

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update, June 30th to July 5th, 2012



A handsome Sharp-shinned Hawk

Summer is in full swing here at the lab. This week we caught our first HY birds while banding at BLAB: 3 cute little Least Flycatchers still growing in their tails, and a family group of Black-capped Chickadees with 4 young.

I also witnessed two groups of fledged Least Flycatchers being fed by momma flycatcher while doing point counts at PARK. The second group also had a young Brown-headed Cowbird in their midst, who seemed to be getting his fair share of the grub despite being earth-bound. We are also being eluded by a species I have never heard in the natural area - a Black-billed Cuckoo. We are very much hoping to catch him! (or at least catch a glimpse of him)...

WEIR proved to be the center of excitement this round of banding though. We hiked out early on a muggy morning only to find that the wind and the deer had wrecked havoc with our nets. A few bent poles, some grounded nets and one net dragged approximately 30 ft from its original location. Not the way we like to start our mornings! We managed to get everything back up and running, only to have another deer run through an open net and trash that one too – very frustrating! Our reward for such frustrations? Coming around the corner to find a very handsome Sharp-shinned Hawk in the nets; we both enjoyed the bit of “raptor time” to break up the flycatcher monotony.

We have also been busy checking boxes and banding chicks, both around the lab and further a-field. We banded 54 Tree Swallow chicks on the Road grid in 9 boxes, and also had one box with 5 newly hatched chicks. The boxes south of Rowan’s Route had 11 chicks ready to band, while another box had 4 warm eggs. The Mountain Bluebirds also had 9 chicks to band, and one nest was just hatching. The House Wrens around the lab are similarly staggered in their development: two boxes on the T grid were banded (8 squirmy babies), while the nest on the north side of the lab was still on eggs. We were also lucky enough to tag along with Al DeGroot again to band a few more American Kestrel boxes, as well as two Red-tailed Hawk nests.



A freshly banded Tree Swallow chick

Sara’s mom was out visiting for the week, thanks for the delicious brownies! Chris Robinson also came out to visit us at PARK (thanks again for the squares, the staff sure is being well fed these days!), as did a family from Edmonton.

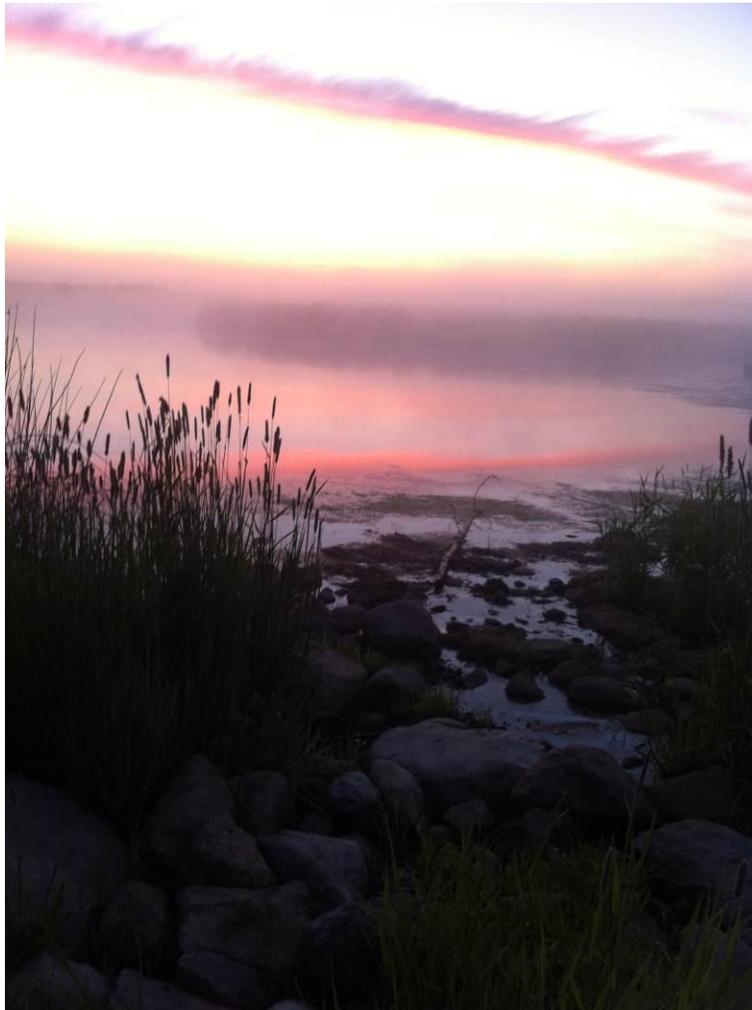
Table 1. Results from third round of MAPS banding June 30th to July 5, 2012.

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Baltimore Oriole	1	0	0	0	0	1
Black-capped Chickadee	4	0	0	0	0	4
Least Flycatcher	12	8	5	0	0	25
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	0	0	0	1	1
Warbling Vireo	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	18	8	5	0	1	32

Net Hours: 180 NH

Capture Rate: 17.77 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).



Beautiful sunrise on the hike out to WEIR