

Summary of 2017 MAPS Songbird Banding Report

The end of summer marks the end of another successful songbird banding season. The MAPS Program (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) is a continent-wide collaborative network of songbird banding stations that are operated throughout the breeding season. The Institute for Bird Populations (IBP), a nonprofit corporation, organizes this effort and has established protocols under which all stations operate. Birds are passively captured in mist nets, given a lightweight aluminum band, and released unharmed. We collect additional data including age, sex, breeding status, and body condition. These data are submitted to IBP and used to assess the vital rates of birds, and to inform effective conservation efforts.

Teton Raptor Center in collaboration JH Wildlife Foundation operated two MAPS stations during this summer's breeding season. We had 577 captures of 43 species this year. The five most commonly captured species were Yellow Warbler (118), American Robin (64), Song Sparrow (53), MacGillivray's Warbler (50), and Cedar Waxwing (32). We also had several notable captures, including an adult male Cooper's Hawk that flew into a net while carrying its prey (a headless Northern Flicker fledgling). We also captured three Williamson's Sapsuckers – an adult male and two female juveniles. Williamson's Sapsuckers, typically found in high conifer forests and burn areas, are strikingly beautiful birds that exhibit a high degree of sexual dimorphism, originally leading scientists to believe they were separate species. On the last day at the Kelly campus MAPS station TRC staff and volunteers captured an adult female Clark's Nutcracker known as the only disperser of the whitebark pine tree. TRC staff is happy to report the end of another interesting and informative season at our local MAPS