

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update June 20-29, 2022

The staff completed another round of MAPS banding with some exciting captures. A whopping 43 Red-winged Blackbirds were captured, with 19 receiving new bands; the remainder were either already banded or between band sizes, which are processed as usual and released un-banded. Other notable captures include an Eastern Kingbird, a Gray Catbird, 4 Cedar Waxwings, 2 Swamp Sparrows, and 2 stunningly beautiful Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. A female Common Grackle and a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird were captured but not banded.



Eastern Kingbird showing off their red crown plumage, which is usually concealed.



15 day old Tree Swallow nestling that was banded

Additional to MAPS banding, the staff were occupied with banding nearly 450 Tree Swallow nestlings in the 3 nest box grids. These birds are banded and tracked to better understand site fidelity and migration movements, dispersal, breeding biology and life history

The BBO Purple Martin colony has finally taken off! When staff checked the 2 colony nesting boxes, they found 9 nests – 8 with eggs and 1 with chicks. The staff are delighted to have a breeding colony, and the cheerful bubbly twitters are a welcome addition to the lakeside.

With many thanks to our volunteers, Hazel, Karen, Theodore, and BBO assistant biologists Shane and Jana, the access road repair of the pasture road and Accipiter Alley went smoothly. Bob Schwartz, with his skid steer, did most of the heavy lifting, while the volunteers and staff used rakes and shovels to fine-tune the rest. Thanks to BBO chair Geoff Holroyd for lending a hand and organizing the gravel deliveries.



Volunteers and staff lending a hand with the road repair to the pasture road and Accipiter Alley. Thank you for your help!

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Least Flycatcher	4	3	1		1	9
Eastern Kingbird	1					1
House Wren	1					1
Yellow Warbler	4	4				8
Common Yellowthroat	1					1
Clay-colored Sparrow	6					6
Song Sparrow	3	3	2		1	9
Swamp Sparrow		1	1			2
White-thorated Sparrow	3	1				4
American Goldfinch	4					4
Gray Catbird	1					1
Cedar Waxwing	4					4
Downy Woodpecker	1					1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	1				2
American Robin	1	1	2			4
Baltimore Oriole	1		1		1	3
Red-winged Blackbird	19	4	5		15	43
Brown-headed Blackbird	1					1
Common Grackle					1	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird					1	1
totals	56	18	12	0	20	106

Net hours: 106
Capture Rate: 61 birds/100 net hours

- 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).