

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update May 25 to 31, 2008

This was a very eventful week at the BBO: Jonathan was gone taking care of his newborn baby and wife so I was left to my own devices not being able to band for most of the week.

Monday I occupied myself by checking how the Tree Swallows were progressing, and I found the first new clutches of eggs, though incomplete. The most I found in a nest was three, and the swallows usually lay 7-8 eggs. Almost all the nest boxes are occupied by now as the breeding season continues.



Lisa Priestly came out to band on Tuesday as we entertained a group of naturalists from NAIT who came to see the area. It turned out to be a great day for birds, and we caught 26 in total, including some Least Flycatchers, Swainson's thrushes, Brown-headed Cowbirds, Clay-colored Sparrows and yellow warblers as well as some less common Northern Orioles and a Tennessee Warbler. Some Ruby-throated Hummingbirds also came out to visit us on this day and have continued ever since. The event was quite a success and everyone had fun.



Wednesday I went out to monitor the bluebird trail which is composed of some roadside nest boxes near the banding station. I found three Mountain Bluebird nests and lots of Tree Swallow nests, many of which had eggs. I'm excited to see how the bluebirds progress, we could always use more of them!

Lisa came out again on Thursday and I was glad to be banding again. We were slightly less successful with only 17 birds, but we managed to capture a Veery, a Wilson's Warbler and a Savannah Sparrow which were all firsts for this year. We also caught the usual Least Flycatchers, Swainson's Thrushes, a Yellow Warbler and a Clay-colored Sparrow, accompanied by a handful of the beautiful Orioles.

There was nobody out Friday, but we more than made up for it on Saturday as it was our annual Big Birding Breakfast which was a huge success and a lot of fun. There were free crepes and bacon compliments of Janos Kovacs, himself a bird bander, and we had about 20 people come out and enjoy





the birds with us. It turned out to be a great day to hold the event as we caught 27 birds, mostly the usual suspects, and a wayward straggling Tree Sparrow who caused a big commotion because that species is usually gone by the first week of May. We also caught our first American Goldfinches of the year, one of the few birds to rival a Yellow Warbler's bright yellow plumage.

—RSP

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Least Flycatcher	16	7	0	0	0	23
Yellow Warbler	5	7	0	0	0	12
Brown-headed Cowbird	6	5	0	0	0	11
Baltimore Oriole	4	4	0	0	0	8
Swainson's Thrush	6	0	0	0	0	6
Clay-colored Sparrow	3	0	0	0	0	3
Veery	0	3	0	0	0	3
American Goldfinch	2	0	0	0	0	2
American Tree Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Tennessee Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Wilson's Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	45	26	0	0	0	71

Net Hours: 208

Capture Rate: 34.1 /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).

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