

## Beaverhill Bird Observatory Weekly Update August 1<sup>st</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

After a break from regular banding during our MAPS season, the staff is ready to face the daily 5 am (ish) wake-up of the fall migration season! We've had some temperamental weather for the week, forcing us to run and close nets at the slightest hint of a raindrop on more than one occasion; however, it can definitely be called a success! We've banded just shy of 200 birds in only 7 days of banding (with some of those days being cut short by rain). Additionally, we had our highest catch day this season with 60 birds, keeping staff hopping about at a pretty good pace. We also caught a Philadelphia Vireo (another first for the year!), which is a look-alike of our common Warbling Vireo. A tip to help tell them apart is to look for a bit more yellow on the Philadelphia Vireo's throat and also their dark lores (feathers located between the eye and the bill).

This was also an exciting week, as it marked the assistants' (Meghan and myself) first opportunity to run the lab solo. Banding birds is much like getting a learner's permit for driving a car. You can learn with someone who has his or her license already, but can't band on your own until you've earned your own permit. Luckily, I obtained my permit earlier in the week! The day was a smashing success, with lots of thanks going to some awesome volunteers, Jane and Lauren, who helped us stay on schedule by scribing, holding bags, etc. Meghan and I had also made a trip to the Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory in the days prior to our fall migration, so we had gotten back into the swing of extracting birds and also learned lots about aging birds in the fall.



Our first Philadelphia Vireo of the season! (Photo credit: E.L. Cicon)

We had lovely visitors and volunteers helping us out on site this week, including: Lisa Priestley (acting as an awesome bander-in-charge), Gemma, Gwen Roy, Francois, Ellie, Rob, Juniper, Harris, Bev, Karen Jacobson, Irene & Tessa, Lauren, Jane, and (another great bander-in-charge) Jim Beck!

Species	Banded	Repeat <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total
Alder Flycatcher	4					4
American Goldfinch	2		2			4
American Robin			2			2
Black-and-white Warbler	1					1
Black-capped Chickadee	11	5	1			17
Chipping Sparrow	2					2
Clay-colored Sparrow	13	1	1			15
Downy Woodpecker	2					2
Gray Catbird	2	1				3
Hairy Woodpecker	1					1
House Wren	2					2
Le Conte's Sparrow	1					1
Least Flycatcher	35	9	1			45
Northern Waterthrush	1					1
Philadelphia Vireo	1					1
Red-eyed Vireo	1					1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird					2	2
Song Sparrow	2					2
Tennessee Warbler	41	14	1			56
Warbling Vireo	16	1	1			18
White-throated Sparrow	1					1
Yellow Warbler	7	1	1			9
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>190</b>

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: = 90 NH

Capture Rate: = 120 birds/ 100 NH