

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update – June 30 - July 9, 2026

The Beaverhill Natural Area found itself underwater in June, leading to some interesting activities for the staff. The historic rainfall in June made the road in treacherous, and flooded two of the MAPS stations: Sora Pond, and Lister Lake. This unfortunately put a halt to our summer banding, as our nets were inoperable in the deep water. Unfortunately, our long-term volunteer, Ariel, had to cut her trip short, but we are grateful for her contributions during her stay!

After evacuating site on June 24, staff worked on data entry, net repair, report writing, and new specimens for the display from home. Staff took day trips to the lab to complete surveys and evaluate water levels. Luckily, the water receded slightly, allowing the third MAPS station, BBO Lab, to run on July seventh.



Flooding at Sora Pond



Male Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Banding at BBO Lab is never high in volume, and this round of MAPS we caught eight birds total, half of which were Least Flycatchers. The most interesting captures were a handsome Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and a Ruby-throated Hummingbird!

Staff are hoping to return to site full time when the flooding recedes more. Fall migration is just around the corner- something to look forward to amidst all the office work!

Staff continue working on research projects, data entry, and interpretive material until conditions allow safe travel into the BBO.

BBO Lab (BLAB) banding totals:

<i>SPECIES</i>	Banded	Recaptured ¹	Unbanded ²	Total
Least Flycatcher	2	2		4
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1			1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird			1	1
Yellow Warbler	1	1		2
Grand Total	4	3	1	8

60 net-hours

12 captures/100 net-hours

1 - banded previously at the BBO

2 – Caught but not banded (e.g. escaped)