

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update July 10-19, 2026

This past period followed in the footsteps of those before it as quite unconventional. Luckily, we were able to transition back to living full-time at the lab, and flood water levels have receded enough for us to run the M.A.P.S. station surrounding the station, BLAB, again on July 14th! We caught a whopping 7 birds, 6 usual culprits of Yellow Warblers and Least Flycatchers, and one female Rose-Breasted Grosbeak (Table 1)! Waters remain too deep around our other stations, SOPO and LILA, to facilitate banding. Hopefully we make up for lost time as we move into fall migration banding!



The pretty Rose-Breasted Grosbeak we banded this week!

Yes, you read that right - fall migration is already upon us and officially commences on July 20th! Plenty of the week was dedicated to preparing the lab and net lanes for a return to (hopefully) daily banding. Adam Chaney, a long-term volunteer we hosted this spring, constructed us an entirely new set of net markers, designed with special hooks to hold bird bags during busy extractions! They are each embellished with a beautiful painting by his wife, Lexie! We are beyond grateful for these stunning new additions to the BBO and are so excited to put them to use!



Xavier and Jana enthusiastically setting up the markers Adam made!

Another fun endeavour took place late on July 16th in the form of a bat emergence count! We welcomed Victoria Berg, a bat biologist from Edmonton, to show us the ropes and help us count bats as they left their boxes at night! We monitored 6 of our busiest bat boxes and counted 124 bats overall, with 56 from one box!

In a heartwarming tale, we rehomed another orphaned clutch of Northern House Wrens this week! Sent to us from WILDNorth, the nestlings were placed in an active nestbox on July 19th and banded with an adult-sized band. Hopefully we catch one of these wrens in the future and can celebrate their perseverance!



*All suited up to combat the mosquitoes during the emergence count!
L to R: Victoria, Emelie, Willow, Adam, Jana, & Xavier.*

DAILY TOTALS

<i>Species Name</i>	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Grand Total
Least Flycatcher	1	3	1	5
Rose-Breasted Grosbeak	1			1
Yellow Warbler			1	1
Grand Total	2	3	2	7

Table 1. Banding totals from July 10th to July 19th.

¹Banded 90 or fewer days ago, at the BBO

²Banded over 90 days ago, at the BBO

Total net-hours: 60

11.7 captures/100 net-hours