

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update August 1 to 7, 2008

This first week of August saw us start up another season of migration monitoring here in the Beaverhill Natural Area. We had our nets in by the lab set up and ready to go for the morning of the 1st with a whole set of refurbished net lanes. We installed



new poles onto new rebar stakes with new blocks to keep the poles from sinking into the sandy soil. We hung our best nets with new shock-cord tensioners (with adjustable tension provided by the new cordlocks), and furled them up with bright new fabric ties. All in all, a pretty snappy setup.



Our efforts were rewarded on the 1st with 19 birds captured from five species. The highlights were a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (a new species for me, and the first time we've observed one



here at the lab), and a young Downy Woodpecker male. The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher could easily be mistaken for an Alder Flycatcher, which are more common in the Natural Area, but it has a distinct yellow wash on its breast and sides.

Robin took the long weekend off, so I was out by myself for the next couple of days. Saturday ended up being a short day as a stiff wind blew in around 8 o'clock and forced me to close the nets early. Sunday made up for it, with 16 birds from six species, including one exciting net run when I caught a young Ruffed Grouse, a Cedar Waxwing, and a Baltimore Oriole all in three nets side-by-side (8, 9 & 9x, respectively). Other interesting captures included a pair (a



male and a female) of American Goldfinches side-by-side, and of course—a handful of Least Flycatchers and Yellow Warblers.

On Monday morning Anna Daku, who was the assistant bander last year, came out to volunteer. She caught our first Tennessee Warbler for the



season, and a whole bunch of Black-capped Chickadees—half of which were actually recaps, including on return (last caught more than 90 days ago). Unfortunately, something (Anna heard a dog barking nearby) ran through the bottom of net 9 (our most productive net) mid-morning, tearing a large hole and forcing us to close it until we could do some repairs. If a bird gets caught along the edge of a hole it can get excessively

tangled if it loops around through the tear, (or any number of strange ways of getting caught) increasing the odds of injury—which we don't want to risk.

Robin was back on Tuesday for a cool, drizzly morning. Unfortunately, the drizzle turned to thunderstorm at about 10 o'clock, causing a mad dash to get the nets taken down. Wednesday was much nicer, and we caught our first obviously migrant warbler—an Ovenbird. This species is not known to breed in the area, so it's a sign that the migration is, at least a little, underway. Lisa Priestly came out with her two kids later in the morning for a chat—it's always nice to have visitors at the lab.

As another sign of the beginning of the fall migration, on Thursday (the 7th) we heard a small flock of Sandhill Cranes overhead. These birds pass through (or at least, over) the Natural Area in very large numbers during the peak of migration, and it was nice to hear their loud trumpeting overhead again. —JMDR

| Species | Banded | Repeat ¹ | Return ² | Foreign ³ | Other ⁴ | Total |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Least Flycatcher | 33 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 44 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 10 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| Yellow Warbler | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| American Goldfinch | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| Tennessee Warbler | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Alder Flycatcher | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Baltimore Oriole | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Cedar Waxwing | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Ovenbird | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Song Sparrow | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Myrtle Warbler | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Warbling Vireo | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Ruffed Grouse | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 63 | 20 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 86 |

- ¹ Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO.
 - 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).
- Net Hours: 486.75*
Capture Rate: 17.5 /100 NH



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