

## Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update June 20 - 29, 2010



Black-capped Chickadee in a fresh set of feathers

Well, the days are just flying by and so here we are at the end of another round of MAPS.

Banding at the BLAB station was actually quite busy. We were surprised with a handful of American Robins over the course of the morning, including 4 that had not yet been banded. We also caught our first juvenile bird of the year, a downy little Black-capped Chickadee. Ashley Thorsen, who worked at the BBO last year, braved the stormy weather and camped out for the night with a friend, and then spent the morning banding with us.

We got rained out of the PARK station halfway through the morning, so we had to return 2 days later to finish off our hours. It was great to have a new species for the year, a Downy Woodpecker female that we caught twice in one morning.

Banding at WEIR was pretty busy this time around, with 4 Warbling Vireos and 21 Least Flycatchers in the nets. We banded the sole chick in the Least Flycatcher nest by Net 10, and were surprised to flush an American Robin off of a nest we thought was empty.



One of 4 Eastern Bluebird chicks

Lots of other nest activity this week, we spent a few afternoons out banding babies and checking nest boxes around the Natural Area. Our most exciting box check last week yielded an Eastern Bluebird nest with 4 chicks that we promptly banded! There are less than 25 records of this species in the province, so we thrilled to have found them here!



The Eastern Bluebird!

We banded a total of 21 House Wrens chicks and an impressive 51 Tree Swallows chicks in the nest boxes in and around the natural area. Other nests had 4 Barn Swallow, 5 Least Flycatcher and 2 Clay Coloured Sparrow chicks that we banded.

Katie, Justin, Thera, Juan and Meaghan took in an afternoon of kayaking and canoeing at Islet Lake in Blackfoot. It was great to see some different wildlife, and we enjoyed watching the numerous Black Terns feeding over the water, and seeing the pair of Trumpeter Swans on the lake.

**Table 1. Results from Songbird Banding, June 30 – July 9, 2010.**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Banded</b>	<b>Repeat<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Return<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Foreign<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Other<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
American Robin	4	0	0	0	2	6
Black-capped Chickadee	1	0	0	0	0	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	1	0	0	0	2
Clay-colored Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Downy Woodpecker	1	0	0	0	1	2
Hermit Thrush	0	1	1	0	0	2
Least Flycatcher	16	21	6	0	5	48
Warbling Vireo	2	1	1	0	1	5
Yellow Warbler	1	1	0	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>69</b>

*Net Hours: 180.00 NH*

*Capture Rate: 38.3 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).



The Least Flycatcher chick in the nest by WEIR banding station