

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Weekly Update August 15th- 21st, 2015

Wow, has the summer gone by quickly! The leaves are already starting to change color and drop, leaving the staff to extract nearly as many leaves as birds from the nets. Morning wake-ups are also getting later and later (no complaints here) with chillier temperatures greeting us in the morning. This is my last full week as summer staff before returning to school in the fall, and it's definitely been a great one. We had a busy day with almost 50 birds where we caught lots of staff favorites including Blackpoll Warblers and a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. We also caught one of my favorite looking birds this week, a Blue-headed Vireo. This week also brought our total for fall migration so far past 500 birds!

Lead biologist, Jonathan has also been working hard to set-up some ARU's supplied by the University of Alberta's Bayne lab (ARU = Autonomous Recording Unit). Anyone who has visited recently is sure to notice the metal tower now attached to the lab. We've placed an ARU device up at the top to record calls from birds migrating overnight, in addition to two other ARUs around the natural area. A lot of migration occurs at night, which we miss, so the ARUs will be able to give us a better idea of just what/ how many birds migrate over our area.

Chair of the Board, Geoff has also been out at the lab trapping hummingbirds at our feeders. On his first try he managed to trap and band two female Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Hummingbirds will occasionally catch themselves in our mist nets, but cannot be banded without a special permit (like Geoff has!)



A Blue-headed Vireo posing for a picture. Photo credit: E.Cicon

Thanks to all the visitors, volunteers, and board members who stopped by this week including: Robin Moore, Pat Brouillette, Dan and Elly, Geoff Holroyd, Danielle Simard, Cala Jorgensen, Steve, Irene Crosland, Rowan French, Deanna, and Emily Dowdall.

| Species | Banded | Repeat ¹ | Return ² | Foreign ³ | Other ⁴ | Total |
|---------------------------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Alder Flycatcher | 5 | 1 | | | | 6 |
| American Goldfinch | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| American Redstart | 13 | | | | | 13 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 6 | 6 | | | | 12 |
| Blackpoll Warbler | 5 | | | | | 5 |
| Blue-headed Vireo | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Canada Warbler | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| Cape May Warbler | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Cedar Waxwing | 2 | 1 | | | | 3 |
| Clay-colored Sparrow | 3 | | | | | 3 |
| Downy Woodpecker | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Hermit Thrush | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Least Flycatcher | 54 | 6 | 1 | | 1 | 62 |
| Magnolia Warbler | 3 | | | | | 3 |
| Mourning Warbler | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Myrtle Warbler | 3 | | | | | 3 |
| Northern Waterthrush | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| Ovenbird | 5 | | | | | 5 |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Red-eyed Vireo | 5 | | | | | 5 |
| Swainson's Thrush | 8 | | | | | 8 |
| Tennessee Warbler | 6 | 1 | | | | 7 |
| Warbling Vireo | 4 | 2 | 3 | | | 9 |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| Yellow Warbler | 5 | 1 | 1 | | | 7 |
| Total | 135 | 18 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 165 |

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: = 68 NH

Capture Rate: = 243 birds/ 100 NH