

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update: July 10-19, 2005

We had some interesting finds this round of MAPS. With volunteer help from Tyler Flockhart on July 14, we caught five Veery's (4 banded, one recapture) in BLAB!! The Black-capped Chickadees made their return to the nets after their nesting hiatus; four were caught at the WEIR station. A female Ruffed Grouse and her young were near some nets, and when approached they all flushed, one young flew into the net nearby, but we do not band game birds, so it was let go, after taking a close up look at it. We have continued to hear Tennessee Warblers in all three MAPS stations; they seem to be breeding further south this year. Three sessions of banding at PARK and we've only banded 18 birds there. We are also finding that point counts in that MAPS station are fairly quiet.



Table 1. Results from mist netting July 10 to 19, 2005.

Species	Banded	Recapture	Other	TOTAL
Ruffed Grouse	0	0	1*	1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	0	1	0	1
Least Flycatcher	25	12	0	37
Trail's Flycatcher	2	0	0	2
Black-capped Chickadee	4	0	0	4
Warbling Vireo	1	0	0	1
House Wren	0	4	0	4
Veery	4	1	0	5
Yellow Warbler	4	4	0	8
White-throated Sparrow	0	1	0	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	1	0	1
TOTAL	40	24	1	65

* game birds are not banded

Another House Wren nest was discovered at the front of the lab, 6 young were banded. Point counts were completed again this round as well. The woodpeckers are also making an appearance again, a Hairy and Downy were both heard. We also heard a Common Loon calling as it flew over, strange place for that species at this time of the year (the lake is too shallow for them). Finally, volunteers Chuck and Gill Priestley checked Elson's Bluebird boxes for the second round and found three more nests. They are looking forward to banding the young in a few weeks.

Last round of MAPS coming up, and then migration begins again. We've heard from Richard Krikun at Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory that migration has already started up there, so the birds are heading this way. We are already seeing Peeps (small sandpipers) and ducks congregating again. And we've had some nice looks at three Black-crowned Night Herons and four Pelicans at the weir.

Lisa Priestley and Sara Majeski
Beaverhill Bird Observatory

