

# Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly update - June 29th to July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025



A male Tennessee Warbler (*Leiothlypis peregrina*) who may just be the forerunner of this year's fall migration.

We led this week with banding at our three MAPS stations: SOPO, BLAB, and LILA. As usual, SOPO caught the most birds with a hefty 53 while LILA and BLAB lagged behind with 28 and 11, respectively. The majority of these captures were comprised of, arguably, BBO's most quintessential species Least Flycatchers and Yellow Warblers. The banding was also spiced up with a few interesting species, such as a Red-eyed Vireo, Swamp Sparrows, Gray Catbirds, and a Tennessee Warbler. The Last species on that list is not known to breed in our natural area; could this be the beginning of migration already? This round of MAPS also turned up the first baby birds of the year with fledgling Black-capped Chickadees being caught. To go along with those babies a couple White-tailed Deer fawns graced the staff and volunteers with their presence.

Besides MAPS banding, the BBO team were kept busy with several other tasks. While the first baby birds are showing up in the forest the last of the Tree Swallow nestlings were banded this week. In short order, our lively Tree Swallows will be headed to the US for Forest Breeding Bird Census also continued this week. Although, the birds present during the Censuses were mostly typical there was a notable exception; not just one but two Black-billed Cuckoos! Another Shorebird Survey was completed this week and expectations were set quite low as water levels in the lake are very low and migration shouldn't be underway quite yet. Despite these expectations the survey delivered several treats including a Black-bellied Plover, Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes, flocks of both Least and Pectoral Sandpipers, and numerous Marbled Godwits.



Gray Catbirds (*Dumetella carolinensis*) are named after their meow-like call and for their song they mimic many other local birds.

While there are numerous biology projects underway at the BBO these aren't the only things that keep the team occupied. For instance, Keith the Red-tailed Hawk continued his stay out here and actually had a few hecklers. The parents of a nearby Robin nest made it clear he wasn't welcome. Luckily, Keith couldn't care less and continued his week unbothered. Also, the construction of the next addition to the BBO began this week. Wes Olson, a world-class bison biologist, volunteered to build a shower stall so that staff, volunteers, and YOs in the future will have the opportunity to rinse the sweat, bird poop, and marsh water off after a long day's work. This project went from blueprints to nearly complete over the course of the week, and we can't thank Wes enough for all his hard work.



The new shower stall at BBO pictured mid-construction. It has been titled the “Bison Wallow” in honour of its builder.

Table 1. SOPO banding summary.

Species	Banded	Repeats <sup>1</sup>	Returns <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Totals
Least Flycatcher	9		1			10
Black-capped Chickadee	1		1			2
House Wren	3					3
Warbling Vireo	2	2				4
Tennessee Warbler	1					1
Yellow Warbler	17	3	2			22
Clay-coloured Sparrow	1	1				2
Song Sparrow	2	1				3
Brown-headed Cowbird	1					1
Baltimore Oriole	1					1
American Goldfinch		1				1
Swamp Sparrow	1					1
Gray Catbird	1					1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1					1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>			<b>53</b>

45.5 net-hours

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

132.5 captures/100 net-hours

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 1. BLAB banding summary.

Species	Banded	Repeats <sup>1</sup>	Returns <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Totals
Least Flycatcher	1	3				4
American Robin	1	2			1	3
Red-eyed Vireo			1			1
Brown-headed Cowbird		1				1
Baltimore Oriole	1					1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>

45.0 net-hours

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

24.4 captures/100 net-hours

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 1. LILA banding summary.

Species	Banded	Repeats <sup>1</sup>	Returns <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Totals
Least Flycatcher	7	1	1		1	10
Black-capped Chickadee	3					3
House Wren		2				2
American Robin	1					1
Warbling Vireo	1					1
Yellow Warbler	2		3			5
Song Sparrow		1				1
White-throated Sparrow	1					1
Brown-headed Cowbird		1				1
Baltimore Oriole	1					1
Gray Catbird	1	1				2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>		1	<b>28</b>

48.0 net-hours

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

58.3 captures/100 net-hours

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).