

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update June 21-30, 2006

This last 10 day period was busy with mist netting (of course), point counts, and nest side banding at both the swallow grid and Francis Point.

Banding at the PARK station was slow. We were warned of this, but in our first try at PARK we captured three new species for the year, and had a total of 14 birds. In glaring contrast, this time around we captured only 6 Least Flycatchers! However, we did hear several birds singing in the area, and flushed a mother Ruffed Grouse with several young grouse. BLAB banding yielded more birds (14) and more species (5) than PARK. However, WEIR provided the most exciting banding of all three sites when two male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks flew into a net at the same time. One male was a second-year bird, still replacing some of his older, brown tail feathers (retrices) with contrasting black retrices. The other male was older, with a sharp all-black tail. I wonder who was chasing who when they hit the net!



Male Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Below: White Admiral butterfly

During this week's Pollard Butterfly Walk we spent nearly three hours jumping, running and swiping at the butterflies. 83 butterflies were spotted or netted, and the most common species were Greenish Blues and Northern Crescents. Northern Pearly Eyes are also common, though usually found flying among the trees.



We've been especially busy at the Swallow Grid. The nestlings in the 45+ boxes on the grid sure grew up fast, and we've been busy trying to keep caught up with their banding. So far we've banded 67 young Tree Swallows and 3 young Mountain Bluebirds. Some of the nestlings banded this week have already fledged, and there are many boxes with young of various ages left to go. We also checked out the nest sites along Francis View Point this week, banding 3 adult and 6 nestling Tree Swallows, 2 adult and 6 nestling Mountain Bluebirds, and 1 adult Vesper Sparrow.

Sadly, the Long-eared Owl nest in the Natural Area failed, possibly due to the intense wind we experienced out here last week. However, to our great surprise and excitement, it seems they are willing to try again! Four eggs were discovered in an old Black-billed Magpie nest when the owl flushed out. Hopefully the pair will have more luck with this nest than they did with the previous one. We'll keep you posted!

-Katie and Alicia



Tree swallow nestlings- the birds on the left are ready to fledge!



Table 1. Results from MAPS banding June 21-30, 2006

Species	Banded	Recapture	Foreign	Other	Total
American Robin	1	1	0	0	2
Baltimore Oriole	1	0	0	0	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	5	0	0	0	5
Hermit Thrush	1	1	0	0	2
Least Flycatcher	11	15	0	0	26
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2	0	0	0	2
Warbling Vireo	1	1	0	0	2
Yellow Warbler	3	0	0	0	3
TOTAL	25	18	0	0	43