Capture Rate was 7.00 birds/100 Net Hours.