

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update June 4-9, 2023

The final week of migration monitoring was slow due to high levels of wind and since most birds have completed their annual journeys and begun breeding. There were a few exciting stragglers though, including an orange-crowned warbler and a Tennessee warbler. Staff also banded a small flock of cedar waxwings, sightings of which have been unusually high for this time of year though some often do breed in the area.



Instead, most of our attention this week was placed on owls. On June 4, staff banded four saw-whet owl chicks before they fledged from our nest box. As per usual, only one of our nest boxes was occupied as saw-whets typically prefer habitats with a higher density of conifer trees to breed. Nonetheless, we were happy to give the owlets their first home and hope they continue to live healthy and fulsome lives. The staff are looking forward to tagging our saw-whets with MOTUS radio transmitters in the fall so we can keep track of where they take off to

when they leave the BBO.

We also welcomed a juvenile great horned owl that has been raised in captivity to our monitoring station this week, to acclimatize it to humans so that it can be used in future education programs. After getting input on our social media pages, we decided to name her Tansi, which is a friendly greeting in the Cree language, akin to “welcome” or “hello”. This longer-term stay involved setting up an outdoor enclosure that can be used for more education birds in the future. It took the red-winged blackbirds at the feeder by surprise, but nothing will keep them away from the bird seed!

Staff spent the afternoon getting net lanes prepared for the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program beginning on June 10. The MAPS program helps us to better understand our local breeding populations in three habitats in the observatory, including Lister Lake, Sora Pond, and off Weasel Wind. The program runs until the beginning of August so watch out for nets across the trails if you plan on visiting us over the next couple of months.



Table 1. Migration Monitoring Banding Totals in Standard Nets

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	TOTAL
Traill's Flycatcher	1					1
Least Flycatcher	7	6			2	15
American Robin		1	1			2
House Wren		2				2
Red-Eyed Vireo	4					4
Yellow Warbler	1	2				3
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	1				2
Red-Winged Blackbird	2				1	3
Baltimore Oriole		3				3
Purple Finch		1				1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		2				2
TOTAL	16	18	1	0	3	38

Total net-hours: 327

Capture-rate: 11.62 /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).

Table 2. Migration Monitoring Banding Totals in Non-Standard Nets

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	TOTAL
Downy Woodpecker		1				1
Traill's Flycatcher	1		1			2
Least Flycatcher	2	2			1	5
Cedar Waxwing	2					2
Warbling Vireo	1					1
Tennessee Warbler	1					1
Yellow Warbler	3	3	1			7
Orange-Crowned Warbler	1					1
Clay-colored Sparrow	8	5				13
Song Sparrow	2					2
Baltimore Oriole	1	1	1			3
TOTAL	22	12	3	0	1	38

Total net-hours: 40

Capture-rate: 95/100 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).