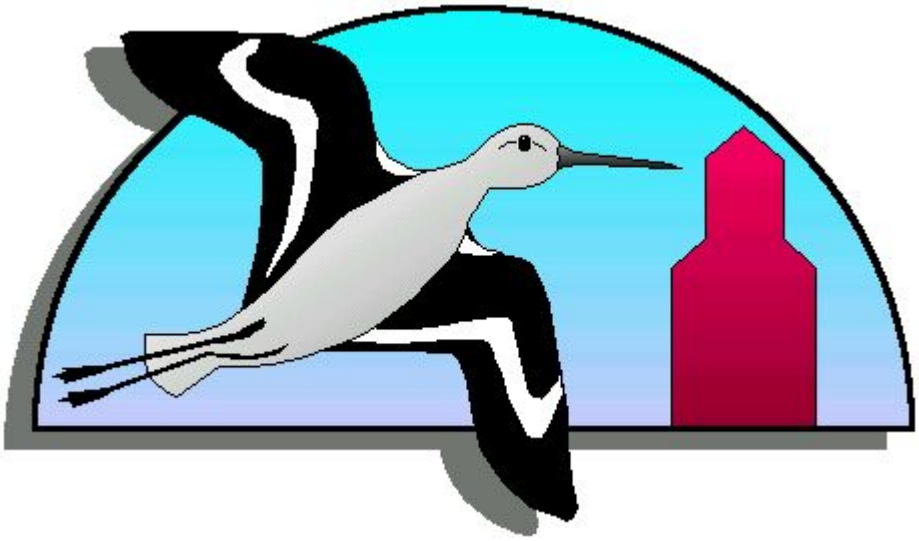
BEAVERHILL BIRD OBSERVATORY

Spring Report 2004



Jill Thompson

Spring Migration Monitoring

The Beaverhill Bird Observatory was in for a real treat for this year's spring migration program: an all female crew! Crystal Rausch and Jill Thompson make up the 2004 summer field staff. Despite being inexperienced in bird banding, there was no lack of spirit, enthusiasm and interest among this "crew" (not really sure if two people constitutes a crew). This spirit, no doubt, was inspired and instilled by the many volunteers who offered their time and talent to train the staff in the ways of the band.

May 1st marked the beginning of spring banding and continued until June 10th. Over these 40 days, banding took place on 29 days and a total of 1809 net hours were accumulated. These efforts resulted in 536 birds being captured. The number of banding days was dependant on the availability of volunteer banders, since neither Crystal and Jill had a banding permit, and of course Mother Nature. Fortunately the BBO did not see the same snow that fell at the beginning of the 2003 spring banding season. In fact there was complaints of sunburnt faces made by staff and volunteers after the first day of banding! The weather continued to hold until the end of May, when it rained for a few days straight.

The average capture rate during this time period was 30 birds per 100 net hours. Of the 536 birds caught, 424 were new birds, 61 were recaptures and 36 birds were recoveries. Table 1 lists all species that were newly banded, recaptured, recovered or considered other captures for the spring 2004 Monitoring Migration program. These numbers seem low compared to the years past; however, the total net hours and total banding days must be considered.

The number of birds captured this season was considerably lower than in previous years (755 birds in Spring 2003 and 950 birds in Spring 2002); however, the diversity often caught the BBO staff by surprise. A total of 39 species were handled during spring migration, and on a couple of occasions the number of species was close to the number of birds captured. For example on May 17th, a particularly slow day, 7 birds were caught and banded, and 6 species were accounted for. On the busiest day of spring banding, May 13th, a total of 12 species were accounted for in the 83 birds caught.

Table 1: Spring Migration 2004 capture totals for the Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Species	# New birds	# Recaptured	# Recovered	Other Captures	Total
American Goldfinch	1	1	0	0	2
American Redstart	3	0	0	0	3
American Robin	2	0	0	0	2
Baltimore Oriole	2	3	0	0	5
Black Capped Chickadee	3	8	0	0	11
Blackpoll Warbler	4	0	0	0	4
Blue Headed Vireo	1	0	0	0	1
Brown Headed Cowbird	0	1	0	1	2
Chipping Sparrow	53	4	0	2	59
Clay-Colored Sparrow	40	6	4	1	51
Evening Grosbeak	1	0	0	0	1
Gray Catbird	1	0	0	0	1
Hermit Thrush	5	1	0	0	6
House Wren	4	3	3	0	10
Least Flycatcher	32	9	10	0	51
Lincoln's Sparrow	4	0	0	1	5
Mourning Warbler	1	0	0	0	1
Myrtle Warbler	152	7	0	3	162
Orange-Crowned Warbler	7	0	0	0	7
Red-Breasted Nuthatch	4	1	0	0	5
Rose Breasted Grosbeak	3	0	0	0	3
Ruby Crowned Kinglet	3	0	0	0	3
Ruby-Throated Hummingbird	0	0	0	1	1
Savannah Sparrow	3	0	0	0	3
Slate-Colored Junco	1	0	0	0	1
Song Sparrow	3	0	0	0	3
Swainson's Thrush	36	3	0	1	40
Swamp Sparrow	1	0	0	0	1
Tennessee Warbler	4	0	0	0	4
Trail's Flycatcher	5	0	1	0	6
Tree Swallow	0	0	2	0	2
Warbling Vireo	1	3	1	0	5
Western Palm Warbler	2	1	0	0	3
Western Tanager	1	0	0	0	1
Western Wood Peewee	1	0	0	0	1
White Crowned Sparrow	5	0	0	0	5
White Throated Sparrow	19	0	0	1	20
Yellow Bellied Sapsucker	4	1	2	0	7
Yellow Warbler	12	9	13	4	38
Total	**424**	**61**	**36**	**15**	**536**

Some interesting species captured at the BBO during spring banding included: Swamp Sparrow, Evening Grosbeak, Palm Warbler, Rose Breasted Grosbeak, Western Wood Peewee, Gray Catbird, Ruby Throated Hummingbird, Mourning Warbler, and a beautiful pair of Baltimore Orioles. Also, the 2004 spring banding season seemed to be the 'year of the sapsucker' with 4 new Yellow Bellied Sapsuckers captured and banded, 1 recaptured individual and 2 recovered individuals. Although the staff were grateful for a close up look at the sapsuckers, these birds with their long nails and squawking voices are difficult to get out of the mist nets!

The trend in avian diversity at the BBO during spring migration is shown in Figure 1. The first week resulted in 11 species being captured while the highest amount of diversity (24 species) occurred during May 11-21. Unlike the gradual drop in the number of birds captured, diversity remained quite constant after the peak in the second week. May 22-31 and June 1-10 produced 20 and 21 species respectively.

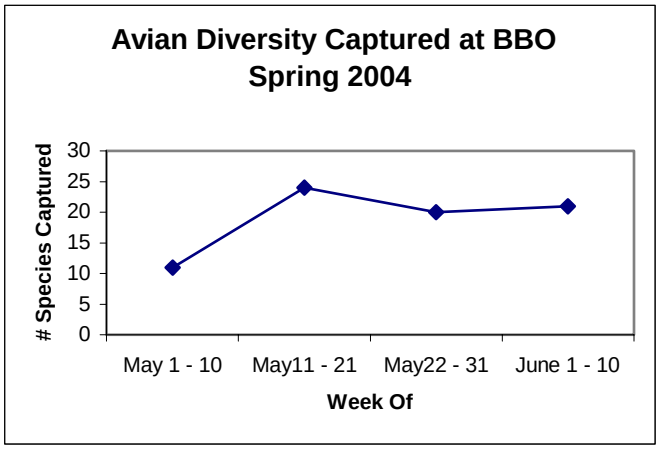


Figure 1:Avian diversity captured during Spring 2004 Migration Monitoring program at the BBO.

Although weekly capture rates were quite low in the first week, rates increased dramatically. The first week of migration saw a capture rate of 15 birds/100 net hours, the lowest capture rate; however, the following 10 days proved quite the opposite. Capture rate peaked during the second week of banding (May 11-21) at 40 birds/100 net hours, and then rates gradually tapered off. The week following had a capture rate of 31 birds/100 net hours, and migration finished with a capture rate of 26 birds/100 net hours in the week of June 1-10 (Figure 2). Despite this being the staff's first spring migration, it was thought to be a slow banding season, especially when hearing stories of past spring banding days.

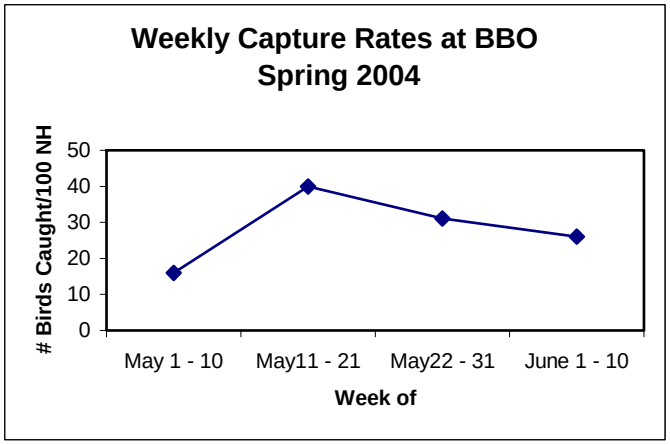


Figure 2: Weekly capture rates during Spring 2004 Migration Monitoring program at the BBO.

The species that was captured most often during spring banding was the Myrtle Warbler (162 individuals). Following in a distant second was the Chipping Sparrow with 59 birds captured, which is considerably higher than last year's 18 individuals. The Clay-Colored Sparrow and Least Flycatcher tied for third with 51 birds each. Finally, the Swainson's Thrush was ranked fifth with 40 birds. These 5 species made up 66% of the birds captured during spring migration (Table 2).

Table 2: Top 5 Species Captured at the BBO in Spring 2004

Rank	Species	Number	% Of Top 5	% Of Total Captured
1	Myrtle Warbler	162	45	30
2	Chipping Sparrow	59	16	11
3	Clay-Colored Sparrow	51	14	9
4	Least Flycatcher	51	14	9
5	Swainson's Thrush	40	11	7
	Total	**363**	**100**	**66**

The top 5 species banded varied slightly from the top 5 species captured. Once again the Myrtle Warbler was ranked first with 152 individuals being banded, which made up 36% of the total birds banded. Chipping Sparrow came in second with 53 birds banded, while 40 Clay-Colored Sparrows were banded ranking them third. Ranked in fourth place was the Swainson's Thrush with 36 birds, followed by the Least Flycatcher with 32 birds banded. These species represent 73% of the birds banded at the BBO during spring migration (Table 3).

Table 3: Top 5 Species Banded at the BBO in Spring 2004

Rank	Species	Number	% Of Top 5	% Of Total Banded
1	Myrtle Warbler	152	48	36
2	Chipping Sparrow	53	17	13
3	Clay-Colored Sparrow	40	13	9
4	Swainson's Thrush	36	12	8
5	Least Flycatcher	32	10	7
	Total	**313**	**100**	**73**

Many other bird monitoring activities took place during the spring banding program including tree swallow banding. A special thank-you goes out to Matt Hanneman for cleaning and repairing the swallow grid nest boxes at the beginning of spring. Banding activities started in the grid on May 11th. Although swallow banding did not take place daily, the staff took any opportunity to spend an afternoon in the grid. Often these opportunities depended on the weather, the amount of spare time or the presence of an experienced bander. As of June 7th 12 new swallows had been banded, 12 swallows were recaptured while 3 swallows were found dead, one of which was banded. Female swallows made up the majority of the birds banded with 23 individuals. The most successful and most often used capture method was run and cover; however, 2 male swallow recaptures were found in mist net 9 on May 15th and 23rd. By June 1st 22 nest boxes were found to be on eggs and by June 7th 34 of the 50 nest boxes were on eggs. Also, one stick nest was discovered in box 17 leading the staff to believe that a house wren had taken up shop. Only time will tell.

This year's staff was also fortunate enough to take part in a few raptor banding events. On May 3rd, the staff joined Chuck and Lisa Priestley, Bryn Spence, and Juanita Mumby along Rowan's Route to band two young Great Horned Owls. It was an unbelievable feeling to have such a strong and powerful bird in hand; the awe of the moment was captured accurately on film. May 10th marked another memorable day for the staff with the banding of a single young Common Raven. The staff was also fortunate enough to join Gord Court and Ray Cromie on May 19th, as they travelled up to Cross Lake Provincial Park in search of Barred Owls. Don't fret; the search was not in vain as the group observed three adult Barred Owls in and around the area, as well as a handful of American Kestrels. Although attempts were made to trap a Kestrel, luck was not on their side that day. Banding of three young Northern Saw-Whet owls took place on May 22nd. These young ones were nesting in one of the many nest boxes set up in the Beaverhill Natural Area and have fledged successfully.

An unforgettable occasion also took place on May 25th when Tofield's 7th Grade classes visited the BBO. This visit gave the summer staff an opportunity to dust off their interpretive skills and wow the crowd with their wit and charm. Fortunately Jill and Crystal were not the only entertainment. Three stations were set up including waterfowl, invertebrates and bird banding, and the students moved through each station. Although the day was rather slow, only 11 birds banded, there were some definite highlights especially the Rose Breasted Grosbeak that was caught on net 43. It was wonderful to interact with the students and to see their keen minds soaking in all the information.

May 29th marked the beginning of the Baillie Birdathon for the BBO summer staff. A total of 67 species were counted over a 24 hour period, which was quite a remarkable feat considering the weather at the time: rain, wind and cold temperatures. A perfect day for birding ?!?!

Numerous other species call the Beaverhill Natural Area home, and they bring just as much joy to the staff as the birds do. The following species were seen or heard during spring migration: mule deer, white-tailed deer, snowshoe hare, northern flying squirrel, red squirrel (Theodore),

porcupine, voles, mice, and coyotes. And of course the butterflies: mourning cloak, milbert's tortoiseshell, Canadian tiger swallowtail and many sulphurs and whites. One can only hope these species have continued success in the natural area throughout the years.

Spring banding would not run smoothly without the countless hours put in by volunteers. A big thanks goes to all who came out and volunteered their time to train the summer staff; it was much appreciated. Without the patience, encouragement and wisdom of these people, spring banding would have been much more overwhelming and stressful for the new summer staff. The following is a list of the volunteer banders and the number of days they spent training out at the BBO.

Christine Boulton	4 days
Jason Duxbury	1 day
Tyler Flockhart	1 day
Matt Hanneman	2 days
Chuck Priestley	6 days
Lisa Priestley	17 days
Bryn Spence	2 days
Sarah Trefry	2 days

With spring migration over, Crystal and Jill look forward to the summer M.A.P.S program and all that it will bring. Spring banding was once again successful and the staff gives a whole-hearted thank-you to all those involved with the BBO. Whether it's on the front lines or behind the scenes, the accomplishments of this organization can only be attributed to your dedication and inspiration. Thank you.

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Summer Report
2004

Crystal Rausch

MAPS 2004 PROGRAM

On June 11th the M.A.P.S. program began running and continued through to July 30th. Five rotations were completed at each of the M.A.P.S. stations (PARK, BLAB, and WEIR). Banding activities were carried out at the start of each MAPS round followed by the completion of point counts for each of the respective stations. During Banding days, nets were opened at sunrise and remained open for six hours thereafter. Each station had 10 nets that were checked every half hour for avian activity. In total, the BLAB and PARK stations completed 300 banding hours, while the WEIR station fell short, completing 290 of the 300 banding hours. On June 16th 2004, nets were closed early due to rain and winds. Regretfully, the allotted time permitted per banding round had passed prior to making up for this lost hour for each net. By the end of the M.A.P.S project the total net hours across the three stations was 890 hours. This fulfills 89% of the possible net hours.

Again, the BLAB station proved to be the most productive (as it was in 2003), with 80 birds in total this year (Table 1) over the five M.A.P.S. rounds resulting in a capture rate of 26.7 birds per 100 net hours. WEIR station remained in second place with 62 captures over the five rotations with a capture rate of 21.4 birds per 100 net hours. PARK held onto its third position with the fewest birds caught, 46 in total over the five rounds with a capture rate of 15.3 birds per 100 net hours (Table 1). At all three M.A.P.S. stations Least Flycatchers proved to be the most abundant species (Appendix A). These birds make up 66% of the BLAB total captures, 71% of the total WEIR captures and, 61% of the total PARK captures.

BLAB and WEIR stations both caught a diversity of ten different species throughout the M.A.P.S. program, only 7 of which where new banded species at the BLAB station while all 10 different species at the WEIR were banded. PARK had 8 different species, 6 of which were species banded (See Appendix A for capture totals).

Table 1: Number of birds Caught per net at each MAPS station.

WEIR MAPS Station		**PARK MAPS Station**		**BLAB MAPS Station**	
Net #	Total birds caught	Net #	Total birds caught	Net #	Total birds caught
M 1	4	M 1	2	M 1	4
M 2	3	M 2	8	M 2	2
M 3	9	M 3	7	M 3	8
M 4	4	M 4	2	M 4	8
M 5	7	M 5	4	M 5	4
M 6	6	M 6	3	M 6	7
M 7	7	M 7	3	M 7	13
M 8	9	M 8	9	M 8	19
M 9	8	M 9	5	M 9	7
M 10	5	M 10	3	M 10	8
Total	**62**	**total**	**46**	**total**	**80**

In comparing capture rates and totals for 2004 to those of 2003, it appears that M.A.P.S. 2004 proved to be slightly less productive overall than the 2003 MAPS Program. In total M.A.P.S 2004 caught 36 birds fewer than was caught in 2003. Both WEIR and PARK M.A.P.S stations caught 11 birds fewer this year than the previous, while BLAB caught 14 less birds in 2004 than in 2003. (Refer to MAPS 2003 report).

In addition to banding activities, staff also conducted point counts at each station during each of the five M.A.P.S. rounds. Each station (PARK, WEIR, BLAB) had 9 point counts to complete, each of which lasted ten minutes long. Point counts were conducted between sunrise and four hours thereafter. All birds both seen and heard within this time at each location were recorded. Table 2 provides a listing of all species seen and heard during point counts across all stations during MAPS 2004.

Point counts at the BBO this year were a grueling activity for the staff as the abundant moisture that this summer has received brought the mosquitoes out in full force. At times standing still for ten minutes seemed as though it were some form of cruel torture. Nevertheless the job was completed. Due to the short window of time however that was had to complete each round, all "good" days, were used for banding, and on rainy or "poor" weathered days in which banding was not ideal, point counts were done. As a result, this may in fact have affected the randomness and perhaps even biased point counts to a degree, as on days when the weather was poor, not as much was seen or heard.

For the most part, it seemed as though June and July hit a point in which the "usuals" or resident birds were the only ones detected on point counts. At the beginning of June, a few mystery birds were detected at the WEIR, one of which is believed to be a Northern Water thrush, however, due to the uncertainty of the staff, unfortunately these birds have remained as unidentified question marks on the point count data pages. One of the highlights of M.A.P.S 2004 was catching a Cooper's Hawk at Park in one of the nets. It was already banded, but what a beauty to have in hand.

Table 2. Species heard or seen during point counts across all stations during MAPS 2004

Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Mallard	Red-eyed Vireo
Sora	Duck sp.	Warbling Vireo
Canada Goose	Common Raven	Tree Swallow
Goose sp	American Crow	American Goldfinch
Common Tern	Black-billed Magpie	Least Flycatcher
Gull sp.	Mourning Dove	Alder Flycatcher
American Avocet	American Robin	Clay-colored Sparrow
Common Snipe	Ruffed Grouse	Savannah Sparrow
Marbled Godwit	Brown-headed Cowbird	Song Sparrow
Willet	Yellow-headed Blackbird	House Wren
Northern Shoveller	Red-winged Blackbird	Yellow Warbler
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Blackbird sp.	Common Yellowthroat
Downy Woodpecker	Baltimore Oriole	Black-capped Chickadee
Hairy Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush	Short-eared Owl
Northern Harrier	Northern Goshawk	Red-tailed Hawk

Tree Swallows

Tree Swallow banding was also conducted by the BBO staff this summer. Male captures proved to be much more difficult, and as the 2004 BBO staff were not yet licensed banders during the nest-building time, unfortunately most males were not captured this year. By June 1st however, the Banding Licenses had arrived and the BBO 2004 summer staff set out immediately capturing the females. Time spent out on the Swallow grid was a favorite among this years summer staff, as much amusement was had stalking up to swallow boxes, running up from behind, and banding the altruistic females that remained all-too easily on their nests, while dodging under the dive-bombs of protective swallow mobs. Only a few Swallow boxes remained unused this year, while two others were occupied but by Wren nets rather than Swallow nests. Neither of these Wren nets were successful however.

All in all, the swallow grid was quite productive as was the banding of the fledglings. In total, 194 young swallow were banded this year, with 35 succesfull nests, and the average nest size being approximately 5.7. Fledging was a remarkable experience to be a part of, and one of the exciting finds of this year was finding our young friend "2181-86146" from nest box #3, 2 days later, cuddled in with his friends "down the block (grid)" in nest box # 11. We can only speculate what he might have been doing there (perhaps a sleep-over or a little tiff with the fam.). All in all, with the exception of "2 fugitives that escaped before we could cuff them" (in the words of Tessa Vesak), the nestling banding was fairly successful. This being said, there were a few sad discoveries: box "cottage", contained one dead TRES, found on 07/21/04; box # 41, contained one dead TRES found on 08/05/04; box # 47 contained one dead TRES found on 08/05/04; and the saddest scenario encountered was box #6, which contained 4 dead birds out of 5—truly tragic! It is unknown the causes of these deaths.

Lisa Priestly carried out the Mountain Bluebird banding of 2004 while helping Mr. Larry Pederson to attain his banding license requirements for Bluebirds (Table 3).

Table 3. Adult Tree Swallow capture totals during 2004 BBO field season.

Species	Banded	Repeats	Recoveries	Dead Recov.	Dead Repeats	Total
Tree Swallow	13	12	1	3		**29**
Mountain Bluebird						

Table 4. 2004 Tree Swallow nestling results in comparison to 2003.

TRES Nestling data	2004	2003
Young banded	194	137
Successful nests	35	29
Avg. young/nest	5.7	4.72
Highest fledgling success	7	9
Lowest fledgling success	1	3

Nest Searches

Nest searches proved to be somewhat of a talent or acquired skill. In total 12 nests were found this year, three of which contained parasitic Cowbird eggs or young (Table 5). In the end, all nests were left unbanded as they were either predated, abandoned, or the young fledged prior to being banded. As the 2004 BBO staff were both new at this, the low nest recovery and banding success can be largely equated to this fact. One nice surprise was the discovery of a Short-eared Owl nest on a Water Levels survey grid.

Table 5. Nests found in and around the Beaverhill Natural Area in 2004.

Species	Nests found	Species	Nests found
Least Flycatcher	2	Short-eared Owl	1
Yellow Warbler	3	Long-eared Owl	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	3	Red-tailed Hawk	1
Clay-Coloured Sparrow	3	Common Raven	1

Visitors and Other Staff

In June John and Vi. Lambie from Mackenzie B.C, and Renee and Aubrey Suydam, from Harrisonburg, Virginia accompanied by our good friend farmer Milo Stauffer of Toefield came out to the BBO for a visit. Also, On June 20th the Janos Kovaks and came and whipped up his famous crepes. In attendance at this divine banquet were Suzanne Benoit, Chuck and Lisa Priestley, Jeffrey S. (Jill's fellow), and of course Jill Thompson and Crystal Rausch. It was a great time had by all, and most importantly great crepes had by all.

July brought Josh Bingl, Serril Dustad, and Ron Javich out for a visit, as well as Pat Goodwill. Also Anne DeGroff from Tofield brought her friends that were visiting from out east Jim and Lynn Lea for a tour of the BBO. On July 18th enthusiastic Ann Hoff from California toured the BBO for a few days. She had the exciting opportunity to witness the three fledgling Swainson's Hawk being banded, owl-calling and songbird mist netting. Lisa and Chuck Priestley provided an exceptional experience for this keen visitor.

On July 1st 2004, Tessa Vesak from Peace River came to work with us as the 2004 summer high school student. This was a learning experience for both Tessa and the full-time summer staff Crystal Rausch and Jill Thompson, and the third pair of hands proved to be a great benefit to the team.

Appendix A: BBO capture totals during summer MAPS program, 2004

	Banded			Repeats			Recoveries			Other			Total			
Species:	B-Lab	Weir	Park	B-Lab	Weir	Park	B-Lab	Weir	Park	B-Lab	Weir	Park	B-Lab	Weir	Park	**MAPS totals**
Least Flycatcher	19	26	12	19	8	4	14	6	11	1	4	1	53	44	28	125
Unid. Trail's Flycatcher		1												1		1
House Wren				1						1			2			2
American Robin		1					1						1	1		2
Yellow Warbler	4	1	4	1			6	2		1			12	3	4	19
Ovenbird																0
Song Sparrow	1			1									2			2
Clay-colored Sparrow	2	3	5	1			1				1		4	4	5	13
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	1	2						1		1		1	2	3	6
Hermit Thrush			1	1		2							1		3	4
Swainson's Thrush	1		1										1		1	2
Black-capped Chickadee		1												1		1
Red-eyed Vireo	2									1			3			3
Warbling Vireo		3												3		3
American Goldfinch		1												1		1
Downy Woodpecker		2												2		2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker									1						1	1
Cooper's Hawk									1						1	1
totals:	**30**	**40**	**25**	**24**	**8**	**6**	**22**	**8**	**14**	**4**	**6**	**1**	**80**	**62**	**46**	
		95			**38**			**44**			**11**			**188**		**188**

Beaverhill Bird Observatory
Fall Report 2004

by

Lisa Priestley
and Matt Hanneman

November 2004

Songbird Migration Monitoring

The songbird fall migration can be summed up in one word, slow. Only 975 birds were captured during fall 2004 between August 1 and October 10 (3228.5 net hours). The fall was plagued by a number of days of poor weather. Nets could not be set for 16 days, 13 of these days due to weather. The final three days of migration monitoring (October 8-10) there was no one on site due to an event in Edmonton (Homecoming Centennial), however bird banding was conducted at the John Janzen Nature Center to show the public how we work with birds. New songbird species banded was a White-breasted Nuthatch that made an appearance in September and stayed until mid-November.

The capture rate and total number of birds captured continued to decline from 1999 to the present (Table 1, Figure 1).

Table 1. 2004 fall songbird banding results compared to previous five years.

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Birds Captured	2745	1740	2095	1734	1315	975
Birds Banded	2172	1433	1758	1464	1093	818
Net Hours	2533.5	2843.25	3678.5	4173.75	3818.25	3228.5
Capture rate (birds/100NH)	108.3	61.2	56.9	41.2	34.4	30.2
Species Captured	58	55	56	62	57	60

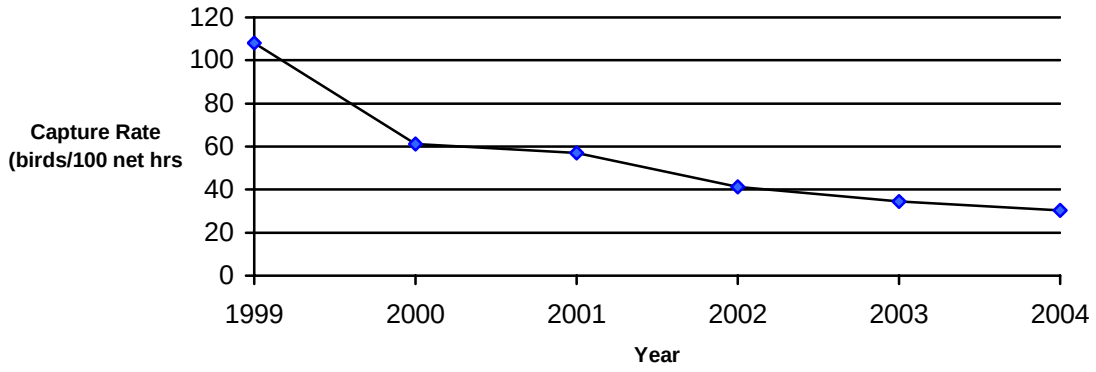


Figure 1. A comparison of capture rates (birds/100 net hours) between 1999 and 2004.

The top five species (representing 41.2% of the birds) were Black-capped Chickadee, Least Flycatcher, American Redstart, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Yellow Warbler. There were 60 species captured, which was comparable to previous years (Table 2).

Table 2. Birds caught at Beaverhill Bird Observatory fall 2004.

Species	Banded	Recaptured	Foreign Recovery	Other	TOTAL
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	0	0	0	2
Cooper's Hawk	1	0	0	0	1
Hairy Woodpecker	1	0	0	0	1
Downy Woodpecker	4	0	0	0	4
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4	2	0	0	6
Yellow-shafted Flicker	1	0	0	0	1
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	3	0	0	0	3
Western Flycatcher	1	1	0	0	2
Alder Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	1
Traill's Flycatcher	16	0	0	1	17
Least Flycatcher	84	9	3	5	101
House Wren	12	1	0	1	14
Winter Wren	3	0	0	0	3
Brown Creeper	2	0	0	0	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	1	0	0	2
Red-breasted Nuthatch	11	0	0	0	11
Black-capped Chickadee	47	53	1	3	104
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	0	0	0	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	47	2	0	0	49
Swainson's Thrush	31	2	0	1	34
Hermit Thrush	10	5	0	0	15
American Robin	2	0	0	0	2
Red-eyed Vireo	5	1	0	0	6
Philadelphia Vireo	1	0	0	0	1
Warbling Vireo	15	7	0	1	23
Blue-headed Vireo	2	0	0	0	2
Black-and-White Warbler	10	0	0	0	10
Nashville Warbler	2	0	0	0	2
Orange-crowned Warbler	35	0	0	1	36
Tennessee Warbler	37	0	0	1	38
Cape May Warbler	3	0	0	0	3
Yellow Warbler	38	10	0	1	49
Myrtle Warbler	25	6	0	0	31
Magnolia Warbler	30	2	0	0	32
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	0	0	0	1
Bay-breasted Warbler	2	0	0	0	2
Blackpoll Warbler	10	0	0	1	11
Western Palm Warbler	3	0	0	0	3
Ovenbird	32	1	0	0	33
Northern Waterthrush	11	4	0	5	20
Connecticut Warbler	1	0	0	0	1
Mourning Warbler	7	0	0	0	7
MacGillivray's Warbler	3	0	0	0	3
Common Yellowthroat	3	0	0	0	3
Wilson's Warbler	28	2	0	0	30
Canada Warbler	9	1	0	0	10
American Redstart	87	4	0	8	99
Savannah Sparrow	1	0	0	0	1
White-crowned Sparrow	8	0	0	0	8
White-throated Sparrow	14	0	0	0	14
American Tree Sparrow	33	1	0	0	34
Chipping Sparrow	1	0	0	0	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	11	1	0	1	13
Slate-colored Junco	36	3	0	2	41
Song Sparrow	3	2	0	0	5
Lincoln's Sparrow	16	0	0	0	16
Swamp Sparrow	2	0	0	0	2
Fox Sparrow	6	0	0	0	6
Baltimore Oriole	1	0	0	0	1
American Goldfinch	1	0	0	0	1
Total	**818**	**121**	**4**	**32**	**975**

Raptor Trapping

Raptor traps (drop-lid and Swedish Goshawk) were set between August 15 and October 6, 2004. Between two and six traps were used throughout the time period for a total of 3833 trap hours. There were 39 birds captured representing six species (Table 3). The Short-eared Owl was a new species banded at the BBO (photo left by Lisa Priestley), one was captured in a Swedish Goshawk trap and a fledgling was found near its nest along the old lakeshore edge in the summer. A Great Gray Owl also made a visit to the bird observatory and was captured using a Verbail trap.

Table 3. Birds trapped in Drop-lid and Swedish Goshawk traps in fall 2004.

Species	**Banded**	**Recaptured**	**Recovered**	**Escape**	**TOTAL**
Red-tailed Hawk	11	0	0	0	11
Cooper's Hawk	2	0	0	0	2
Great Horned Owl	3	0	1	0	4
Short-eared Owl	1	0	0	0	1
Long-eared Owl	2	0	0	0	2
Black-billed Magpie	14	3	0	2	19
TOTAL	32	3	1	2	39

Saw-whet Monitoring

Fall Northern Saw-whet Owl Migration Monitoring was incredible in 2004. Nets were set on 75 days between August 15 and November 15, a total of 1172 net hours. An amazing 309 Saw-whet Owls (0.264 owls/net hour) were captured and 3 Boreal Owls. BBO also helped Hardy Pletz begin Saw-whet Owl monitoring at his acreage south of Millet. Hardy caught over 80 Saw-whet and 2 Boreal Owls. The annual Steaks and Saw-whets event was again a huge success with over 100 people attending the event over the two nights in September.

Photo of a group at the Steaks and Saw-whets event. Photo by Jason Duxbury.

Photo of Hardy Pletz with a Saw-whet Owl captured at his acreage.