

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update June 10-20, 2021

As spring migration monitoring drew to a close, we transitioned to the second of our three main seasons: MAPS banding. MAPS is a specialized protocol that monitors the productivity and survivorship of local breeding birds, and has us banding once every ten days at each of three different locations within the natural area.

It quickly got off to a roaring start, yielding numbers far in excess of anything we encountered during spring migration monitoring this year. Our banding at the SOPO station had us document 76 captures, most of which occurred in the last two hours of banding, which led to a bit of a hectic day. A question we frequently asked during migration monitoring was “where are all the birds?” It seems we have our answer.

Highlights from these three stations included a gorgeous Common Yellowthroat, banded at SOPO, and a pair of male Yellow-Bellied Sapsuckers banded at LILA. Other points of interest were several Swamp Sparrows and a number of Red-Winged Blackbirds. Mosquito numbers remained thankfully low for this first MAPS rotation, but we have been assured that they will come eventually.

In addition, installation of our lab’s solar system has finally commenced. At the time of writing only the mountings have been installed, but once the panels themselves are hooked up the building will be almost entirely self-sufficient, an event we very much look forward to.



Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, as the name implies, drill sap wells in trees, drinking both the pooled sap and eating the insects attracted to it.



This young Baltimore Oriole showcases an obvious molt limit in his wing. Can you spot where the new feathers give way to old, worn feathers?

MAPS Banding Summaries

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Trail's Flycatcher	3				1	4
Least Flycatcher	16	1	2			19
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1					1
Black-capped Chickadee	3					3
House Wren	1					1
Warbling Vireo	1					1
American Robin	2		5			7
Yellow Warbler	6	1	1			8
American Goldfinch	3		1			4
Clay-coloured Sparrow	5	2				7
Song Sparrow	1					1
Swamp Sparrow	3	1				4
Brown-headed Cowbird	4				2	6
Baltimore Oriole	4		1		1	6
Red-winged Blackbird	27	3	1		7	38
Yellow-headed Blackbird	1					1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2					2
Downy Woodpecker			1			1
TOTALS	83	8	12		11	114

169 net-hours

67.5 captures/100 net-hours

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).