

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update June 30 – July 9, 2021

By Jon Van Arragon and Jana Teefy

Despite the historic heat wave complicating things, staff completed another round of MAPS banding this week. Highlights included a pair of Philadelphia Vireos, two Grey Catbirds, and a Common Yellowthroat. In addition to MAPS, staff were able to finish banding most of the remaining Tree Swallow chicks before temperatures got too extreme. Staff left site during the worst of the heat wave and spent the scorching days getting caught up on data entry and report writing.



A Philadelphia Vireo. Unlike most songbirds, both sexes of this species will help incubate eggs.

With our access road through the front pasture becoming increasingly rutted due to increased vehicle traffic, staff installed signs notifying visitors to stay on the main road and off the grass when driving into the natural area. We have purchased a few loads of gravel and have a volunteer event organized for July 10th and 11th to spread it and fill in the ruts. We hope this will make accessing the BBO easier for visitors!

Since the installation of our new Purple Martin boxes, staff have eagerly been awaiting the arrival of a breeding pair to get a colony kickstarted. It seems our wait may finally be over, as staff found this week that the pair of adult Purple Martins frequently seen near the box are in fact incubating a total of 5 eggs! We wish them a successful breeding season and hopes this marks the start of a larger colony.



A Grey Catbird. Best known for their distinctive catlike call, these birds are also capable of mimicry and can imitate a wide range of sounds.



A male Common Yellowthroat. These warblers inhabit marshy areas with lots of vegetation and can be very hard to spot!

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Least Flycatcher	8	2	2			12
Yellow Warbler	12	1	2			15
Warbling Vireo	4				2	6
Philadelphia Vireo	2					2
Black-capped Chickadee	13	1			1	15
American Goldfinch	3		1			4
Common Yellowthroat	1					1
Clay-colored Sparrow	3					3
White-throated Sparrow		1				1
Swamp Sparrow	2	1				3
American Robin	1				1	2
Grey Catbird	1				1	2
Red-winged Blackbird	9				1	10
TOTALS	59	6	5	0	6	76

127.5 net-hours

59.6 captures/100 net-hours

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).