

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update July 11-19, 2006



Adult and juvenile
Black-capped Chickadees

For the first time this summer we had to hold off on a day of banding due to weather. An early morning rainstorm on the 13th kept the nets closed and us inside. Though it set us back a bit on our schedule, it also provided an opportunity to catch up on some paper work that needed to be done, and the weather has been great ever since!

PARK was again a quiet location again with only five birds caught. All were Least Flycatchers except one juvenile Clay-coloured Sparrow. This little bird seemed to be very recently fledged and didn't have full understanding of its wings, trying to scootch forward instead of flapping to get away. It managed to fly away just fine though! The same day we banded Barn Swallow nestlings at Francis Point, and back at the Swallow Grid we banded 13 more young Tree Swallows. The baby rush on the swallow grid is officially over! This year on the Grid we banded a total of 242 Tree Swallows and 4 Mountain Bluebirds.

Banding at the BLAB location proved to be fairly exciting. Highlights of this day include a female juvenile Downy Woodpecker and a female Baltimore Oriole and one of her young. The consensus among us was that the juvenile Oriole was a bit prettier than the adult female, having an even yellowish color everywhere but the wings. It also still had some of the juvenile 'gape' at the corners of the mouth, giving it that babyish look.



Juvenile Baltimore Oriole- note gape

At WIER we once again netted the highest number of birds- 23, from 4 different species. As usual, the Least Flycatchers were the most numerous, but we were excited to see fledglings and witness a few adults feed young in the tree tops. Another juvenile Downy Woodpecker was caught- this time a young male, identified by his red feathers found on the crown (forehead) instead of on the back of the head (as in the adults).

New butterflies flying around include Orange (or Alfalfa) Sulphurs, Common Wood Nymphs and Fritillary species. With the end of this period we head into the last round of the MAPS program. Hopefully the upcoming stretch will hold many juvenile birds for us, and maybe even some early fall migrants. Happy birding all!

~Katie and Allicia

Table 1. Results from MAPS banding July 10-19, 2006.

Species	Banded	Recapture	Foreign	Other	Total
Baltimore Oriole	2	0	0	0	2
Black-capped Chickadee	7	0	0	0	7
Downy Woodpecker	2	0	0	0	2
House Wren	0	1	0	0	1
Least Flycatcher	15	6	0	0	21
Warbling Vireo	1	1	0	0	2
Yellow Warbler	0	2	0	0	2
Total	27	10	0	0	37