

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update July 10-19, 2022

BBO staff completed the fourth round of their summer MAPS banding program, where they monitor local breeding bird productivity and survivorship. They were excited to band a Nelson's Sparrow - a rare sighting, let alone capture! With the water levels in the lake returning, wetland birds, like Nelson's Sparrows, have also been returning to the area.



Nelson's Sparrow captured at the Sora Pond MAPS banding station



Fledgling House Wren with an adorable gape

A variety of fledglings were banded, including House Wrens, Yellow Warblers, Least Flycatchers, Black-capped Chickadees, and Red-winged Blackbirds, all of which are local breeders.

Banding of nestling Purple Martins continued this week in the newly established BBO breeding colony. So far, 3 of the 11 nests have reached banding age. The Mountain Bluebirds had a successful brood early in the spring and recently hatched a second brood of nestlings, which the staff were more than happy to band.

While banding at the MAPS stations near Lister Lake and Sora Pond, staff found a few dig sites and signs of possible Wild Boar in the natural area and around the wetlands. Although boars are suspected, they have not been confirmed.



Suspected wild boar dig site in the Beaverhill Natural Area



Fledgling Franklins Gull that was returned to the lakeside grassland

Juvenile Franklins Gulls have been dispersing and many have been sighted cluelessly wandering through the natural area. They don't seem to have quite figured out how to properly bird yet. American Coots may be found doing the same, and the muppet-like juveniles are often *found wandering through the clearing*

The Least Flycatcher project, where the staff are monitoring several nests, continued this week. The nests are visited every few days with a pole camera to get regular views inside the nest. They are monitoring nest clustering, clutch size, nest parasitism, hatching success and fledging success. Flycatchers build cup nests in the crotch of a tree anywhere from 1 m to 20m high.

The staff have been busy preparing the net lanes and setting up the 13 standard and 7 experimental nets for the fall migration. Yes, you read that right! The fall migration monitoring program starts on July 20, and staff will run the Migration Monitoring and MAPS programs concurrently until mid-August. Where did the summer go?!



Adorable Least Flycatcher chicks that are just a few days old

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Robin	1	2	1		1	5
Baltimore Oriole	2					2
Clay-colored Sparrow	2					2
Common Yellowthroat	1					1
Gray Catbird	1		1			2
House Wren	4					4
Least Flycatcher	13	2	6		1	22
Red-winged Blackbird	5	1	1		6	13
Song Sparrow	1	2			1	4
Swamp Sparrow	1					1
Yellow Warbler	5	2	3			10
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	1				2
Black-capped Chickadee	7					7
Nelson's Sparrow	1					1
Tennessee Warbler	1					1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1					1
totals	47	10	12	0	9	78

Net hours: 142.5
Capture Rate: 55 birds/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).