

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Update: First Period of Summer Banding June 10-19, 2023



Woodpeckers are stunning and exceptional... even when it comes to aging. Here is a Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker and her wing spread to exemplify the puzzle of molt limits in feather tracts.



Spring migration has wrapped up for 2023, and the team has shifted focus in to the MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) program, checking in on our local breeding populations! The project aims to gather data on not only who is breeding here, but in what time-frames, what volumes of both parents and offspring, and how many of the young are surviving into adulthood. BBO operates three stations ever ten days to gather this information. The first round was fairly smooth sailing, a few early net closures due to winds, but the minimum hours of net time was

exceeded at each station on their respective first day. With all those lovely nets hours, staff saw a wondrous range of birds, both in the hand and by ear. Highlights included Lincoln's sparrows, Grey Catbirds and 3 Yellow Bellied Sapsuckers as well as the confirmed call of a Field Sparrow, wandering a ways from it's range!

Between MAPS stations staff is still hard at work catching up on tasks between migration monitoring, as well as extra projects to capitalize on the summer rush! The Least Flycatcher nest monitoring has been continued this year by

seasonal tech Cala, and Marsh Breeding Bird Monitoring has been continued by seasonal tech Sierra, with some plant surveying and inventorying added to the checklist. There was also a highly successful working bee where 7 volunteers joined us in completing a few long-standing tasks off the to-do list.

As mentioned, the projects have all fallen in suitable climactic-condition



This classic Song Sparrow is always a happy catch

windows, however the spring wildfires have continued to bring some smoke to the area, as well as potentially contributing to the highly variable winds and pressure systems! We will continue to be vigilant and hope for the best, not only for projects but all the lives, wild or domestic affected by the roaming flames! Our data will furthermore hopefully give more understanding to effects of climate change on population robustness in the face of various and variable threats!



The handsomest Cedar Waxwing showing off his mask and waxy tips!

Table 1. MAPS Banding Data 2023

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	TOTAL
Downy Woodpecker			1			1
Least Flycatcher	10	2	8			20
Trail's Flycatcher	2					2
Black-Capped Chickadee	1		1			2
House Wren	4	1				5
American Robin	2					2
Cedar Waxwing	3					3
Warbling Vireo	3					3
Yellow Warbler	7		3			10
Common Yellow-throat	2					2
Clay-coloured Sparrow	3					3
Song Sparrow	2					2
Lincoln's Sparrow	1				1	2
White-throated Sparrow	2					2
Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker	3		2			5
Brown-Headed Cowbird	7					7
Baltimore Oriole	5		1			6
Red-winged Black Bird	16		2		2	20
Grey Catbird	5					5
TOTAL	78	3	18	0	3	102

146.5 net hours

69.62 captures / 100 net hours

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).