

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly update – June 10th to 19th

With the final day of the spring season now behind us, focus turns to MAPS banding, nestlings, and all the exciting summer projects. We were able to complete all three MAPS stations within the first four days of this period. Sora Pond (SOPO) and Lister Lake (LILA) both produced 62 birds, while the BBO Lab (BLAB) unsurprisingly registered much fewer, with 16 captures. Apart from MAPS, a Shorebird Survey was run, Least Flycatcher nest checks are getting interesting, and the first Forest Birding Bird Survey has been completed.



One of the female Saw-whet Owls!

As part of our Northern Saw-whet Owl nano-tagging project, staff attempted to band and tag some local breeders this week. Though it was not guaranteed that any adult birds were even around to be caught, we managed to net two adult females and fit them with MOTUS tags. Both of these birds will provide valuable information about what our local birds do on their migration in comparison with those netted during the fall season, which may breed a great distance from the observatory.

Water levels at both SOPO and LILA are looking good, a welcome improvement after we were forced to close both stations early last year due to the flooding. A couple Common Yellowthroats were nice catches on SOPO. LILA turned up some more diversity though, with Red-eyed Vireo, Grey Catbird, and six Song Sparrows the standouts. Though BLAB was the least productive station, we still managed some interesting birds. This included the first hatch-year catch of 2024, a healthy female Hairy Woodpecker.

Table 1: MAPS Banding breakdown at SOPO

SPECIES	BANDED	REPEAT ¹	RETURN ²	FOREIGN ³	OTHER ⁴	TOTAL
Trail's Flycatcher	1					1
Least Flycatcher	9	4	4		1	18
Black-capped Chickadee			2			2
American Robin	1					1
Cedar Waxwing	1					1
Warbling Vireo	1					1
Common Yellowthroat	1				1	2
Yellow Warbler	1		4			5
Clay-coloured Sparrow	4	1				5
Song Sparrow	1					1
White-throated Sparrow		1				1
Red-winged Blackbird	13		1		3	17
Brown-headed Cowbird	3	1				4
Baltimore Oriole	1	1				2
American Goldfinch	1					1
TOTALS:	38	8	11		5	62

51 net hours

121.6 captures per 100 net-hours

1 - banded 90 or fewer days ago, at the BBO

2 - banded over 90 days ago, at the BBO

3 - banded at a location other than the BBO

4 - caught but not banded (e.g. escaped)

Table 1: MAPS Banding breakdown at LILA

SPECIES	BANDED	REPEAT ¹	RETURN ²	FOREIGN ³	OTHER ⁴	TOTAL
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	3				5
Least Flycatcher	7	2	1			10
Black-capped Chickadee			1			1
House Wren	3	2				5
American Robin	3					3
Grey Catbird	1					1
Warbling Vireo	1					1
Red-eyed Vireo	1					1
Common Yellowthroat		1				1
Yellow Warbler	5	2				7
Clay-coloured Sparrow	1					1
Song Sparrow	2	1	2		1	6
Red-winged Blackbird	12	1				13
Baltimore Oriole	5					5
TOTALS:	44	12	5		1	62

57 net hours

108.8 captures per 100 net-hours

1 - banded 90 or fewer days ago, at the BBO

2 - banded over 90 days ago, at the BBO

3 - banded at a location other than the BBO

4 - caught but not banded (e.g. escaped)

Table 3: MAPS Banding breakdown at BLAB

SPECIES	BANDED	REPEAT ¹	RETURN ²	FOREIGN ³	OTHER ⁴	TOTAL
Hairy Woodpecker	1					1
Downy Woodpecker		1				1
Least Flycatcher	3	2	2			7
American Robin		1				1
White-throated Sparrow	1	2				3
Baltimore Oriole		1	1			2
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		1				1
TOTALS:	5	8	3	0	0	16

60 net hours

26.7 captures per 100 net-hours

1 - banded 90 or fewer days ago, at the BBO

2 - banded over 90 days ago, at the BBO

3 - banded at a location other than the BBO

4 - caught but not banded (e.g. escaped)