

# Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update June 30 – July 9 2023



*One of many Tennessee Warblers that have flocked to the BBO to feed on the abundant insects.*

It was another busy week out at the BBO! While our MAPS banding for this round was delayed due to poor weather, a busy day at Sora Pond made it well worth the wait. Highlight captures for this round included a Hermit Thrush on BLAB, a Black-and-white Warbler on SOPO, and several Tennessee Warblers.

Staff have been hard at work completing various surveys around the natural area during the days between banding. Jon has been surveying the forest breeding bird grid to map out songbird breeding territories, Cala has been monitoring Least Flycatcher nests to assess their productivity in the natural area, Ethan has continued monitoring shorebirds on Beaverhill Lake, and Sierra has been inventorying plant species in the natural area.

One interesting occurrence in the natural area this week has been an outbreak of what appear to be sawfly larva throughout the forest. These caterpillars have been eating the upper layer of balsam and aspen leaves, resulting in the leaves dying and parts of our forest looking like autumn! Following this outbreak, we've noticed a large number of Tennessee Warblers invading the natural area. We suspect they are feeding on the larva while they molt their flight feathers after breeding!



*An after second year male Cedar Waxwing shows off the red waxy tips on his wing feathers.*

Table 1. MAPS banding totals

<b>Species</b>	<b>Banded</b>	<b>Repeat<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Return<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Foreign<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Other<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
Least Flycatcher	16	5	2		4	27
Black-capped Chickadee	3		1		1	5
Hermit Thrush	1					1
Warbling Vireo	2		1			3
Yellow Warbler	5	3	2			10
Baltimore Oriole	4					4
Trail's Flycatcher		1				1
Swainson's Thrush	1					1
American Robin	1					1
Cedar Waxwing	5					5
Tennessee Warbler	9				4	13
Black-and-white Warbler	1					1
Song Sparrow	3					3
Lincoln's Sparrow	2					2
White-throated Sparrow	2					2
Brown-headed Cowbird	3					3
Red-winged Blackbird	3					3
Tree Swallow	1					1
Gray Catbird		2				2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1				1
House Wren	1					1
Red-eyed Vireo	2					2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>92</b>

138 net-hours

26.9 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).