

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update July 20-29, 2006.

This week has been our last rotation of MAPS, and mist-netting was very slow. I can't blame the birds for not flying into the nets: most of the time it felt too hot for anything to feel energetic. We had to close the nets early every day due to the heat, and this may also contribute to our low number of captures. The unrelenting heat has exceeded 27° C (our cutoff for mist-netting) as early as 10:30 a.m., with afternoons reaching 35° C in the shade. We braved the heat to chase butterflies during our weekly Pollard Walk, but even the butterflies seemed to be hiding from the heat.

The mist-nets continued to catch fledgling birds as well as females growing new feathers to cover their old brood patch. And one of my favourite birds, the Ovenbird, made a welcomed appearance. These birds build an oven-shaped nest on the ground, sing a sharp “TEACH-er- TEACH-er- TEACHER”, and best of all, have racing stripes across the top of their head. Chickadees seem to be everywhere, often following us along a path for a few meters. And juvenile American Goldfinches are following their parents to the birdfeeder in the yard, but (like many fledglings we see hopping around in the trees) still seem to want to be fed.



Ovenbird

Fall may seem a long way away, but for some songbirds, it's already time to think about heading south. Some migratory songbirds spend just two months on their breeding territories. In this short time they breed, lay eggs, and raise their young. The young in turn need to learn to fly, feed themselves and quickly build up some fat for the long migration south. Fall Songbird Migration Monitoring starts here on August 1st. We will be setting mist-nets every day, and should see a wider variety of species, fall plumages and many young birds making their first migratory trip south!

-Allicia and Katie

Table 1. Results from MAPS monitoring July 20-29, 2006.

Species	Banded	Recapture	Foreign	Other	Total
Black-capped Chickadee	4	0	0	0	4
Least Flycatcher	5	1	0	0	6
Ovenbird	1	0	0	0	1
Red-eyed Vireo	1	0	0	0	1
Swainson's Thrush	1	0	0	0	1
Warbling Vireo	1	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	13	1	0	0	14



A Least Flycatcher- one of the species we catch most at the BBO