

## Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update, July 1 - 11, 2011

Round 3 of MAPS is rolling right along. Starting on Canada Day we headed out to do Point Counts at the Park and Blab stations because the weather wasn't nice enough for banding. Meaghan got to chase a Cooper's Hawk through the woods between two point counts, always a great bird to see! The weather did clear up later in the day, so we took the Golondrinas crew into Sherwood Park to take in the Canada Day festivities. After a great BBQ at Meaghan's place we all went to see the fireworks, and then drove home in the dark.



We were pretty tired after the late night out, so on July 2<sup>nd</sup> we banded at Blab. It was nice to sleep in and avoid getting up earlier to hike out! It turned out to be a reasonably busy day as well, with a total of 21 birds in the nets. We caught another two unbanded Baltimore Orioles, I am still surprised we are catching new ones, we've caught so many through the spring and the beginning of MAPS! After banding we were spoiled with a visit to the Trefry's, where all 5 of us got to play with the little lab puppies Geoff is currently raising (TOO CUTE!). We also got to see the Peregrines, Peregrine X Gyrfalcon hybrids, and Harris' Hawks. It is always a fascinating visit out to Ups and Downs.

Banding at Weir on July 3<sup>rd</sup> only yielded 9 birds in the nets, but it was fun to catch the first juvenile American Robin of the season. We are still accessing that site using Meaghan's kayaks as the water is still very high. The morning I headed out there to band there were about 30 American White Pelicans out on the water, they especially seem to like to forage just downstream of the Weir where the water is flowing the fastest. When Meaghan headed out to Weir to do the Point Counts later the same week, she was thrilled to see a Long-eared Owl, a species conspicuously missing from the Natural Area this year. Many ducklings were out and about, and she also flushed a Great-blue Heron.



The next few days at the lab were really rainy, so we were mostly stuck inside doing data entry. Unfortunately at the same time the propane fridge broke, so we were all trying to run our computers and a little electric fridge off of the solar panels. Add in cloudy weather with no sun to charge the batteries and we were out of power regularly! With a few back up coolers full of ice and trips into town to charge the laptops, we managed to survive. Thanks to AI for coming out to deal with the fridge!

When the weather cleared we did manage to get out to Park and get in our full hours of banding on July 11<sup>th</sup>. It was nice to catch a female Gray Catbird, and to see our Least Flycatcher nest hatch out two tiny fluffy chicks.

Table 1. Results from Spring Migration Monitoring, July 1 - July 11, 2011.

Species	Banded	Repeat <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total
American Robin	2	0	0	0	0	2
Baltimore Oriole	2	0	0	0	0	2
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	1	0	0	0	3
Gray Catbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Least Flycatcher	11	7	6	0	6	30
Veery	0	0	1	0	0	1
Yellow Warbler	1	0	0	0	1	2
Total	19	8	7	0	7	41

*Net Hours: 180 NH*

*Capture Rate: 22.78 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).

