

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update: May 31-June 9

The last round of spring migration was the most successful for numbers of birds captured. There were 100 birds captured in the mistnets, represented by 16 species (Table 1). The top species captured continued to be the Least Flycatcher, with the Yellow Warbler being second. Some really interesting species that were captured included three Baltimore Orioles, four Goldfinches, and an Olive-sided Flycatcher (photo right-note the large size and the olive sides on this flycatcher).



Table 1. Results from mist netting May 31 to June 9, 2005.

Species	Banded	Recapture	Other	TOTAL
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	0	0	1
Trail's Flycatcher	7	0	0	7
Least Flycatcher	30	16	0	46
Alder Flycatcher	2	0	0	2
Black-capped Chickadee	0	2	0	0
Warbling Vireo	2	0	0	2
Red-eyed Vireo	3	0	0	3
House Wren	3	0	0	3
Swainson's Thrush	3	0	0	3
American Robin	1	2	1*	1
Yellow Warbler	1	14	0	15
Baltimore Oriole	1	2	0	3
Song Sparrow	1	0	0	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	1	0	0	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	3	0	3
American Goldfinch	3	0	1**	4
TOTAL	59	39	2	100

* escaped from net before it could be removed ** unbanded, processed but forgot to band

We spent a few hours on the Tree Swallow Grid, and managed to catch another 12 adult females (8 banded, 4 recaptures). Most of the nests are now completed with up to 7 eggs, a few nests are just being completed. We will be banding the young in three weeks or so.

A walk to the weir on June 7 was productive, there is still plenty of water in Lister Lake, and therefore many waterfowl nesting. Blue-winged Teal, Gadwall, Shovelors, Mallards, Coots, and Pied-billed Grebes are all present. We are hearing an American Bittern every morning now, which has the most amazing call.



So spring migration is officially over and we now begin our summer MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) program. We will be moving between three stations (WEIR, PARK, and BLAB) throughout the summer, so if you are planning a visit, let us know and we can tell you where we will be. A total of 301 birds were captured and banded (mist nets, nestboxes) in spring 2005. Let's see what the summer brings!!

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Beaverhill Bird Observatory