

Species	Total #			Rate*			% adult		
	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013
<i>Tennessee Warbler</i>	1	1	2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0	0	0
<i>Orange-crowned Warbler</i>	41	59	212	4.2	2.3	15.5	2	8	6
<i>Yellow Warbler</i>	496	432	1150	50.8	17.0	85.5	9	11	8
<i>Blackpoll Warbler</i>	1	1	3	0.1	0.0	0.2	0	0	0
<i>Yellow-rumped Warbler</i>	42	14	7	4.3	0.6	0.5	10	0	29
<i>Townsend's Warbler</i>	16	17	36	1.6	0.7	2.8	0	0	0
<i>Wilson's Warbler</i>	39	26	10	4.0	1.0	0.8	0	8	0
<i>Savannah Sparrow</i>	15	86	38	1.5	3.4	2.7	7	21	16
<i>Fox Sparrow</i>	531	1368	1401	54.4	53.8	124.2	13	0	7
<i>Song Sparrow</i>	3	3	1	0.3	0.1	0.1	33	0	0
<i>Lincoln's Sparrow</i>	40	46	42	4.1	1.8	3.2	3	0	2
<i>White-crowned Sparrow</i>	8	11	7	0.8	0.4	0.5	0	0	0
<i>Golden-crowned Sparrow</i>	111	177	283	11.4	7.0	21.2	5	2	8
<i>Dark-eyed Junco</i>	31	26	9	3.2	1.0	0.6	0	4	11
<i>White-winged Crossbill</i>	1	3	0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0	0	N/A
<i>Common Redpoll</i>	4	3	0	0.4	0.1	0.0	0	0	N/A
<i>Pine Siskin</i>	10	26	1	1.0	1.0	0.1	40	58	0
Totals:	1695	2612	3761	175	103	301			

* Rate presented in birds per 100 net-hours.

PRELIMINARY REPORT: OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER MIGRATION AND BREEDING BIOLOGY

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Overview:

During 2013 we began a multi-year study of Olive-sided Flycatchers (*Contopus cooperi*). A primary research goal is to identify migratory movements and key wintering areas of Alaska breeders using geolocators, in order to inform conservation efforts. Other research goals are to 1) sample aerial insects at breeding sites, as food availability is hypothesized to limit reproductive success (Altman and Sallabanks 2012), 2) characterize nest chronology and success, and 3) re-survey historical breeding sites from Wright (1997) to document any changes in bird occupancy.

Summary of 2013 breeding season:

Geolocators: We tested a new geocator harness material (rubberized O-ring) and refined our trapping methods (decoys + playback, passive mist-netting near nests). In total we captured and banded 10 adults at eight nest sites ($n = 4$ nests each in Fairbanks and Anchorage). One adult from each nest was fitted with a geocator (6 male, 2 female). Wright (1997) indicates ~60% of banded adults return to the same territories the following year. Provided 2013 birds do not experience adverse mortality, we will expand geocator efforts next year, as well as increase our control (banded-only) population to better gauge the efficacy of the tracking method. We are also working with the American Bird Conservancy to facilitate geocator deployment across the flycatcher's western range (western U.S. and Canada) where declines are most notable.

Insect data, nest chronology, historical site surveys: Aerial insects were collected at all nest sites and are currently being analyzed by the University of Alaska Museum of the North. Nest chronologies are summarized in Table 1, and indicate that breeding in Anchorage preceded Fairbanks by ~7–10 days. Chronology dates in Fairbanks were generally within ranges reported by Wright (1997) for central Alaska, but 2–4 days later for hatching and fledging. Each Fairbanks nest fledged 2–4 young; 3 of 4 Anchorage nests also fledged 2–4 young. Finally, we conducted a set of 3 10-minute point-counts during the peak male singing period at 9 historical breeding areas near Fairbanks (from Wright 1997). Our search yielded no singing males, despite very high detection probabilities (80–100% per point, Wright 1997) and covering a listening area of ~987ha per site. Given that the 2013 season was an unusually late and snowy spring, we plan to re-survey these sites again next season.

Literature Cited:

Altman, B., and R. Sallabanks. 2012. Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, editor). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/502>

Wright, J. M. 1997. Olive-sided Flycatchers in central Alaska, 1994–1996. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration, Final Report, Project SE-3-4, Juneau. Retrieved online: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=librarypublications.swg>

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Table 1. Nesting chronology of Olive-sided Flycatchers in Anchorage (*n* = 4 nests) and Fairbanks (*n* = 4 nests).

Nest Chronology	Mean Date (range)	Location
First egg laid	3 June (28 May–14 June [*])	Anchorage
	13 June (05 [*] –18June)	Fairbanks
Clutch size	4.3 eggs (4–5)	Anchorage
	3 eggs (2–4)	Fairbanks
Hatching	22 June (16 June–3 July)	Anchorage
	30 June (22 June [*] –4 July [*])	Fairbanks
Fledging	12 July (6–21 July)	Anchorage
	20 July (12 July [*] –24 July)	Fairbanks

^{*}Date back-calculated based on other data (e.g., no. eggs in nest, fledge date, etc.)

***PLASMODIUM* INFECTION IN BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES**

Colleen Handel and Caroline Van Hemert, USGS Alaska Science Center; Laura Wilkinson and Ravinder Sehgal, San Francisco State University

In collaboration with researchers at San Francisco State University, we are investigating blood parasites in Black-capped Chickadees in Southcentral Alaska. Molecular analysis demonstrated that birds with beak deformities have significantly higher rates of infection with *Plasmodium*, suggesting an effect of host condition and immune response on susceptibility to infection. In addition, preliminary results indicate that local climatic factors, including summer temperatures and precipitation, are closely linked to prevalence. Future research will target the individual- and population-level impacts of *Plasmodium* infection in Black-capped Chickadees. With a

2013 Summary of Landbird Projects For Boreal Partners in Flight



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Compiled and lightly edited by Julie Hagelin for Boreal Partners in Flight. If you would like more information about these studies, please contact the individual(s) noted at the end of each project summary.

Visit the Alaska Landbird Resource Information System, the official website of Boreal Partners in Flight: <http://alaska.usgs.gov/science/biology/bpif/index.php>