

BEAVERHILL BIRD OBSERVATORY UPDATE JUNE 30- JULY 9, 2007

THERE WERE MORE THAN A FEW WOBBLY LANDINGS THIS WEEK as young birds fledged (left the nest) throughout the Natural Area. It's not hard to identify these juvenile birds: they have fresh, brand-new feathers, short, still-growing tails, and most obviously, are still practicing their flying skills. Short awkward flights and occasional crash-landings give them away. They can't sing well, either, so some of them practice that, too. Many of these birds are still being fed by their parents (think teenager), and a concerned Yellow Warbler scolded me this week for getting too close to her adoptive Brown-headed Cowbird 'young'. We also banded the first two juvenile birds caught in mist-nets this year: a Clay-coloured Sparrow at Park station and a Downy Woodpecker at Weir station.



Juvenile Downy Woodpecker



A Tree Swallow dive-bombs Irene at the Swallow Grid

Once again we spent several afternoons nest-side banding. Five Mountain Bluebirds and 11 House Wrens were banded from nest boxes near the lab and at Francis Point, and Irene Crosland came out to help us band the last 57 Tree Swallow nestlings on the Swallow Grid. Other nests are at earlier stages of development. A nest of House Wrens near the lab have only recently hatched and another pair of House Wrens is busy filling a nest box with sticks; it started this nest construction immediately after the previous occupants (Tree Swallows) fledged. This seems to be a very productive year, with many nest boxes being used for a second time this season. The clouds of insects (which I mistook for rain in the distance one evening!) provide lots of food to support this high productivity.

On Saturday, July 14, we are holding this year's North American Butterfly Association butterfly count: a one-day count of all the butterflies observed in a 15-mile radius. We monitor butterflies through this event as well as a weekly Pollard Walk. This is interesting because butterflies can be indicators of habitat quality and habitat changes. We would appreciate your help and company chasing butterflies on Saturday afternoon! No experience with butterflies is necessary, but if you've got any, that's good too. We'll be meeting at the BBO lab at noon; call the lab at 819-9927 for details.



Canadian Tiger Swallowtail

-Alicia and Anna

Table 1: Results from MAPS mist-netting for Rotation 3, July 3-5 2007.

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Robin	1	0	0	0	0	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Downy Woodpecker	1	0	0	0	0	1
Least Flycatcher	8	3	4	0	1	16
Red-eyed Vireo	2	0	0	0	0	2
Song Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Veery	1	1	1	0	0	3
Warbling Vireo	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	17	4	5	0	1	27

Net Hours: 180 NH

Capture Rate: 15.00 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).