

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update August 16-22, 2021



Ovenbirds, despite their thrush-like appearance, are actually a boreal warbler.

Fall migration monitoring continues with another exciting week of captures. Our new net locations continue to be highly productive, yielding capture counts far in excess of our older locations, as well as a plethora of new species! Some highlights were a Canada Warbler, our first Palm Warbler of the season, and a Rose-Breasted Grosbeak. With last week's successful proof of concept, we have begun scouting out more possible locations. If they have anything approaching the productivity of the new test nets, we might be looking at some very significant jumps in volume indeed.

As is the case for migration, there is the odd oddity hanging around the lab. Sometimes we observe them in a tree, sometimes we capture them. In the case of the Western Tanager that we finally spotted after being taunted by its song for days, it's only in a tree. In the case of the Eastern Phoebe that repeatedly perched on top of our nets before finally having the decency to get caught, it was both. Either way, we're pleased to have the odd thing that

doesn't quite match the local habitat.

The last week also brought some welcome rain, but still not quite enough to suppress the many, many wasps that are everywhere in the natural area. Our staff have been waging a losing war against one particular underground nest that insists on using one of our nets for nesting material. Hopefully the skunks find that one soon, because our attempts are not working.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Dmitri, a volunteer who built and mounted five new multi-chamber bat boxes for us, all made of lumber reclaimed from old shipping pallets. On behalf of the local bat population, your efforts are much appreciated.

This week also marked an exciting point in our new research and education center building's life: its walls welcomed visitors for the first time. Starting on August 21st, the building is open to the public for morning songbird banding! For those of you just reading this, slots are open for visits to the BBO and are selling out fast! Book your slot today on our website.



Blue-headed Vireos are a relatively uncommon migrant at the BBO, and all the more welcome for it.

Standardized Migration Monitoring

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Traill's Flycatcher	4					4
Least Flycatcher	3					3
Eastern Phoebe	1					1
Downy Woodpecker	1					1
Black-Capped Chickadee	4	6				10
Myrtle Warbler	1					1
Northern Waterthrush	5					5
Ovenbird	4					4
Tennessee Warbler	1					1
Canada Warbler	1					1
Western Palm Warbler	1					1
American Redstart	1					1
Swainson's Thrush	3					3
Song Sparrow	1					1
Red-Eyed Vireo	2					2
Blue-Headed Vireo	1					1
Total	34	6	0	0	0	40

358.5 net-hours

11.2 captures/100 net-hours

Non-standard banding (experimental new nets)

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Traill's Flycatcher	9					9
Least Flycatcher	11					11
Black-Capped Chickadee	16	8	3			27
House Wren	1					1
Tennessee Warbler	9					9
Yellow Warbler	25	2				27
Myrtle Warbler	8					8
Northern Waterthrush	2					2
American Redstart	2					2
Wilson's Warbler	1					1
Ovenbird	3					3
Blackpoll Warbler	1					1
Common Yellowthroat	3					3
Clay-Coloured Sparrow	12					12
Warbling Vireo	3					3
Blue-Headed Vireo	1					1
Red-Eyed Vireo	1					1
Rose-Breasted Grosbeak	1					1
Total	108	10	3	0	0	121

59 net hours

205.1 captures/100 net hours

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).