

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update July 20 – 29, 2009



A very sleepy baby Porcupine

for the nets as there are always so many deer, and we have lost two nets this year due to irreparable deer damage.

With this round of days, MAPS has come to a close, and after banding at each location one more time we packed up the nets and brought them back. We started banding in PARK this round, and our 6 hours of effort was rewarded with a single Least Flycatcher capture. After such a slow day, we were ready to leave PARK, though we had some good banding days there earlier in the summer. We also were able to observe a mother porcupine and her young one sleeping in trees near the nets. It is nice to see mammals, but PARK always makes me nervous

We were pleased to welcome 17 visitors to the lab on July 21st, two groups of Junior Forest Wardens (JFW) and their supervisors had travelled down from the Lac La Biche area. We gave them a banding demonstration at BLAB during breakfast, and we were glad it wasn't as slow as it was at PARK the day before! They were able to see a number of Least Flycatchers, one Swainson's Thrush, and an Ovenbird. However, the group was not there solely for banding, they were invited to come and help BBO 'Fire Smart' the natural area – basically by helping to clear an alternate escape route for staff in case of another fire like there was last year. This involved clearing the way for a vehicle along Flicker Freeway and Harrier Highway by removing the overgrown vegetation along those trails. While they were unable to complete the entire route, their hard work was very much appreciated and provided us with a great start. A very special thank you to all the BBO board members and volunteers that helped to feed the hoard and organize the work, including Lisa Priestley, Margaret Takats and her sister Gail, Barb Beck, Jim Beck, Bryn Spence, Chuck Priestley, and Janos who came out before work to help with the breakfast! These folks worked very hard for days before the event to ensure the JFWs would be comfortable and able to work when they arrived. Thanks all!



The hardworking JFWs taking a break!

Our final day of banding at WEIR rewarded us with... you guessed it, another bunch of Least Flycatchers! We were also happy to catch the first Downy Woodpecker of 2009, and appreciated the company of Steve Symes while we were banding. And with that we sign off for MAPS, refer to Table 2 for a summary of all our captures during the summer. The next report will be on the beginning of fall banding!

Table 1. Results from MAPS Program July 20 – 29, 2009.

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Downy Woodpecker	1	0	0	0	0	1
Least Flycatcher	16	8	1	0	0	25
Ovenbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Swainson's Thrush	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	19	8	1	0	0	28

Net Hours: 180 NH
Capture Rate: 15.56 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).



The JFWs preparing for a day of work



Fireweed in flower near the lab

Table 2. Banding results from MAPS Program June 10 – July 29, 2009.

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Goldfinch	1	0	0	0	0	1
American Robin	0	1	0	0	1	2
Baltimore Oriole	2	0	1	0	0	3
Brown-headed Cowbird	5	2	2	0	0	9
Clay-coloured Sparrow	5	0	1	0	2	8
Downy Woodpecker	1	0	0	0	0	1
Gray Catbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hermit Thrush	2	0	0	0	0	2
House Wren	1	0	0	0	1	2
Least Flycatcher	85	50	16	0	5	156
Long-eared Owl	0	0	0	0	1	1
Myrtle Warbler	2	0	0	0	1	3
Ovenbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2	0	0	0	0	2
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	0	0	0	0	1	1
Swainson's Thrush	2	0	0	0	0	2
Total	110	53	20	0	12	195

Net Hours: 900 NH
Capture Rate: 21.67 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).