

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update: July 20-29, 2005

Unbelievable, MAPS is finished. As I sat at our field station at WEIR yesterday, I couldn't believe we would not be netting there again this year. But as I heard the flocks of ducks and shorebirds coming over, I realized the excitement of fall migration would help me get through.

We had some more bad weather this round, which prevented us from completing all three sites, however, WEIR and BLAB were completed. I was not disappointed we missed PARK, as it has been so poor for captures. We caught 43 birds this round representing 7 species. While sitting between net checks at WEIR it was interesting to observe some of the goings-on in the trees above us. We watched an adult White-throated Sparrow first feeding a young cowbird, and then feeding its own young. We watched a Tennessee Warbler foraging for insects. On one net check, I found an adult female Robin and her young in one net, and I thought about the banded male we had captured at BLAB three days earlier (banded at WEIR in early July). Was this the father? Was he already headed off on migration while the mother was still feeding?



So in total we captured 103 birds in BLAB, 93 in WEIR, and 19 in PARK, a productive summer of MAPS.

Table 1. Results from mist netting at BLAB and WEIR from July 26 and 29, 2005 respectively.

Species	Banded	Recapture	Other	TOTAL
Least Flycatcher	24	4	0	28
Black-capped Chickadee	5	0	0	5
House Wren	1	0	0	1
American Robin	4	1	0	5
Veery	0	1	0	1
Yellow Warbler	0	2	0	2
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	35	8	0	43

Other time was spent clearing the net lanes and trails for the migration station in preparation for August 1. We also cleaned out the Tree Swallow boxes and repaired the wires on some of them. Three House Wren nests were discovered while doing this. Finally, we took down all the nets from the three MAPS stations, and set up the ones in the migration sites again.

Species of Interest: had a very good look at the three Black-crowned Night Herons at the weir. There appeared to be two adults and one young (very streaked without the black crown). All the young ducklings are almost fully grown. The Pelicans continue to stay around the weir. We heard a Great Horned Owl calling, a sign of fall. The young Swainson's Hawks are ready to band, we'll be doing that this week.



With the first leaves falling off the poplars and the strawberry leaves turning red, signs of fall are all around. August 1 it begins, hope you can make it out to see us soon!!

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