

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update: June 30 – July 9

Round 3 of MAPS was a great success!! The weather cooperated nicely, and with help from volunteer Chuck Priestley we managed to get all the netting and point counts done at all three MAPS stations. Netting also more interesting with quite a few birds being captured. The most unusual record was a female Tennessee Warbler with a brood patch at the WEIR station. I do not believe we have ever recorded Tennessee Warblers breeding on site before. The familiar ‘tikka tikka tikkaa, swit swit swit, chew chew chew chew’ was also heard in BLAB and PARK. Are they already migrating back??? We also caught the first Downy Woodpecker of the year, and the first one we’ve seen this year, strange as they are fairly common each year in the Natural Area.

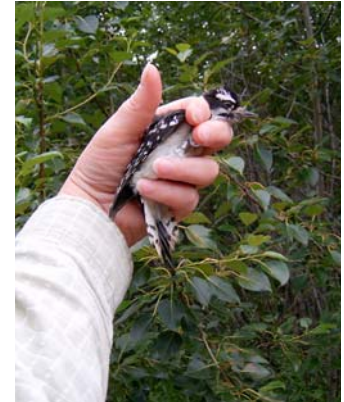


Table 1. Results from MAPS mist netting July 4-6 at BLAB, WEIR, and PARK.

Species	Banded	Recapture	Other	TOTAL
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	0	0	1
Downy Woodpecker	1	0	0	1
Least Flycatcher	16	12	0	28
House Wren	5	3	0	8
Hermit Thrush	1	1	0	2
American Robin	1	1	0	2
Red-eyed Vireo	1	0	0	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	2	0	0	2
White-throated Sparrow	0	1	0	1
Tennessee Warbler	1	0	0	1
Yellow Warbler	2	1	0	3
Ovenbird	1	0	0	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	4	1	1	6
Baltimore Oriole	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	37	20	1	58

We found some new nests this round, a couple Least Flycatchers, two House Wren nests (banded 13 young), and evidence of an American Goldfinch nest nearby with the three young recently fledged. The Tree Swallow grid work was also completed. We banded 40 young in the final later nests.

Of course, I have to thank Myrna Pearman for again hosting a wonderful Bluebird Festival at the Ellis Bird Farm. We very much enjoyed setting up the BBO display and some nets. The best bird captured this year at the site, has to be the Boreal Chickadee!! And we met a new up and coming bird enthusiast, Shawn, who spent almost the whole day at our display helping out. Thanks for your interest and enthusiasm!



Lisa Priestley and Sara Majeski
Beaverhill Bird Observatory

PS: We have to also mention the scary incident that happened to Chuck. He was busy volunteering doing point counts, when a wasp or hornet attacked him, stinging him in the eye and on the top of the head a number of times. Fortunately, he was able to get back to the lab and with some anti-inflammatory made a full recovery. The dangers of field work are never known.