

## BEAVERHILL BIRD OBSERVATORY UPDATE MAY 8-14, 2007

THE SEASON HAS CONTINUED with a mixture of rainy and sunny days, creating prime conditions for mosquitoes. But as I was reminded today when a female Myrtle Warbler I banded had one of those pesky insects in her beak, it's just more food for some of our feathered friends and their soon-to-be young. Nests are beginning to appear around the lab and the Natural Area and a couple of bluebird nests with eggs are in the boxes along Rowan's Route.



*Mountain Bluebird nest*



*Blue-headed Vireo*

Banding has been much busier than last year; only 10 birds were caught from May 8-14 in 2006 (see 2007 results in Table 1). Added to the list of species banded since May 1 this year are Swainson's Thrushes along with a few birds that are rarely captured in our mist-nets: a Blue-headed Vireo, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and a Blue Jay. However, we did lose some hours and days of banding due to poor weather.

This week we had the amazing opportunity to participate in the banding of Great Horned Owl nestlings with Al DeGroot and Hardy Platz. We banded 10 owlets from 3 different nests and Allicia bravely climbed two of the trees in order to fetch the young birds. Great Horned Owls are known to be very defensive of their nests, but fortunately these parents were not very aggressive and did not attack the climbers. However, this also means the adults did not come close enough in order to catch and band them. Thank you to Al and Hardy for including us in this incredible experience and we look forward to the capture of an adult owl one day.



*Hardy banding an owlet*



*Yellow-bellied  
Sapsucker*

Several people have been working to improve the Natural Area this spring: a work bee was held on the weekend to install the posts around the visitor parking lot and James Sheppard built exceptional new nest boxes and extra lids for the swallow grid. We have already installed one of these boxes at the location of the old BBO sign and hopefully the two swallows that have been flying around that area will move in. Thank you so much to all the volunteers who have sacrificed their time to keep the BBO functional and make it a spectacular place to visit and work. We have had many visitors already, so come on out (and don't forget about the Bird Birding Breakfast on June 2). With so many new migrant species each week, how can you resist?

- Anna Daku and Allicia Kelly

Table 1: Results from Spring Migration Monitoring May 8 - May 17, 2007.

Species	Banded	Repeat <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total
Black-capped Chickadee	0	1	0	0	1	2
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	0	1	0	0	3
Blue-headed Vireo	1	0	0	0	0	1
Blue Jay	1	0	0	0	0	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	10	0	0	0	0	10
Chipping Sparrow	3	0	0	0	0	3
Least Flycatcher	4	0	0	0	0	4
Lincoln's Sparrow	3	0	0	0	1	4
Myrtle Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	0	0	0	0	1
Savannah Sparrow	3	0	0	0	0	3
Song Sparrow	0	0	0	0	1	1
Sparrow sp.	0	0	0	0	1	1
Swainson's Thrush	1	0	0	0	0	1
White-crowned Sparrow	2	0	0	0	0	2
White-throated Sparrow	5	0	0	0	0	5
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	0	0	0	0	1
Yellow Warbler	5	0	0	0	0	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>50</b>

Net Hours: 283.75 NH  
 Capture Rate: 17.27 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).



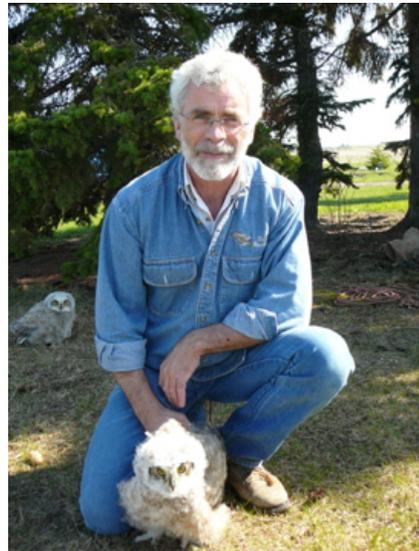
*Allicia after returning the owlets to the nest*



*Great Horned Owl*



*Anna with a 30-day-old nestling*



*Al DeGroot*