

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update June 20 - June 29, 2021

Our summer MAPS program continued to produce exciting captures this round, during which we banded our first Cedar Waxwing and Rose-breasted Grosbeak of the year. We also recaptured 2 Yellow Warblers that had originally been banded 4 and 5 years before, making them considerably older than average. As the breeding season progresses, some birds have already managed to successfully fledge young. This round of banding we caught many adorable (yet extremely fierce) Black-capped Chickadee fledglings, and we expect to see



A Cedar Waxwing. These birds get their name from a colorful wax-like substance found on the tips of their wings.

other species fledging young of their own in the near future. Speaking of other species, the time for Tree Swallow chick banding is upon us. The Beaverhill Natural Area is home to roughly 300 Tree Swallow nest boxes that are among the most productive in North America. Staff have been hard at work banding chicks that reach the appropriate age, which will help us learn more about the movements and survivorship of our Tree Swallow population. Staff were also delighted to band the chicks of our local Mountain Bluebird pair that has also taken up residence in one of the Tree Swallow boxes.

In addition to our MAPS program, we have been monitoring our local breeding bird populations through regular surveys of our forest breeding bird grid. By walking along a transect in the forest and noting the position of singing birds on our datasheet, we are able to determine the locations of breeding territories within the forest after enough data has been accumulated. The distinctive “che-BEK” song of the Least Flycatcher is a staple of these surveys, as they remain our most abundant breeder in the aspen forest. Also abundant along the transects are our lovely arachnid friends – there are so many spiders in the forest this year that staff always emerge from their surveys thoroughly coated in spider webs!



A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The grosbeak's massive bill allows it to crush hard-shelled seeds and the fingers of unsuspecting biologists.



A female Mountain Bluebird. As the name implies, they are blue.

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Least Flycatcher	5	1				6
Yellow Warbler	1	3	3			7
Warbling Vireo	1					1
Black-capped Chickadee	8	2			1	11
Common Yellowthroat	1					1
Clay-colored Sparrow		1				1
White-throated Sparrow	1		2			3
Swamp Sparrow	2					2
Song Sparrow	1					1
Cedar Waxwing	1					1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1					1
American Robin	2	1				3
Baltimore Oriole	1		1			2
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	1	1			1
Red-winged Blackbird	16				6	22
Hairy Woodpecker	1					1
TOTALS	43	9	7		7	65

146.5 net-hours

44.4 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).