

BEAVERHILL BIRD OBSERVATORY UPDATE JUNE 20-25, 2007

YOUNG BIRDS WERE THE STARS of this week. The House Wrens in the nest box attached to Alicia's bunkhouse have hatched and are now a week old. The robin eggs just behind the lab have also hatched, and we heard a young Baltimore Oriole begging from the pendulum nest that Alicia spotted up in a tree. The Tree Swallows at the swallow grid are at all stages of development; one set of eggs hasn't hatched yet, but others are ready to fledge and some already have! We spent many hours in the afternoons banding the young swallows. We arrived at a grand total of 161 juveniles and one adult - they look less cute after you've been pooped on for the hundredth time.



Young Tree Swallow

Banding was slow; we caught 23 birds in total and half of those were from BLAB station alone. However, the days are always filled with the excitement of seeing some bird or non-bird wildlife. We heard and saw Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows around the swallow grid, I saw my first Marsh Wren at Lister Lake, and during point counts across the weir, I was surrounded by a family of curious Black-capped Chickadees who came very close to inspect this strange creature in a bug jacket. The plumage on the young birds was so fresh and bright, but both parents looked extremely worn. I'm sure some human parents can relate! We also found a Green-winged Teal nest in the forest with the female sitting tight and motionless on her eggs. Not forgetting the mammal world, a porcupine allowed us to inspect him while he took a nap up in a tree and we saw a muskrat swimming by the weir; he quickly submerged when we approached.



Porcupine up in a tree

- Anna and Alicia

Table 1: Results MAPS mist-netting for Rotation 2: June 24-27, 2007.

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Robin	1	1	0	0	0	2
Baltimore Oriole	1	0	0	0	0	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	1	0	1	0	2
Hermit Thrush	0	0	1	0	0	1
Least Flycatcher	5	4	4	0	0	13
Red-winged Blackbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Veery	1	0	1	0	0	2
Yellow Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	10	6	6	1	0	23

Net Hours: 174.8 NH

Capture Rate: 13.16 birds/ 100 NH

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).