

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update July 20-29, 2023

Fall migration started out strong, with 85 birds caught on the first day (July 20) in the standard and experimental nets combined, while our BLAB MAPS station caught 12 birds on the same day. Of note was an increase in our local Rose-breasted Grosbeak population, with five individuals captured in our migration nets that day.

Unfortunately, significant storms and precipitation resulted in the flooding of Lister Lake, which prevented us from running our MAPS SOPO and LILA stations for the monitoring period. Soon, Beaverhill Lake also became saturated, and we were unable to run some of our most productive experimental nets, slowing our migration catch rates to a trickle.

Meanwhile, our neighboring landowners' fields were also flooded, and the pump required to feed the water back into the lake blocked public access to our site. Continued inclement conditions forced staff to leave the site from July 26 to July 29. Still, we were able to share a few memorable moments – including the appearance of twin juvenile Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in one of our migration nets and the beginning of the Ovenbirds' migration south.

While our catch rates had improved by July 29th, with 60 birds caught in our migration nets, there was a notable shift in our species composition with an increase in wetland birds such as ducks, gulls, American Bitterns, Soras, Nelson's Sparrows, and Black-necked Stilts observed within 100 meters of the banding lab.



Figure 1. Flooded conditions throughout the Beaverhill Natural Area limited bird banding activity and temporarily forced staff off-site.



Figure 2. We were still able to catch a few Ovenbirds as they started to head south for winter.

Table 1. Migration Monitoring Banding Totals in Standard Nets

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	TOTAL
Least Flycatcher	27	5			2	34
Warbling Vireo	6	1				7
Black-capped Chickadee	5	1				6
Tennessee Warbler	5				1	6
House Wren	4	1				5
Yellow Warbler	5					5
Ovenbird	4	1				5
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5					5
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2					2
Magnolia Warbler	1					1
Gray Catbird	1					1
TOTAL	65	9	0	0	3	77

Total net-hours: 377.50

Capture-rate: 20.40 /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 at net)

Table 2. Migration Monitoring Banding Totals in Non-Standard Nets

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	TOTAL
Least Flycatcher	45	1				46
Yellow Warbler	31	6	1		1	39
Tennessee Warbler	19				1	20
Black-capped Chickadee	8	1	1			10
House Wren	7	1			1	9
Clay-colored Sparrow	7	2				9
Myrtle Warbler	4					4
Warbling Vireo	3					3
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2					2
Swainson's Thrush	1					1
Song Sparrow	1					1
Common Yellowthroat	1					1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1					1
TOTAL	130	11	2	0	3	146

Total net-hours: 58.50

Capture-rate: 249.57/100 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 at net)

Table 3. Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	TOTAL
Least Flycatcher	9	1				10
Tennessee Warbler	2				1	3
Warbling Vireo	2					2
Black-capped Chickadee			1			1
Hairy Woodpecker			1			1
Myrtle Warbler	1					1
Gray Catbird	1					1
TOTAL	15	1	2	0	1	19

Total net-hours: 96.00

Capture-rate: 19.79 /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 at net)