

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly update – July 10th to 19th

Our 3rd round of MAPS banding this summer was rife with excitement. Despite the heat, we were able to obtain just over minimum net-hours on all three stations. We even caught a new species for the BBO! While banding at SOPO an hour after dawn, a young male Black Bear crashed through a net! This is the first bear confirmed to have been inside the natural area, and certainly the first to have encountered a mist-net! The bear is shy and not aggressive at all and is believed to have left the natural area that day.

In terms of birds caught, it was a reasonable week with 63 birds on SOPO, 56 on LILA, and a whopping 5 on BLAB. It does appear that the Tennessee Warbler invasion which occurred around this time last year is once again beginning, as After Hatch-year Tennessees have started turning up in the nets with relative frequency. We suspect this is a ‘molt-migration’, and they are here to use our high value habitat to fuel their way through an energy-intensive molt! One exciting capture was a juvenile Swamp Sparrow, our first of 2024 and a species we do not catch often. As the summer winds on, we are seeing more and more hatch-year (juvenile) birds cropping up. It won’t be long until migration starts again on the 20th of July, and we start seeing youngsters from the north trickling in.



A juvenile Purple Martin

Though our Tree Swallow nestlings are nearly all fledged by now, the Purple Martins are just hitting banding age! On Friday the 19th, staff banded Purple Martin chicks from our flourishing colony. The introduction of two new boxes earlier this year was successful, with Martins quickly taking up residence in both. All four boxes now have active nests, with dozens of chicks and eggs.

Table 1: MAPS Banding breakdown at SOPO

SPECIES	BANDED	REPEAT ¹	RETURN ²	FOREIGN ³	OTHER ⁴	TOTAL
Least Flycatcher	9	1				10
Black-capped Chickadee	3					3
House Wren	4					4
Marsh Wren	1					1
Swainson's Thrush	1					1
American Robin	2		1			3
Cedar Waxwing		1				1
Grey Catbird	1					1
Warbling Vireo	2					2
Common Yellowthroat	2					2
Tennessee Warbler	8					8
Yellow Warbler	11	2	2			15
Black-and-white Warbler	2					2
Clay-coloured Sparrow	3					3
Song Sparrow	3					3
Swamp Sparrow	1					1
Brown-headed Cowbird	1					1
Baltimore Oriole	1					1
American Goldfinch	1					1
TOTALS:	56	4	3			63

36 net hours

175.0 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	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>				2
Trail's Flycatcher	<i>1</i>					1
Least Flycatcher	<i>12</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>			16
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>2</i>					2
American Robin	<i>1</i>					1
Warbling Vireo	<i>2</i>		<i>1</i>			3
Tennessee Warbler	<i>9</i>				<i>1</i>	10
Common Yellowthroat	<i>1</i>				<i>1</i>	2
Yellow Warbler	<i>9</i>	<i>3</i>				12
Clay-coloured Sparrow	<i>2</i>					2
Song Sparrow	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>			3
Baltimore Oriole	<i>2</i>					2
TOTALS:	43	8	3		2	56

38 net hours

147.4 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
Least Flycatcher		<i>1</i>				1
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>2</i>					2
American Robin	<i>1</i>		<i>1</i>			2
TOTALS:	3	1	1			5

30 net hours

16.7 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)