

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update: June 10-19

And so MAPS begins. What is MAPS you ask? Well I'll tell you, Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship. Now you know why we just say MAPS. We are monitoring the breeding birds around the Natural Area at three study sites: BLAB (near the lab), WEIR (across the weir), and PARK (south of Park Lane and between Accipiter Alley and Harrier Highway). We do point counts and banding at each site once during each 10 day period. The weather was definitely not cooperative for our first round. We had rain the first two mornings, and the rain before we left made it impossible to set up any nets, so we were a little behind.

We managed to complete banding at BLAB and WEIR, and point counts at BLAB and PARK. There were 32 birds captured at the two stations, with the Least Flycatcher being the most common. We had a few exciting captures including a Red-winged Blackbird and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird with brood patches (meaning they are breeding on site).



Table 1. Results from MAPS mist netting June 15 and 16 at WEIR and BLAB.

Species	Banded	Recapture	Other	TOTAL
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	0	0	1**	1
Least Flycatcher	6	7	1	14
House Wren	2	0	0	2
Hermit Thrush	2	0	0	2
American Robin	2	1	0	3
Yellow Warbler	1	1	0	2
Baltimore Oriole	1	0	0	1
White-throated Sparrow	2	0	0	2
Red-winged Blackbird	1	0	0	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	1	1	2
American Goldfinch	2	0	0	2
TOTAL	19	10	2	32

* escaped from net before it could be removed ** not banded, BBO does not have a permit to band hummingbirds

We made a final visit to the Swallow Grid before the banding of young will begin. We managed to catch another 5 female Tree Swallows. We also found a dead banded male in a box, quite unusual, because he appears to be the male from the original nest with 6 eggs, and then a new female was laying a new clutch on top of grass on top of those 6 cold eggs.

Finally, we spent an afternoon checking Elson's Bluebird boxes, and it turns out there were four bluebird nests, we banded 17 young, two nests had young ready to fledge and some cold eggs, so they weren't as successful as other years. We also caught an adult female Tree Swallow that was sitting on 6 eggs.



We still welcome visitors. There are plenty of nests to search for!!

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Beaverhill Bird Observatory