

Weekly Update: July 2 - July 11

Life at the Beaverhill Bird Observatory continues, and I can't help but marvel at how fast the time seems to be whizzing by. Already, we are almost half way through the month of July, and before we know it, fall migration will begin again. In part, I am really looking forward to it...I can't wait to see what birds fall migration will bring to us. Another part of me however, hopes it never comes...for I know that once fall migration is over, my time at the BBO must also come to an end—But I try not to think of such things.

July 2, was a busy day for us...we caught 25 birds at the BLAB MAPS station, most of which seemed to be returns from previous years. Then there was the pleasant visit from AL DeGroot and TJ who had come to fix the solar power for us. Out at the BBO, as you may already know, there is no running water or electricity—except for a little solar powered energy, which is to be used sparingly. Well, for some time now, even this source of electricity has been unavailable to us, and I was surprised at how little of an affect this had on us. I am always surprised when I compare my city life to life at the BBO. Things are much simpler out here, yet it never seems as though we are lacking. In the city I am bombarded with luxury after luxury...flush toilets, running water, showers, lights, heat...all things that for the most part, go unnoticed or at least unappreciated. Living at the BBO has been a wonderful lesson in simple living that I hope I can apply in my city life as well. Though, someday soon I may have all the power I want at my fingertips with the flick of a switch, or all the water that will pour freely out of my taps, I plan to practice much more moderation...It is so easy to overuse and perhaps even abuse such luxuries...we are so spoiled.

For this whole week, as soon as we are finished mist-netting, we have been heading out to the swallow grid to band the nestlings. It was a very productive year this year out at the grid, most of the boxes are occupied, and the average clutch size seems to be about five or six eggs per nest. It is quite a remarkable community that those swallows have. They all seem to look out for each other, and as we walk the grid checking boxes, all the adults become a united airforce and begin to dive bomb us. Don't worry, we haven't been hit yet—we come in peace.

The rain on the 3rd and the 4th, altered our plans, and we spent those days inside catching up on paperwork. It sure has been a wet summer this year. On the 5th we banded out at the WEIR MAPS station. It was another busy day with a grand total of 33 birds in the nets.

Well, that is pretty much life at the BBO. We have also evicted Theodore (our resident squirrel), from the lab, which has been setting up residence in one of our cupboard drawers. At first I think we must have taken pity on him, but now he has overstayed his welcome, and has become quite the pest around the Lab. We hope we can help him find a more amiable place to live.

That's all for now.
Have a great week
Crystal, Jill and Tessa.

Species	Birds Banded	No. of Repeats	Returns	Other Captures	Total Caught
Least Flycatcher	16	6	7	5	34
Yellow warbler	5	1	8		14
Song Sparrow	1				1
Clay-colored Sparrow	1	1	1		3
Black-capped Chickadee				1	1
American Robin	1				1
Warbling Vireo	1				1
Brown-headed Cowbird				1	1
American Goldfinch	1				1
TOTALS	26	8	16	7	57