

BEAVERHILL BIRD OBSERVATORY UPDATE MAY 15-21, 2007



*Rose-breasted
Grosbeak at the
feeder*

LEAVES HAVE APPEARED on the aspen and poplar trees and the herbaceous understory has sprouted in the forest. This makes the birds more difficult to see during census, but not to hear! Over the past week the trees have erupted with the songs of newly arrived House Wrens, Baltimore Orioles, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Warbling Vireos and American Goldfinches. Singing and foraging are the primary activities of male songbirds during the spring in order to attract a mate and be in good condition to rear a successful clutch. The first male Yellow Warbler banded this year (last week) returned promptly to singing his heart out in one of the trees nearest the lab after his release, showing how important this activity is.

A flock of Pine Siskins also arrived one afternoon and quickly emptied our bird feeder after taking it over from the Black-capped Chickadees and American Goldfinches, but we have yet to catch one in our nets. We did, however, catch an Ovenbird, a Black-and-White Warbler, two Common Yellowthroats, and continue to band many Clay-colored Sparrows and Least Flycatchers.



Common Yellowthroat



*Brent with a Tree
Swallow*

We weren't able to set mist-nets to catch birds on a few days this week due to the windy and rainy weather. However, there's always data entry and general maintenance around the lab to keep us busy! Brent Daku (Anna's husband) joined us for a windy afternoon checking nest boxes on the Tree Swallow grid where there are already a couple of finished nests with eggs.

Anna found a female Northern Saw-whet Owl and her six young while checking nest boxes with Chuck Priestley in the nearby Ministik Natural Area, and was able to band some of the owlets. Owls begin incubating their eggs before the entire clutch has been laid, which results in young that develop and hatch at different times. The owlets in this nest varied so much in their size and development that the oldest was able to stand and had its primary feathers beginning to extend beyond their sheathes, but the youngest was still covered in down and unable to open its eyes.



Saw-whet Owl

We are grateful to Al who continues to donate his time and energy to the BBO; this week he installed solar panels and returned the now fully operational fridge to the lab. Thanks also to Chuck Priestley and Matt Hanneman who each spent a day banding at the lab to help with staff training and covering net hours on our days off!

-Anna Daku and Allicia Kelly

Table 1: Results from Spring Migration Monitoring May 15 - May 21, 2007

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Robin	4	0	1	0	2	7
Black-and-White Warbler	1	0		0	0	1
Black-capped Chickadee	0	2		0	0	2
Brown-headed Cowbird	6	1		0	0	7
Clay-colored Sparrow	20	2		0	1	23
Chipping Sparrow	2	0		0	1	3
Common Yellowthroat	2	0		0	0	2
Hermit Thrush	2	0		0	0	2
House Wren	3	0	1	0	2	6
Least Flycatcher	15	0	1	0	1	17
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	0		0	0	1
Myrtle Warbler	1	0		0	0	1
Ovenbird	1	0		0	0	1
Song Sparrow	2	2	1	0	0	5
Swainson's Thrush	8	0		0	0	8
Traill's Flycatcher	0	0	1	0	0	1
Yellow Warbler	2	3		0	0	5
Total	70	10	5	0	7	92

Net Hours: 304 NH

Capture Rate: 30.26 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).



Ovenbird



Al installing solar panels



Anna photographing a bird