

## Beaverhill Bird Observatory

### Weekly Update August 8-15, 2021

As the fifth annual Young Ornithologists workshop draws to a close, so too does the 2021 MAPS season. Now we can switch our efforts full-bore to migration monitoring. The first order of business was a little experiment: it was no secret that our capture rate this spring was lackluster, and captures in the fall were similarly sluggish. So the day after we bid adieu to the YOs, we set off scouting for experimental net lanes further out on the lakebed, eventually identifying three promising spots and setting up nets there. When we were able to open them, we were pleasantly surprised: their productivity outpaced our migration nets by a full order of magnitude, yielding decent densities of boreal migrants, including such exciting visitors as a Canada Warbler and a Bay-Breasted Warbler! As birds tend to migrate along the edges of forests, it's become obvious that habitat succession around our current net lanes has rendered them obsolete. However, they're still good for something: a particular underperformer managed to catch a Yellow-Bellied Flycatcher, which is one of the more uncommon local birds.

We also encountered another surprise visitor near the lab: a young American Coot, searching for open water, had bumped into our lab clearing. After gushing over it for the appropriate amount of time, we relocated it to the weir, where it happily splashed into the waters of Lister Lake.

However, wasps have proven to be an uninvited guest. A very numerous series of guests, in fact. Several underground nests were discovered right beside our trails, presenting a danger to staff and visitors. And here's where a previous uninvited guest came to the rescue: the skunks that were previously living under our staff bunkhouse! Did you know skunks will dig up underground wasp nests to eat the larvae? We did, but we didn't know how effective they were: that one family has, at the time of writing, destroyed at least six ground nests in the immediate vicinity of the lab that we know of. It turns out we love skunks now.

It will be quite interesting to see how our new nets perform as the season continues. If they continue to perform as before, we might be in for a busy fall indeed.



*A young, lost American Coot.  
It looks like a muppet.*



*An adult male Tennessee Warbler. This boreal migrant is an oddity among warblers in that it becomes greyer and drabber in its breeding plumage.*

### Standardized Migration Monitoring

Species	Banded	Repeat <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total
Traill's Flycatcher	3					3
Alder Flycatcher	1					1
Least Flycatcher	5					5
Yellow-Bellied Flycatcher	1					1
Black-Capped Chickadee	5	4				9
Myrtle Warbler	3					3
Ovenbird	1					1
Bay-Breasted Warbler		1				1
Yellow Warbler	1					1
Tennessee Warbler	13					13
Common Yellowthroat	1					1
Warbling Vireo	1					1
Red-Eyed Vireo	2					2
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>42</b>

397 net-hours

10.6 captures/100 net-hours

### Non-standard banding (experimental new nets)

Species	Banded	Repeat <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total
Traill's Flycatcher	3					3
Least Flycatcher	12					12
Black-Capped Chickadee	4	6				10
House Wren	2					2
Warbling Vireo	3					3
Red-Eyed Vireo	1					1
Tennessee Warbler	11					11
Yellow Warbler	40				1	41
Myrtle Warbler	5					5
Northern Waterthrush	1					1
Canada Warbler	1					1
Bay-Breasted Warbler	1					1
Black-and-White Warbler	1					1
Clay-Coloured Sparrow	5					5
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>97</b>

38.5 net hours

251.9 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).