

## Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update May 22-28

It seems we are in the swing of spring migration now and we are catching more birds in the nets. The amount of singing and chasing taking place in the trees has also increased! Exciting arrivals include Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, American Goldfinches and Baltimore Orioles. It's nice to see these larger, brightly coloured birds perching around the lab. We've also added Warbling Vireos, Tennessee Warblers, Alder Flycatchers, an Olive-sided Flycatcher, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird to the birds we have heard or seen at the BBO.

Brown-headed Cowbirds have been hanging around the lab since the beginning of the month. We finally got to see this bird up close after catching our first three cowbirds all at once in a single net. A windy afternoon was spent checking the swallow grid nest boxes, and we're glad to see that a pair of Mountain Bluebirds has held onto one of these nest boxes and has laid 3 eggs. Swallows have built nests in 40 or so of the remaining boxes and are also laying eggs. And of course it has rained the requisite number of days this week. During wetter weather we've been busy painting and fixing several of the signs marking the trails around the Natural Area.



Male and female Brown-headed Cowbirds

The Big Birding Breakfast was held on May 28 and was a big success, with 32 people coming out to the lab to participate. Several visitors were able to release birds- including the five children who were glued to watching the entire process! Visitors also found Wood Frogs, butterflies, Snowshoe Hares and an enormous *Polyphemus* moth (check out the picture!). Janos Kovacs was busy the entire morning cooking up his wonderful jam and ground nut crepes. Two new species were banded (Wilson's Warbler and American Redstart), which was exciting for both visitors AND staff. A huge thanks goes out to Janos for the fantastic breakfast, as well as to all the volunteers who rolled crepes, washed dishes, scribed banding data and otherwise helped out. And thanks to everyone who came out to the event and for all the interest and enthusiasm shown for the birds and the BBO!

*-Allicia Kelly & Katie Cameron*



Breakfast in the lab



Releasing a Yellow Warbler



Katie taking a bird out of a mist net



Janos and Al making crepes



Releasing a Least Flycatcher



Did you know Alberta had moths this big?? (*Polyphemus* sp.)



**Table 1: Results from Spring Migration Monitoring May 22-28, 2006.**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Banded</b>	<b>Recapture</b>	<b>Foreign</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
Alder Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	1
American Redstart	2	0	0	0	2
Baltimore Oriole	0	1	0	0	1
Black-capped Chickadee	1	0	0	0	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	4	3	0	0	7
Clay-colored Sparrow	4	0	0	0	4
House Wren	3	0	0	0	3
Least Flycatcher	19	11	0	0	30
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	0	0	0	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	0	0	0	1
Savannah Sparrow	1	0	0	0	1
Swainson's Thrush	1	0	0	0	1
Tennessee Warbler	1	0	0	0	1
Trail's Flycatcher	3	0	0	0	3
Wilson's Warbler	2	0	0	0	2
White-throated Sparrow	2	0	0	0	2
Yellow Warbler	11	9	0	0	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>81</b>