

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update July 10th - 19th



Many thanks to the staff, board members and volunteers, pictured here, who helped with road repair!



Red-Eyed Vireos, like the one pictured, are one of the most vocal songsters in the world, singing continuously for hours at a time.



A Purple Martin chick. These large swallows are well known for their twittering song and colonial nesting habits. They are almost entirely dependent on human-made nesting structures.

With much thanks to the help of a bobcat and many volunteers, we were able to repair just over half of the access road before running out of gravel. We appreciate those who braved the heat and early morning callout for a few hours of raking and shoveling gravel. They were generously rewarded with Mom's Ice Cream in Tofield by our chair, Geoff Holroyd. Unfortunately, we have more road to fix and need your help as more loads of gravel are above our budget for the repair. Any donations towards the remainder of the road repair are greatly appreciated.

Our 8th round of MAPS banding was completed this week, and we were delighted to band our first Red-eyed Vireo of the year. Other banding highlights include a Grey Catbird, a Downy Woodpecker, and a returning Least Flycatcher and House Wren, both banded initially at the BBO 4 years ago in 2017. We also caught 3 Tennessee Warblers and spotted Myrtle Warblers in the clearing earlier than usual, possibly being pushed south by the wildfires in northern Alberta.

The BBO lab finally has the solar power up and running! We can now power the Motus tower to pick up any migrant birds with nanotags that fly within 15 km. With solar power also comes internet and cell service, the ability to run our much-loved coffee maker, and best of all, a ceiling fan in the staff area that is absolutely glorious on hot summer days!

Jon and Jana took advantage of the generosity of our board members and a lovely couple by Camrose and banded their Purple Martin colony nestlings. The two are excited to be near the required number of bids banded to apply for their banding permits.

The staff installed new rebar, poles, and nets along the migration monitoring route and mowed the net lanes in preparation for fall migration, which starts July 20th and runs through until mid-October.

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Least Flycatcher	20	1	1			22
Trail's Flycatcher	3				1	4
House Wren			1			1
Yellow Warbler	10	2				12
Tennessee Warbler	3					3
Warbling Vireo	6					6
Red-eyed Vireo	1					1
Black-capped Chickadee	14	4				18
Clay-colored Sparrow	1					1
White-throated Sparrow	1					1
Swamp Sparrow		1				1
Song Sparrow	3					3
Swainson's Thrush	1					1
American Robin	1					1
Grey Catbird		1				1
Downy Woodpecker	1					1
Brown-headed Cowbird	1					1
TOTALS	66	9	2		1	78

159.5 net-hours

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

48.9 captures/100 net-hours

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).