

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update, June 10-19, 2014

Our MAPS program has begun for the 2014 season! We caught a total of 14 birds to complete round one. The species we caught were Brown-headed Cowbird, Clay-colored Sparrow, Baltimore Oriole, Hairy Woodpecker, American Robin, and (last but not) Least Flycatcher.

It was drizzling and windy our first day so we completed point counts at our three stations. That afternoon Jeff Manchuk's grade 11 class came by to complete an ecosystem assessment project. We brought them to Lister Lake, the nearby woods, and eventually the lab for a bird banding presentation led by Am. It was a lot of fun to have them out and great exposure for the BBO. The highlight for most of the kids was seeing our resident Porcupine, Frank!

The MAPS program at BBO would not be complete without our flagship species the Least Flycatcher, so it was fitting that we caught two individuals of this species before anything else on our first morning of banding. PARK was slow but we caught a lovely male Northern Oriole just before closing. WEIR yielded Clay-colored Sparrows, Least Flycatchers, and Hairy Woodpeckers.



Female Ruby-throated Hummingbird on her nest!

The big highlight from this round was the success of our natural nest searches led by Jerry Gordy, Alexis Laforge, and Malicia Besnard. On June 16th they found 21 nests, belonging mostly to Least Flycatchers and Yellow Warblers. On June 17th another 14 nests were located between Long-eared Owl Lane and Short-eared Owl Street. On the 19th the team searched the area in and around the House Wren grid to see if any of these birds were nesting naturally here and what their preference is. On their way back to the lab they found a Ruby-throated Hummingbird nest!! This was a most

glorious achievement.

Table 1. Results from MAPS round 1, June 10-19, 2014.

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Robin	1	0	0	0	0	1
Baltimore Oriole	1	0	0	0	0	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	0	1	0	0	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hairy Woodpecker	1	0	0	0	0	1
Least Flycatcher	9	0	0	0	0	9
Total	13	0	1	0	0	14

Net Hours: 180 NH

Capture Rate: 7.77 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).