

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update, June 21-25, 2012

The last week at the BBO has been great, as per usual! MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) round two has kept us very busy along with our regular nest box checks and a couple of raptor banding outings!

In comparison to migration, the nets are fairly quiet during MAPS; we've been catching on



Meaghan with a female American Kestrel.

average 10 birds per day. We've been catching a fair number of Least Flycatchers, with a couple individuals of other species breaking the monotony. Not that we don't love catching Least Flycatchers, they're quite cute with their oversized eyes, but when I come around the corner to a Veery, or a Yellow Bellied Sapsucker in a net, my heart definitely skips a beat.

It's always interesting when inputting data into our banding program to look at the year in which certain birds were banded, the Veery we caught for example was banded in 2005 and was aged as a SY.

Taking the Yellow Bellied Sapsucker out of the net was also particularly interesting. As I approached him, he started screeching, which is not overly in habitual, I'm sure that would be my reaction if I were the one being extracted from the net, but the reaction of neighbouring birds to his alarm calls was. The alarm call attracted neighbouring birds; a number of Baltimore Orioles, Brown Headed Cowbirds, Least Flycatchers and Yellow Warblers came to check out the situation.



Yellow Bellied Flycatcher.



American Kestrel Chick.

After checking the Saw Whet Owl boxes in the natural area and discovering that they were all unoccupied, we were rather disappointed as we desperately needed to get out raptor fix! Luckily, Al DeGroot agreed to take us out with him when he went to check some of his American Kestrel boxes and while he bands some Red-tailed Hawk chicks. We had the opportunity to see and handle a number of Kestrel chicks and even a couple adults that we were luck enough to spot perched and catch

using a bal-chatri. One of the boxes that we checked contained a clutch of Kestrel chicks that

had just been fed, indicated by one of the chicks still having a songbird foot protruding from its mouth! A big thank you to Al DeGroot, the now international banding superstar, for taking us out! Al has recently been featured in an article published in the Edmonton Journal for his raptor banding. This article that has since been picked up by a number of other newspapers, including one in Austria! Congratulations Al!

Table 1. Results from MAPS round 2, June 21-25, 2012.

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
American Robin	1	0	1	0	0	2
Black-capped Chickadee	1	0	0	0	0	1
Brown Headed Cowbird	1	1	0	0	0	2
Clay Colored Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Least Flycatcher	5	1	13	0	3	22
Veery	0	0	1	0	0	1
White-throated Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Yellow Bellied Sapsucker	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	10	2	16	0	3	31

Net Hours: 180 NH
Capture Rate: 17.22birds/ 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).