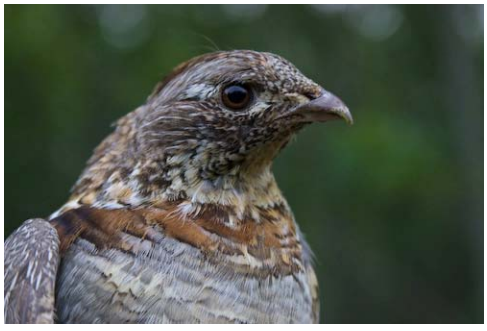
Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update June 10 to 19, 2008

After finishing up the spring migration monitoring, this shift saw us start the summer protocols here at the observatory. During the summer we follow MAPS protocols, which stands for Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship. The MAPS program was started in 1989 by the Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) in 1989 to collect standardized information about breeding bird populations across North America.

The Beaverhill Bird Observatory has run a MAPS station since 1989, adding a second station in 1994, and a third in 1996. I've included a link to the IBP website at the end of this report where you can find out more about the MAPS program, and about our stations in particular.

The summer is a slower time for us, banding-wise. There are no longer waves of migrants moving through, so the only birds to catch are the ones that have decided to call the Beaverhhill Lake Natural Area home for a couple months. Also, the MAPS protocol requires only one day of banding per 10-day period for each of the three stations. We spend a couple more days per shift doing point-count surveys at the stations where we record all the birds we see and hear at specific points.

The most common bird species breeding in the young deciduous (mostly balsam poplar) forest in the Natural Area is, by far, the Least Flycatcher. These guys accounted for 2/3^{rds} of our captures this shift, and are so abundant (and noisy) on our surveys that they are sometimes difficult to get an accurate count of.



The bird that I enjoyed catching the most this shift was one that we weren't even able to band—a Ruffed Grouse. This male Grouse has been drumming out his claim to the area right around the lab since early this spring, and on Thursday he was "lucky" enough to flush into one of our nets. Actually—the first thing he did was to tear straight through one of our nets, but then he turned around and got caught again, just as I was running up to meet him. His legs, which are feathered all the way down to his feet, were far too big for any of the songbird bands that we have at the lab, but it was really neat to get a close look at a bird that, as a year-round resident, is such a characteristic part of our northern forests.

—JMDR

Species	Banded	Repeat[1]	Return[2]	Foreign[3]	Other[4]	Total
Least Flycatcher	21	2	0	0	0	23
Brown-headed Cowbird	5	2	0	0	0	7
Black-capped Chickadee	2	0	0	0	0	2
Hermit Thrush	1	1	0	0	0	2
Yellow Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Baltimore Oriole	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ruffed Grouse	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	32	5	0	0	0	38

Net Hours: *180*
Capture Rate: *21.1 /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).

General MAPS Program Information:
www.birdpop.org/maps.htm

BBO MAPS Station Information:
www.birdpop.org/nbii/station/stationresults.asp?strLocation=bbo-

Flowering Timothy (*Phleum pratense*) grass at one of our MAPS stations (WEIR).