

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly update - June 20th to June 29th, 2024



A Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) that was captured in our LILA nets twice on the same day.

The second period of MAPS banding was completed without issue. Cooperative weather allowed us to complete our banding in just the first three days of this period. The nets at SOPO captured 44 birds while LILA captured 52 in both cases fewer birds than the previous week. On the other hand, BLAB caught more birds than last week with 21. Among these 117 birds, the most frequently captured were Least Flycatchers with 22, Yellow Warblers with 20, and Red-winged Blackbirds with 19. At LILA specifically, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers tied Yellow Warbler as the most caught with 9 of each. This gave the new staff an opportunity to learn how to age these tricky Sapsuckers. While no out-of-the-ordinary birds were caught this week some highlights include the Gray Catbird, Song Sparrows, and both Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos.

In addition to the MAPS banding this week, the staff and several volunteers banded many Tree Swallow chicks and a few adults in the nest boxes around BBO. By the end of the week, 84 nestlings from 14 nest boxes were banded in addition to 10 adults.

Other surveys continued this week as well. However strong winds throughout the week meant finding opportunities for these surveys was difficult. Despite this, Forest Breeding Bird Surveys, Least Flycatcher nest surveys and Marsh Monitoring Program (MMP) surveys were completed. The Forest Breeding Bird Survey continued to reveal our most common breeding birds like Least Flycatchers and Yellow Warblers. The winds and storms in recent days have caused some Least Flycatcher nests to be destroyed however several other nests already have adorable hatchlings. The primary target of the MMP at the BBO is the reclusive and nocturnal Yellow Rail which was detected during a survey for the first time this week! Overall, this was a successful week with many exciting moments!



A nestling Tree Swallow (*Tachycineta bicolor*) in the process of being banded.

Table 1. Summary of MAPS banding at SOPO on June 20th.

Species	Banded	Repeats ¹	Returns ²	Other ³	Total:
Traill's Flycatcher	1	1			2
Least Flycatcher	3	1	1		5
Warbling Vireo	4				4
Yellow Warbler	3	3	4		10
Clay-coloured Sparrow	3	1			4
Song Sparrow	1	1	1		3
Brown-headed Cowbird		1	1		2
Baltimore Oriole				1	1
Red-winged Blackbird	10	1	1	1	13
Total:	25	9	8	2	44

53.5 net-hours

82.2 captures/100 net-hours

1 - banded 90 or fewer days ago, at the BBO

2 - banded over 90 days ago, at the BBO

3 - caught but not banded (e.g. escaped)

Table 2. Summary of MAPS banding at LILA on June 21st.

Species	Banded	Repeats ¹	Returns ²	Other ³	Total:
Traill's Flycatcher	1				1
Least Flycatcher	3	3			6
Black-capped Chickadee	2				2
House Wren		1			1
Warbling Vireo	3				3
Red-eyed Vireo	1				1
Yellow Warbler	7		1	1	9
Clay-coloured sparrow	3				3
Song Sparrow		1			1
Brown-headed Cowbird		1			1
Baltimore Oriole	8				8
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	4	2	2	9
Red-winged Blackbird	4		1	1	6
Gray Catbird	1				1
Total:	34	10	4	4	52

59.0 net-hours

88.1 captures/100 net-hours

1 - banded 90 or fewer days ago, at the BBO

2 - banded over 90 days ago, at the BBO

3 - caught but not banded (e.g. escaped)

Table 2. Summary of MAPS banding at BLAB on June 22nd.

Species	Banded	Repeats ¹	Returns ²	Other ³	Total:
Least Flycatcher	4	4	3		11
American Robin	2				2
Yellow Warbler			1		1
Brown-headed Cowbird	1		1		1
Baltimore Oriole	2	3			5
Total:	9	7	5	0	21

60.0 net-hours

35.0 captures/100 net-hours

1 - banded 90 or fewer days ago, at the BBO

2 - banded over 90 days ago, at the BBO

3 - caught but not banded (e.g. escaped)