

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update June 20 - 29, 2010



Ruffed Grouse chick

And just like that another 10 days have gone by. We have enjoyed some nice weather for this round of MAPS and have completed all the work we needed to get done (three days of banding and three point count stations) leaving room for more nest searching and monitoring!

The BLAB station was fairly quiet with only 13 birds caught, but there were a few fun ones. On one check Meaghan brought a Ruffed Grouse chick back from net 3, apparently with the female grouse hissing and charging her the entire time, I am always amazed at their bravery for such a defenceless bird. I was disappointed to come up to net 8, see a Sharp-shinned Hawk, and then see it struggle out and fly away as soon as it saw me coming. We have yet to band an Accipiter this year!

At the PARK station we caught 15 birds, including all the common residents, like Clay-coloured Sparrows, Least Flycatchers, and Yellow Warblers. Having now found where to buy good elastic (or bungee) cord, we have been resetting the MAPS nets with the cord at one end. It provides some much needed 'give' on the nets, while keeping some tension that makes furling at the end of the day so much easier. One new nest was discovered down at the PARK station, a LEFL who had cleverly placed her nest beside one of our nets, almost the last place we would look!



Least Flycatcher on nest



Juan's birthday celebrations

A very cold (4.5°C!) and misty morning out at the WEIR station turned into a beautiful day for us and a relatively busy one with 21 birds. Many MANY thanks to Justin for hiking out to find us and bringing us a hot breakfast of bacon and eggs! Meaghan had the greatest net check, four male Baltimore Orioles in one net, all at the same time. I'm not sure if non-breeding males will hang out in bachelors groups or not, but I certainly have never caught four males of any species in a net all together! We got some good ageing shots of the wing feather differences between a Second Year male and an After Second Year male thanks to this event.

We also welcomed Juan this week, he has come from Mexico to work on the Golondrinas Project. We were able to celebrate his birthday in style on his second day in Canada, with cake, and of course a Piñata! It was lots of fun, and we are glad to have you here Juan!

Table 1. Results from Songbird Banding, June 20 - 29, 2009.

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Robin	3	0	0	0	1	4
Baltimore Oriole	3	1	0	0	1	5
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	1	1	0	2	4
Clay-colored Sparrow	4	1	0	0	0	5
House Wren	1	0	0	0	0	1
Least Flycatcher	10	7	5	0	3	25
Warbling Vireo	1	0	0	0	0	1
Yellow Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	0	0	0	1	1
Ruffed Grouse	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	24	10	6	0	9	49

Net Hours: 180.00 NH

Capture Rate: 27.2 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).



A good example of “narrow, tapered and relatively abraded” primary coverts on the Second Year (SY) Baltimore Oriole (above) as compared to the After Second Year (ASY) Baltimore Oriole (below). The remaining juvenile primary coverts on the SY bird are much more faded and brownish.