

Inglewood Bird Observatory – Douglas Collister collistr@gmail.com 403-637-2922

Managed by Calgary Bird Banding Society (CBBS)

IBO monitors spring (1 May-6 June) and fall (28 Jul – 6 Oct) migrations at Inglewood Bird Sanctuary within Calgary, AB (51.0236 N, -114.0110 W). Monitoring is undertaken using mist-netting only, although casual observations are documented. Mist nets are operated in permanent net lanes for six hours each day, beginning at sunrise. Estimated Daily Totals (EDTs) for trend analysis are based on new captures (new bandings + released unbanded + mortalities + foreign recaptures). Monitoring has occurred since 1995 although the full complement of 12 net lanes was standardized in 1997 and spring migration has only been monitored since 2002. Data for 1995 and 1996 were based on 10 and 11 of the final 12 standardized net lanes, respectively. As of spring 2024 three nets (#14, 17, 18) were no longer accessible because the IBS restored flow in the river channel. These were replaced by using one of the MAPS nets (#3) for migration monitoring, reactivating net 16 (piloted in 1995 and then not used in the migration monitoring standardized net array until spring 2024), and creating one new net lane (#19). There is one day of overlap between the last day of MAPS and FMM – data from the two MAPS-only nets are not included in the migration monitoring database.

IBO is situated on the bank of the Bow River and is subject to fluctuating water levels due to upstream dam releases and, in rare circumstances, uncontrolled flooding. Five of the 12 standardized net lanes are frequently inaccessible due to high water although usually only for short periods of a few days to a week. These conditions typically arise during the first week of June during the annual freshet from the Rocky Mountains to the west, and sometimes in late August through first half of September if heavy rain events occur. During 2013 a catastrophic flood in June affected the entire observatory and resulted in no fall monitoring that year and loss of most of spring monitoring in 2014. A catastrophic early snowfall during fall 2014 caused extensive damage to trees still in leaf and resulted in access to IBO being lost after 12 September, due to safety concerns.

IBO keeps track of daily net hours and also which net each capture comes out of. Our statistician has taken the data anomalies described above into consideration in the trends that we have calculated and posted on the CBBS website.

IBO is located within an edaphically-controlled late succession riparian forest and habitat change is not a significant concern. Notwithstanding, CBBS adopted the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survival (MAPS) Habitat Structure Assessment (HSA) protocol in 2001 and monitors habitat at least every 5 years. In 2015 an extra replicate was obtained to quantify any change to understorey conditions due to the 2013 flood.

Trend results are freely available at NatureCounts.ca, and daily banding totals can be accessed through the same site. A detailed operations protocol and habitat documentation can be requested through the station contact listed above. CBBS also conducts MAPS at IBO using many of the same nets used for migration monitoring which apparently is not ideal for analyses conducted by the Institute for Bird Populations (IBP), who manage the MAPS program, but in our view has negligible impact on migration monitoring.