

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update June 11-20, 2006

This ten day period was our first round of the Monitoring Avian Production and Survivorship (MAPS) program for this year. We were quite excited to head out to different parts of the Natural Area for banding. Our three locations are south of the lab (PARK), east of the weir (WEIR) and around the lab building (BLAB). We were right to be excited, as we've seen several new species for the year: Cedar Waxwings, a Downy Woodpecker, Red-winged Blackbirds and Red-eyed Vireos. We were fortunate to catch a male and a female Cedar Waxwing at PARK and were able to compare the differences in plumage. Waxwings usually have red waxy tips on the ends of the secondary flight feathers that are formed by the fusion of the feather vanes. Adult males usually have more waxy tips than females (3-9 red tips versus 0-7 for the female). In our case the female had no tips, but was just as beautiful as the male!



A male (top) and female Cedar Waxwing

The number of young birds has also increased in the area. The Black-capped Chickadees born near the lab have fledged, and the family travels around together foraging, calling to each other and begging their parents for food. Al De Groot was kind enough to take us along on a raptor banding outing this week, and we assisted him in banding four young Red-tailed Hawks- thanks so much, Al!

As far as butterflies are concerned, we noticed two new species this week: White Admirals (ooo, ahhh) and Northern Crescents. The walk to the weir is littered with butterflies and we have counted four different Blue species: Spring Azures, Western-tailed, Greenish and Silvery Blues. The date is now set for the 2006 Beaverhill Butterfly Count – Sunday, July 2 at 1:00 p.m. We have a circle with a 15 mile radius to cover, so the more volunteers we have to help out the better! No prior experience is required. Call the lab at 991-6864 for details.

-Katie and Allicia

Table 1: Results from MAPS banding June 11-20, 2006.

Species	Banded	Recapture	Foreign	Other	Total
American Robin	5	0	0	0	5
Clay-colored Sparrow	1	0	0	0	1
Cedar Waxwing	2	0	0	0	2
Downy Woodpecker	1	0	0	0	1
Hermit Thrush	1	0	0	0	1
House Wren	1	0	0	0	1
Least Flycatcher	21	11	0	0	32
Red-eyed Vireo	2	0	0	0	2
Red-winged Blackbird	2	0	0	0	2
Warbling Vireo	1	0	0	0	1
Yellow Warbler	0	1	0	0	1
Total	37	12	0	0	49