

## Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update: June 20-29



Round 2 of MAPS was again difficult to complete due to rain and wind. In the four days we completed netting at PARK and BLAB and point counts at BLAB and WEIR. It was slow in the nets as only 14 birds were captured representing five species. We do expect things to be a little slow right now, as females are on sitting tight on their nests. The leader once again was the Least Flycatcher, with 9 more captured, representing more than half the total captures. The sapsucker was a nice one to catch!!

Table 1. Results from MAPS mist netting June 20 and 21 at PARK and BLAB.

Species	Banded	Recapture	Other	TOTAL
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	0	0	1
Least Flycatcher	5	4	0	9
American Robin	1	0	0	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	2	0	0	2
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	0	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>

The Tree Swallow grid was the other big news. We captured two more adult females on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, bringing the total to 28 adult females. The young in most of the nests were ready to band. We banded two nestlings in two nests on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and then returned on the 28<sup>th</sup> to band young at 32 nests. Only a few nests remaining now, including one that is still eggs (it failed and was reoccupied). Over 200 young Tree Swallows are now wearing size 1 bands. We had another volunteer come out to help with the banding.

What does the next week bring, well, round three of MAPS. I will also be heading down to Ellis Bird Farm located near Lacombe (<http://www.ellisbirdfarm.ab.ca/index.html>), to set up nets for a banding demonstration. This is a beautiful pocket of forest set in the agricultural landscape, a small haven for birds, with trickling creeks, ponds, and gardens. I encourage you to check it out some day. They have a lovely teahouse with nice desserts also, mmmmm!!



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