

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update June 23 – June 30, 2011



Katie's early morning commute to WEIR!

Round two of MAPS started off with a bit of an adventure. We decided to band and do point counts at the WEIR station first, and hiked out in the morning to the weir that needs to be crossed between Lister Lake and Beaverhill Lake in order to reach our nets. The problem was that it was hidden by a fair amount of flowing water; looks like all of the rain lately is really having an effect. Katie and I decided to run back to the lab, toss the kayak in the back of the truck and drove back out to the weir. Problem two: one kayak, two people. Solution: tie a rope to the kayak to pull it back across! Our early

morning improvisation ended up working fairly well, and we were able to get in our full banding hours that day.

The banding itself was fairly quiet, although catching the Veery was a nice way to break up the monotony of Least Flycatchers. Thanks to Lisa for coming out to run nets at BLAB while Katie and I were on days off.

We have been busy with babies and nest checks too! We found our first Least Flycatcher nest of the year out at PARK while doing point counts, it looked very cozy lined with all that poplar fluff. Our timing was good for the Clay-coloured Sparrow nest on the T-grid, and we banded two chicks. We will be coming back to several boxes to check on the progress of the House Wren and Tree Swallow nests, as well as a few with Mountain Bluebirds. On the 29th Katie banded the biggest successful Tree Swallow nest of the year, with eight chicks at Francis Viewpoint getting a band.

Our morning adventure also inspired us to take the kayaks out again the next day, and we spent a few hours exploring on Lister Lake. We really enjoyed looking for nests in the

reeds; it certainly is a different view from the boat. We found some empty Red-winged Blackbird and Marsh Wren nests, and some occupied Savannah Sparrow and Pintail nests on one of the islands. I especially liked the floating Black Tern nests: very easy to miss! We saw some great species too; it was fun to see the Yellow-headed Blackbird singing and the pair of White Pelicans hanging out by the Ruddy Ducks.



Clay Coloured Sparrow chicks in a ground nest on the T grid, ready to band

Table 1. Results from MAPS Program June 23 – June 30, 2011

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
American Robin	2	1	0	0	0	3
Black-capped Chickadee	1	0	0	0	0	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	0	0	0	0	2
Least Flycatcher	6	5	5	0	0	16
Veery	1	0	0	0	0	1
Warbling Vireo	1	0	0	0	0	1
Yellow Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	14	6	5	0	0	25

Net Hours: 180 NH

Capture Rate: 13.89 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).



Floating Black Tern nest with 2 eggs, and angry parents flying overhead