

Last Mountain Bird Observatory – Fall 2020
30th consecutive fall of coverage (28th of standardized coverage).

Migration Monitoring:

First day of coverage: 4 August.

Last day of coverage: 7 October.

Total days of coverage: 65 of a possible 66.

Percent of days with adequate coverage: 98%.

Number of staff: 5 (Shirley Bartz, Emily Dornsdauder, Ryan Dudragne, Jordan Rustad - Bander-in-Charge, Lacey Weekes).

Number of volunteers: 1 (Sarah Ludlow).

Number of person-days effort: 104 including 100 staff and 4 volunteer (102 and 31 last year).

Number of visitors: 147, all socially distanced (396 last year).

Observation effort: census, casual and incidental observations.

Standard trapping effort: 13 12mx30mm mist nets for 3175 net hours; 622 birds/1000 net hours (1992-2019 average: 657).

Owl trapping effort: 2-12m x 30mm and 1-6m x 30mm net for 19.0 net/hours; 12 Northern Saw-whet Owls (0 last year).

Number of species observed: 130.

Number of species captured: 74 (1992-2019 average: 72).

New birds captured (standard banding; includes birds released without banding): 1975 (1992-2019 average: 2713). Seven banded birds of 5 species returned from previous years.

Species banded peak: 25 on 9 September.

Birds banded peak: 117 on 23 August.

Top 10 New Captures:

Yellow-rumped Warbler	328	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	74
Yellow Warbler	289	Tennessee Warbler	69
Orange-cr. Warbler	118	American Redstart	65
Alder Flycatcher	95	Swanson's Thrush	55
Dark-eyed Junco	79	White-throated Sparrow	54

Comments:

The autumn of 2018 was the 4th slowest in terms of number of birds captured in the 30-year history of the Observatory. The number of birds captured per net/hour was, however, only slightly below average due to the exceptionally large number of days when it was too hot or windy to band. A new yearly high for Ruby-crowned Kinglet was recorded with 74 birds topping the 71 captured in 2009. No Rose-breasted Grosbeaks

were captured this fall; this for only the second time in our history. Sixteen American Tree Sparrow were caught – a good showing for a species that averaged 26 birds each fall in the 1990s, but only 10 this century. A Western Meadowlark captured on 15 August was only the second fall capture and the first since 1995.

No new species were banded - the total number of species banded in the fall remains at 111, for both seasons 120.

Observations of note included a Parasitic Jaeger on 4 and 5 September, and 3 Smith's Longspurs on 5 October.

A. R. Smith
Observatory Manager
alanrandi@sasktel.net