

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update June 10 – June 19, 2009

With the end of spring migration monitoring we have moved on to running the Monitoring Avian Production and Survivorship (MAPS) Program. This consists of banding in three different locations across the natural area, one site around the lab where migration monitoring takes place, one site east of the Weir, and one site south of the lab. It is nice to have some different scenery, and to detect different species we don't see around the lab.



Gray Catbird

We started this round with banding at the Weir station. Walking out there in the morning we were greeted by species we haven't heard during the spring; Alder Flycatchers, Common Yellow-throats, and a Sora (despite the *complete* lack of water in Lister Lake this year). The banding was surprisingly busy, with a total of 37 birds caught at that site, with the highlight certainly being the Gray Catbird. It seems there is only one of these birds captured every year, so we did take some time to photograph and appreciate it.

Banding at the station near the lab was more toned down and typical of MAPS with 18 birds caught, many of which already had bands. The MAPS program was designed to assess and monitor the vital rates and population dynamics of North American landbirds, and the recapture of banded individuals provides insight into the survivorship of individuals on the breeding territory and on the wintering grounds. Repeat individuals of migratory species (Table 1) have survived fall migration, overwintering, and spring migration, which on its own is impressive—it is always nice to see a familiar face from last year.



Flowers are all around the Natural area now

Banding at the Park Station south of the lab was very quiet, as usual for that site, with a total of 11 birds captured. There was a bit of excitement as a female grouse bravely charged and flapped at Katie, who had inadvertently stepped too close to her highly camouflaged, tiny chick. The ferocity of mother animals is astounding, and Katie is still slightly embarrassed about her hasty retreat from the essentially harmless, though highly intimidating mother bird.

Table 1. Results from MAPS Program June 10 – June 19, 2009

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Least Flycatcher	26	3	4	0	0	33
Warbling Vireo	7	0	1	0	1	9
Yellow Warbler	1	0	1	0	0	2
Myrtle Warbler	1	0	0	0	1	2
Clay-coloured Sparrow	4	0	1	0	2	7
Brown-headed Cowbird	5	0	0	0	0	5
Baltimore Oriole	2	0	1	0	0	3
American Goldfinch	2	0	0	0	0	2
Gray Catbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2	0	0	0	0	2
Total	51	3	8	0	4	66

Net Hours: 180 NH

Capture Rate: 36.67 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).



American Goldfinch caught in one of the mistnets