

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update June 10 – June 19, 2010

Well, spring migration monitoring is over for this year so we have moved on to the MAPS program here at the BBO. It is great to be able to spend some time in different parts of the natural area, with banding and point counts occurring at the Weir and Park stations, as well as around the lab.



Comparison shot between the Least Flycatcher and the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Setting up nets in different areas gave us the opportunity to surprise the resident birds, and it was nice to be able to band some new individuals. A few favourites were the Veery that was caught at the lab, the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and the pair of Baltimore Orioles from the Weir station.

The relatively quiet nets have also given us time to look around the stations for new nests. Katie discovered a Least Flycatcher nest by the trail at Weir, and also spotted a Yellow Warbler nest right beside our banding station! It was neat to watch the male

bring in food and feed the female, and we are looking forwards to being able to keep a close eye on the nest over the summer.

There has been a lot of other nest excitement and activity as well. The Mountain Bluebird chicks are now old enough to start banding and the rest are well on their way. It is really neat to see the brilliant colours as they come out of the pinfeathers. Justin and Thera have also found numerous nests, including Clay-coloured Sparrows, Vesper Sparrows, and even a Black-Billed Magpie nest! Seeing the eggs and chicks from different species has been really interesting, especially the Magpies who absolutely look like miniature dinosaurs.



Katie and Justin with a real handful: 7 Black-billed Magpie chicks!

Lisa Priestley also took us to band a nest of Saw-whet Owls near Ministik, it was great to be able to see the different stages of development in the chicks, as owls have asynchronous hatching.

Geoff Holroyd was also successful (to much excitement) in catching the Short-eared Owls nesting on the lake bed, and was able to equip 3 of them with GPS trackers. This will surely lead to interesting information on the movement of this species, of which little is known.

Table 1. Results from MAPS Program June 10 – June 19, 2010

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
American Robin	1	1	0	0	1	3
Baltimore Oriole	2	0	0	0	0	2
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	0	0	0	2	4
Clay-colored Sparrow	2	0	1	0	0	3
Hermit Thrush	1	0	1	0	0	2
House Wren	2	0	0	0	0	2
Least Flycatcher	15	7	3	0	0	25
Veery	1	0	0	0	0	1
Warbling Vireo	1	0	1	0	1	3
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	0	1
Yellow Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Total	30	8	6	0	4	48

Net Hours: 180 NH

Capture Rate: 26.67 birds/ 100 NH

- 1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO.
- 2 Banded at the BBO > 90 days prior to recapture (e.g. in a previous year).
- 3 Banded at a location other than the BBO.
- 4 Caught in a mist-net but not banded (e.g. escaped net).



Success! Thera celebrates at the first of 3 Short-eared owl nests found (left), Meaghan and Geoff set a bow net trap over another.