

## BEAVERHILL BIRD OBSERVATORY UPDATE MAY 29-JUNE 4, 2007

MORE THAN 25 PEOPLE who were interested in birds and bird banding came out for the Big Birding Breakfast on June 2 to share in a time of eating Janos Kovacs' delicious crepes, catching interesting birds and interacting with fellow 'bird nerds'. This year we caught 19 birds. More than half were Least Flycatchers, a common species, but our birding desires were granted when a Red-eyed Vireo was netted on the very last net check of the day. In the afternoon we headed out to the Tree Swallow grid, but the practically nonexistent wind prevented the swallows from chasing the feathers we released. We did catch several swallows in their boxes by happenstance, and were able to see completed nests holding 5 to 8 eggs each. It was great to see so many keen people here bright and early at 4:45am when we set up the nets, and survive the heat and the bugs throughout the day!



*Anna explaining the molt pattern in a Least Flycatcher at the Big Birding Breakfast*



*Hairy Woodpecker*

Another highlight of the week was the capture of 9 new species: American Goldfinches, Alder Flycatchers, Red-eyed Vireos, Warbling Vireos, and less common Canada Warblers, a Mourning Warbler, a male Hairy Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, and a Gray Catbird. A Bay-breasted Warbler was heard and seen, and many American Bitterns are now calling from Lister Lake.

The Ruby-throated Hummingbirds have returned; two females regular visit the feeder in front of the lab and one gorgeous male was caught in a net last week. We don't band these tiny birds but we do need to extract them if they become waylaid by a mist net. Anna had a tricky time trying to remove this little guy – his feet and legs are so small they are nearly non-existent. We were also fortunate to run across three Clay-coloured Sparrow nests. One was found by a guest (Bill) at the Big Birding Breakfast and the other two were discovered by Allicia while she searched for butterflies.



*Female Mourning Warbler*



*The flying squirrel*

A flying squirrel has made a nest in the box which holds the thermometer outside the lab. We've noticed this nest accumulating material for the last few weeks but were unsure which species was responsible. When the nest was jostled a few days ago, a flying squirrel popped his head out. We hope he or she has some little squirrels this summer.

- Anna Daku and Allicia Kelly

Table 1: Results from Spring Migration Monitoring May 29 – June 4, 2007

<b>Species</b>	<b>Banded</b>	<b>Repeat<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Return<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Foreign<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Other<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
Alder Flycatcher	3	0	0	0	0	3
American Goldfinch	4	0	0	0	0	4
American Redstart	2	0	0	0	0	2
American Robin	2	0	0	0	0	2
Black-capped Chickadee	0	1	0	0	0	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	1	0	0	1	4
Canada Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Clay-colored Sparrow	10	5	0	0	0	15
Gray Catbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hairy Woodpecker	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hermit Thrush	0	0	1	0	0	1
House Wren	4	3	1	0	1	9
Least Flycatcher	20	5	1	0	1	27
Mourning Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ovenbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Red-eyed Vireo	4	0	0	0	0	4
Song Sparrow	1	0	0	0	1	2
Swainson's Thrush	6	0	0	0	0	6
Tree Swallow	3	0	0	0	0	3
Traill's Flycatcher	2	0	0	0	0	2
Warbling Vireo	1	0	0	0	0	1
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	0	1
Yellow Warbler	2	1	5	0	1	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>102</b>

*Net Hours: 450 NH*

*Capture Rate: 22.67 birds/ 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).



*Mark and Jasper trying to lure swallows by releasing feathers in the wind*



*Finn counting the eggs in a swallow nest box*