

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update June 5 – June 9, 2009



Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

This was our last period of banding for Spring Migration Monitoring. It definitely ended on a high note. Our last day surprised us with a female Tree Swallow in one of our mist-nets. Swallows don't generally get caught in mist nets, as they are very capable flyers. This female was already adorned with a band, and a look through our records indicated that she's been returning here every year to breed since 2006. June 9th also brought us our 500th capture for 2009. It was great to celebrate this achievement with a special guest appearance – a female Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

As many of you know, the drought impacting Alberta has taken a heavy toll on Beaverhill Lake. The memories of it as an expansive prairie lake are held fondly in the memories of those who knew it. Katie and I can only imagine the lake in its glory. Many wonder how the receding water will affect Beaverhill's breeding and migrant bird populations. For comparison, refer to Figure 1 to see the capture rates of Spring Migration Monitoring from 2000 to this year.



Clay-coloured Sparrow



Ashley and the female Long-eared Owl

Chuck and Lisa Priestley joined us one evening this week to catch and band the female Long-Eared Owl who is nesting in the Natural Area. The group effort proved extremely successful, and the banded mother owl was promptly returned to her brood. The male waited nearby to show his concern, but it is unlikely that we will be able to catch him. This pair has three young hatchlings, and we will be returning to band them once they are good and ready.

The owl nest is a nice introduction to our theme for June and July – monitoring breeding birds at Beaverhill. We feel slightly nostalgic as we look back over our Spring species captured. However, a glance at this week's data shows that our number of recaptures (birds that we've already banded) is increasing markedly. This means that new migrants through the area are dwindling and most of our captures are resident birds. So, as the birds settle into their summer breeding homes, we must bid a fond farewell to Spring Migration 2009 at BBO. The Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program awaits!



Red-eyed Vireo

Table 1. Results from Spring Migration Monitoring June 5 – June 9 2009.

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Goldfinch	4	1	0	0	0	5
Baltimore Oriole	0	1	0	0	0	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	2	0	0	0	2
Blackpoll Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	8	2	0	0	2	12
House Wren	1	1	0	0	1	3
Least Flycatcher	8	9	0	0	4	21
Red-eyed Vireo	1	0	0	0	0	1
Swainson's Thrush	2	0	0	0	0	2
Tree Swallow	0	0	1	0	0	1
Warbling Vireo	1	2	0	0	0	3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	0	0	0	0	1
Yellow Warbler	1	3	0	0	0	4
Total	28	21	1	0	7	57

Net Hours: 217 NH
 Capture Rate: 26.27 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).



Early Blue Violet

Blackpoll Warbler (female)

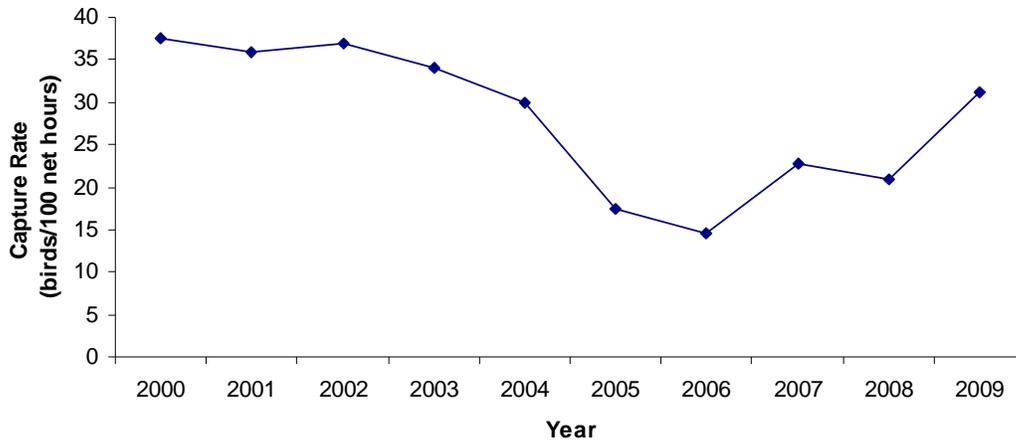


Figure 1. Comparison of Spring Migration Monitoring capture rates at BBO from 2000 to 2009.

Table 2. Results from Spring Migration Monitoring May 1 – June 9, 2009.

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Alder Flycatcher	2	0	0	0	0	2
American Goldfinch	10	1	0	0	0	11
American Redstart	4	0	0	0	2	6
American Robin	15	5	0	0	0	20
Baltimore Oriole	8	2	1	0	0	11
Black-capped Chickadee	4	2	2	0	0	8
Blackpoll Warbler	5	0	0	0	0	5
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	4	4	0	2	11
Chipping Sparrow	17	0	0	0	4	21
Clay-coloured Sparrow	66	11	0	0	14	91
Connecticut Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Cooper's Hawk	1	0	0	0	0	1
Eastern Phoebe	1	0	0	0	0	1
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hermit Thrush	2	0	2	0	0	4
House Wren	13	4	0	0	3	20
Least Flycatcher	70	22	11	0	10	113
Lincoln's Sparrow	3	0	0	0	0	3
Myrtle Warbler	35	1	0	0	5	41
Northern Waterthrush	1	0	0	0	0	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ovenbird	2	0	0	0	0	2
Pine Siskin	12	0	0	0	0	12
Purple Finch	1	0	0	0	0	1
Red-eyed Vireo	2	0	0	0	0	2
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	4	0	0	0	0	4
Savannah Sparrow	2	0	0	0	0	2
Slate-coloured Junco	6	1	0	0	0	7
Song Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Swainson's Thrush	25	0	0	0	3	28
Trail's Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	1	2
Tree Swallow	0	0	1	0	0	1
Unknown Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Warbling Vireo	3	4	2	0	0	9
White-crowned Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
White-throated Sparrow	7	0	0	0	1	8
Willow Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	0	1
Yellow Warbler	18	12	10	0	2	42
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	0	0	0	0	2
Total	351	69	33	0	47	500

Net Hours: 1608 NH
Capture Rate: 31.09 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).