

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update June 5-10, 2006

This week marks the end of Spring Migration Monitoring at the BBO. Between May 1 and June 11, we caught 232 birds in the mist-nets, and banded 169 birds (the others were already banded from previous years). The most common birds caught in the nets this spring were the Least Flycatcher (69), Yellow Warbler (31), Clay-coloured Sparrow (20), Swainson's Thrush (18) and House Wren (17). For the last two weeks our recapture rate (birds already wearing bands) has been close to 50%: a good indication that flocks are no longer migrating through the Natural Area and we are instead catching resident birds which have set up breeding territories near the nets.



American Robin chick

We continued nest-side and nest-box banding this week. So far, we've banded a young American Robin, several bluebird nestlings and two young Black-billed Magpies!! A pair of magpies built a nest this spring not too far from our lab. When we arrived to band the nestlings, there were two young in the nest. They appeared almost ready to fledge, but hadn't grown much for tail feathers yet. It was very exciting to see these birds up close- though a magpie just doesn't look like a magpie without a long tail!



Top: Mountain Bluebird chicks
Bottom: Young Black-billed Magpie

We were only able to set mist-nets up two days this week. The highlight of netting was a Grey Catbird, which is only occasionally caught at the BBO. Other time was spent getting ready for the next few weeks by clearing trails and setting nets up for MAPS- Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship. For the next 7 weeks we'll be catching birds to contribute to this North American-wide research program which is focused on resident birds. We monitor birds in three different locations in the Natural Area with mist-netting and point counts (recording all the birds seen or heard at a set number of locations on a particular route). So if you're planning to visit the BBO, give us a call (991-6864) and we'll let you know where to find us!



-*Alicia and Katie*

Table 1: Results for Spring Migration Monitoring June 5-11, 2006.

| Species | Banded | Recapture | Foreign | Other | Total |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Brown-headed Cowbird | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Clay-colored Sparrow | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| House Wren | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Least Flycatcher | 5 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| Song Sparrow | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Swainson's Thrush | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Traill's Flycatcher | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Warbling Vireo | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Yellow Warbler | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| TOTAL | 15 | 14 | 2 | 0 | 31 |

Table 2: Results from Spring Migration Monitoring May 1-June 11, 2006.

| Species | Banded | Recapture | Foreign | Other | Total |
|------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Alder Flycatcher | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| American Goldfinch | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| American Redstart | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| American Robin | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Baltimore Oriole | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | 5 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| Blackpoll Warbler | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Clay-colored Sparrow | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 |
| Chipping Sparrow | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Gray-cheeked Thrush | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Hermit Thrush | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| House Wren | 14 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| Least Flycatcher | 40 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 69 |
| Long-eared Owl | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Magnolia Warbler | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Myrtle Warbler | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Ovenbird | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Savannah Sparrow | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Slate-colored Junco | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Song Sparrow | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 |
| Swainson's Thrush | 18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 |
| Tennessee Warbler | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Traill's Flycatcher | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Warbling Vireo | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Wilson's Warbler | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| White-throated Sparrow | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Yellow Warbler | 15 | 15 | 1 | 0 | 31 |
| TOTAL | 169 | 61 | 2 | 0 | 232 |



The Beaverhill Bird Observatory