

Weekly Update June 11th to 18th 2017

We are now finished spring Migration Monitoring! Time to move on to our next major program, Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS). We run three MAPS stations during the summer, each one located within 2km of the lab. Each station consists of ten nets. We replaced two of our stations last year with stations located closer to edge habitats that are better for most songbirds. We will band at each of these stations once every ten days from June 10th to August 5th. By catching returning adult birds, we can determine how many adults survive the winter, and by catching young birds in July and August, we can determine productivity of these birds. Pretty neat!

There have been several cool captures this week. With MAPS stations SOPO and LILA near willows at the forest edge, the habitat is ideal for many species that do not go as often into the forest interior. This week we caught Cedar Waxwing, Swamp Sparrow, and Red-winged Blackbirds. The highlight was a returning male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, nesting right next to a net lane, who is at least 4 years old and was caught last year in the same place. Go dad!

Other wildlife sightings have been pretty good as well. At the beginning of the week, breeding bird intern Hannah found a young fawn hiding in the grass. It was a treat to see and we left it alone after that, to hide from predators until mom comes back. Another visitor has been a young adult female moose that Sara has named Margaret. A Red Squirrel has also been frequenting the feeders regularly now (which is unusual) and we named him Pete point 2.



Deer fawn at BBO. Photo by Sara Pearce Meijerink

At the end of the week Helmi and Meghan did some grassland nest searching as well as point count surveys. We examined the species singing from the wet marsh nearer to the center of the lake to the grassland near the edge, and we examined the transition in species singing over that distance. We heard Sora's, blackbirds, and Wilson's Snipes in the marsh, and Savannah, LeConte's and Clay-coloured Sparrows in the grassland.

Kevin and Helmi attended the Purple Martin Festival in Camrose, and brought our new unnamed Saw-whet Owl with them. We applied for a permit to take in another runt Saw-whet to give Ray a break. This young owl is in its juvenile plumage and is fully imprinted on humans, so it is very friendly and comfortable around people. Staff had a good time at the festival!



Baby education Saw-whet Owl 2017. Photo by Sara Pearce Meijerink.

We banded some of the first chicks of the season this week! Helmi the volunteer found nine nests in the grasslands, mostly of Savannah Sparrows, and while searching, found one nest with chicks almost ready to fledge. We had the pleasure of banding those two Savannah Sparrow chicks and their father on Fathers Day! What a fun day. Happy Father's Day to all those fathers out there, and especially to staff's dads Tom Jacklin, Fraser Methuen, and Evert Meijerink. We finished the day off banding one Mountain Bluebird nest.

This week staff gave one of the last presentations to a high school fashion class that made some new bird bags to hold birds during banding. Most of these bags were made over the winter, and over 250 new bags have been made in total. Thanks so much everyone! Anyone else wanting to construct us some new bags can email us at educationbeaverhillbirds@gmail.com.

Thank you Alyshia, Juliane, and Mark, Irene, Cassandra, Myla-Rae and Hannah, and Helmi.

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Least Flycatcher	11	0	8	0	1	20
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	0	1	0	0	2
House Wren	3	0	0	0	0	3
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	0	0	0	0	1
Trails Flycatcher	0	0	0	0	1	1
Warbling Vireo	0	0	1	0	0	1
Yellow Warbler	1	0	3	0	0	4
Downy Woodpecker	1	0	1	0	0	2
Ovenbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Chipping Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clay-coloured Sparrow	3	0	0	0	0	3
White-throated Sparrow	0	0	1	0	2	3
Cedar Waxwing	2	0	0	0	0	2
American Goldfinch	5	0	0	0	0	5
Song Sparrow	3	1	0	0	0	4
Common Yellowthroat	1	0	0	0	0	1
Baltimore Oriole	0	0	1	0	0	1
Swamp Sparrow	3	0	0	0	0	3
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	0	1	0	1	4
Red-winged Blackbird	4	0	0	0	0	4
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	42	1	17	0	6	66

Birds Caught 66
Net Hours 145.5
Capture Rate: 45.36

Capture Rate was 45.36 birds/100 Net 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).