

# Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly update - July 30<sup>th</sup> to August 8<sup>th</sup>



*The 2023 YO team, left to right:  
(top:) Cala Jorgensen, Toby Ye, Heather Trocher, Helen Trefry, Ethan Denton (middle:) Jon van Arragon, Jana Teefy, Sierra Jamieson, Alex Zbylut, Paul Jacques, Quinn Desilets, Geoff Holroyd (bottom:) Braxton Igne, Dave Lawrie, Jay Froese, Jewels (dog), Mianna Popik, William Buswell, Gwendolyn Bateman-Dungey, Karin Higuchi*

This week saw the much anticipated return of the Beaverhill Bird Observatory's Young Ornithologist Workshop. Ten youth were accepted into the week-long program, which aims to teach young birders and naturalists about bird banding and more. We were fortunate this year to host youth from a wide variety of places - Alberta, British Columbia, Massachusetts and Japan were all represented! The group got to go pond dipping for aquatic invertebrates, catching butterflies and moths, and searching for migratory shorebirds.

The Young Ornithologists were lucky to have several expert guest presenters speak over the course of the week, covering everything from Tree Swallows, to Butterflies, to the history of Peregrine Falcons in Alberta. Following up on the latter, the group got to visit our local Falconry, to see some of the raptors currently housed there, and do a duckling release thanks to WildNorth. They were also treated to a birding 'big day' led by local birding legend Irene Crosland. Totalling 98 species, the big day covered the BBO, Elk Island National Park, and a number of other local hotspots.



*The first banded Baird's Sparrow in BBO history!*

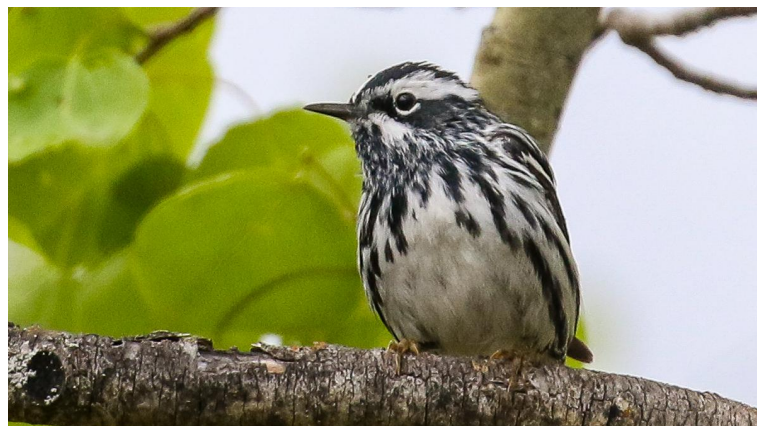
Every morning saw migration banding, with the BLAB MAPS station also being run on the first day of the workshop. SOPO and LILA stations have both been flooded out, and were consequently not runnable. Migration has picked up enough to keep things interesting! One day saw 118 birds caught, while highlights for the week included a young Bay-breasted Warbler, a Blackpoll Warbler, and several Le Conte's Sparrows. The most notable bird by far, however, was a Baird's Sparrow - the first time the BBO has ever banded this species!



*Above: Photographing a Black-and-white Warbler Below: the warbler in question*



*Examining a Least Flycatcher!*



*Successfully banded Yellow Warbler*

Table 1: Migration Monitoring (standard nets)

SPECIES	BANDED	REPEAT <sup>1</sup>	RETURN <sup>2</sup>	FOREIGN <sup>3</sup>	OTHER <sup>4</sup>	TOTAL
Ruby-throated Hummingbird					2	2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1				1
Hairy Woodpecker	1					1
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1					1
Least Flycatcher	35	7	1			43
Black-capped Chickadee	1	11	1			13
House Wren	5					5
Warbling Vireo	1	1				2
Tennessee Warbler	4	1				5
Myrtle Warbler	12	3			1	16
Yellow Warbler	13	7	4			24
Ovenbird		1				1
Brown-headed Cowbird	1				1	2
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>116</b>

706 net-hours

16.4 captures / 100 net-hours

1 - banded 90 or fewer days ago, at the BBO

2 - banded over 90 days ago, at the BBO

3 - banded at a location other than the BBO

4 - caught but not banded (e.g. escaped)

Table 2: Migration Monitoring (experimental nets)

<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>
Downy Woodpecker	1					<b>1</b>
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1					<b>1</b>
Alder Flycatcher	2					<b>2</b>
Trail's Flycatcher	11					<b>11</b>
Least Flycatcher	113	13			4	<b>130</b>
Black-capped Chickadee	3	10	2			<b>15</b>
House Wren	12	5			2	<b>19</b>
Cedar Waxwing	2					<b>2</b>
Warbling Vireo	19	7			1	<b>27</b>
Tennessee Warbler	52	1			1	<b>54</b>
Yellow Warbler	189	25	6		8	<b>228</b>
Northern Waterthrush	1					<b>1</b>
Myrtle Warbler	40	2			1	<b>43</b>
Blackpoll Warbler	1					<b>1</b>
Bay-breasted Warbler	1					<b>1</b>
American Redstart	1					<b>1</b>
Wilson's Warbler	1					<b>1</b>
Common Yellowthroat	7					<b>7</b>
Clay-coloured Sparrow	4				1	<b>5</b>
Baird's Sparrow	1					<b>1</b>
Song Sparrow	1					<b>1</b>

<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>
<b>LeConte's Sparrow</b>	<b>8</b>					<b>8</b>
<b>Brown-headed Cowbird</b>	<b>1</b>					<b>1</b>
<b>Purple Finch</b>	<b>1</b>					<b>1</b>
<b>American Goldfinch</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>			<b>4</b>
<b>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</b>	<b>1</b>					<b>1</b>
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>567</b>

173.5 net-hours

326.8 captures / 100 net-hours

1 - banded 90 or fewer days ago, at the BBO

2 - banded over 90 days ago, at the BBO

3 - banded at a location other than the BBO

4 - caught but not banded (e.g. escaped)

## BLAB (August 1)

SPECIES	BANDED	REPEAT	RETURN	OTHER	TOTAL
Least Flycatcher	4	2	1		7
Black-capped Chickadee			2		2
Cedar Waxwing	1				1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2				2
TOTALS:	7	2	3		12

59 net-hours

20.3 captures / 100 net-hours