

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update July 10-19, 2025

As the slightest hints of yellow appear in the aspen leaves, this year's MAPS Program at the BBO is nearing its completion. MAPS banding was performed on July 10th (LILA), July 11th (SOPO), and July 13th (BLAB). This banding period saw good volumes of birds and foreshadowed fall migration, with the reappearance of migrant Black-and-white and Tennessee Warblers. Having evaded the nets all year, an Ovenbird was finally captured and banded on July 12th!



The BBO's new shower, which Xavier cleverly named the "Bison Wallow"!

It is with great excitement that we announce the completion of our brand new shower! Immense gratitude is extended to Wes Olson for his time and effort building it, and a massive thank-you is also extended to Geoff Holyrod and Johane Janelle for assisting in its construction!

Since July 12th, this period's other priority has been banding the Purple Martin nestlings who reside in the four Purple Martin boxes out in the grassland. The adorable nestlings are fitted with a size 1A band, the size worn by the adults, and their age is determined by comparing them (mainly their flight feather growth) to a series of photographs showcasing their day-by-day appearance. On July 14th, Wes, Johane, and Geoff joined staff as they banded, and Johane used her photography



A very cute Purple Martin nestling waits patiently as his band is prepared! Photo courtesy of Johane Janelle.



This beautiful Ovenbird was banded on July 12th, becoming the first one banded all year!



Xavier, Anna, and Willow banding Purple Martin nestlings on July 14th, photographed by the lovely Johane Janelle!

expertise to capture the precious moments!

For a few days following MAPS, the superstar Jewels made a long-awaited appearance at the BBO, staying for a few days with Jana and boosting the staff's excitement for fall migration, when they can once again get their daily doses of



The one-and-only Jewels returns to the BBO, employing her extensive banding knowledge to advise staff as they band Purple Martin nestlings.

cuddles from the certified Pawsitive Vibes Specialist.

The staff's individual monitoring projects are all wrapping up nicely, and work is underway sifting through and analysing the data they collected. Stay tuned for our final reports!

Work at the BBO is consistently aided by amazing volunteers and interns. Long-term volunteer Anna Reichenbach is in her third week at the BBO, sadly leaving only one week remaining in her stay. Her hard work and upbeat attitude have been so valuable and will be greatly missed once she flies home.

Table 1. LILA Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Least Flycatcher	13	2				15
American Robin	1		1			2
Cedar Waxwing	4					4
Red-eyed Vireo	1					1
Tennessee Warbler	1					1
Yellow Warbler	11	5	1		1	18
Clay-coloured Sparrow	1					1
Song Sparrow	2					2
Lincoln's Sparrow	1					1
American Goldfinch	5	1	1			7
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		2				2
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1					1
Total	41	10	3		1	55

¹Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO.

²Banded at the BBO > 90 days prior to recapture (e.g. in a previous year).

³Banded at a location other than the BBO.

⁴Caught in a mist-net but not banded (e.g. escaped net).

Net hours: 48.5

113.4 captures/100 net-hours

Table 2. SOPO Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Downy Woodpecker		1				1
Traill's Flycatcher	2					2
Least Flycatcher	16	3				19
Black-capped Chickadee	2					2
Northern House Wren	1	1			1	3
American Robin	2					2
Cedar Waxwing	3					3
Warbling Vireo	2	1				3
Yellow Warbler	8	4	1			13
Black-and-white Warbler	1					1
Ovenbird	1					1
Common Yellowthroat	1					1
Red-winged Blackbird		1				
Baltimore Oriole	2	3				5
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	1				3
Grey Catbird	1					1
Total	44	15	1		1	61

¹Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO.

²Banded at the BBO > 90 days prior to recapture (e.g. in a previous year).

³Banded at a location other than the BBO.

⁴Caught in a mist-net but not banded (e.g. escaped net).

Net hours: 56

108.9 captures/100 net-hours

Table 3. BLAB Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Least Flycatcher	5	2	1			8
Warbling Vireo		1				1
Yellow Warbler			1			1
White-throated Sparrow			1			1
Total	5	3	3			11

¹Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO.

²Banded at the BBO > 90 days prior to recapture (e.g. in a previous year).

³Banded at a location other than the BBO.

⁴Caught in a mist-net but not banded (e.g. escaped net).

Net-hours: 52

21.2 captures/100 net-hours