

# Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly update - June 20th to 29th, 2026



Both Lister Lake and Sora Pond overflowed and this MAPS station is right in the confluence.

Round two of MAPS has come and gone. This was a unique one, to say the least. Significant rain at the beginning of the week pushed back our banding. After the rain stopped, we were surprised to see a few inches of standing water on many of our trails. Considering the BBO is surrounded by wetlands, this is nothing the observatory hadn't dealt with in the past, so we prepared for banding the next morning. Unfortunately, the BBO sits at the bottom of the watershed, and many surrounding areas had become flooded. So, despite no rain falling overnight, the water levels at BBO rose by well over 30cm, making banding impractical. The next few days came and went without rain, so our hope that we would be able to band rose. Unfortunately, the water level also continued to rise. Eventually, we were forced to limit access to BBO to only staff members to maintain the quality of our flooded roads, and most of our field work was rendered impossible. To add

insult to injury, the weather decided to add another rainstorm at the end of the week. It is still unclear how long access and activities at the BBO will be limited for.

The rain has had several negative effects on the BBO, but there is also a significant benefit to all this water. Beaverhill Lake goes through regular drying and filling cycles, but in recent years, it has been drying much more than it has been refilling. Due to the inundation this week, there is standing water at the historical shore of Beaverhill Lake for the first time in many years!



Biologist Jon cheering at the return of Beaverhill Lake!



A Tree Swallow nestling shortly before being banded.

Despite the rain, several activities were completed before the flooding began or weren't affected by the flooding. For instance, several nest boxes containing Tree Swallow chicks were banded before the field they are in became a pond. Fortunately, the boxes are elevated enough that the flooding had little effect on them. Also, Jon, Emelie, Willow, and Geoff attended the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network online meeting and shared the 2026 activities at the BBO so far.