

## Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update: September 5 to 11, 2005



The migration continues at Beaverhill Lake, but it was a fairly quiet week for banding on site. This was in part due to the fewer days of nets being set because I was either away of the weather was poor (3 mornings). We had a big event on Monday Sept. 5, when we set up a display in Edmonton at the John Janzen Nature Centre for the Alberta Centennial celebration. Over 2000 people made their way through the Nature Centre and the displays that were set up. We did have nets set behind the centre to show the public how we band birds, and we captured 17 birds. It was nice to catch some banded chickadees from the previous year's events we attended.

But, back at BBO there were only 66 birds captured. The Least Flycatchers and Yellow Warblers have really dropped in numbers, they are some of the first to leave Alberta. Myrtles continue to be the tops, with more Orange-crowned Warblers making an appearance this week. We have also seen the Sandhill Cranes back, calling as they migrate through the area in large numbers.

Table 1. Results from fall migration netting at BBO September 5 to 11, 2005.

Species	Banded	Recapture	Other	TOTAL
Downy Woodpecker	0	2	0	2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	0	1	0	1
Least Flycatcher	3	0	0	3
Black-capped Chickadee	2	5	0	7
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	0	0	3
Tennessee Warbler	1	0	0	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	9	0	0	9
Yellow Warbler	1	0	0	1
Myrtle Warbler	25	1	0	26
Wilson's Warbler	4	0	0	4
Magnolia Warbler	2	0	0	2
Blackpoll Warbler	2	0	0	2
Ovenbird	1	0	0	1
Song Sparrow	2	0	0	2
White-throated Sparrow	0	1	0	1
Slate-colored Junco	1	0	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>66</b>



We made a trip up to Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory (Sept. 10-11), and helped Rich with saw-whet netting. We were pleased to catch three saw-whets at night (photo left, Rich extracts saw-whet from net), he's only caught one per night for the past week. Then in the morning we helped with songbird netting and caught over 40 birds, including a Brown Creeper (see photo right) and a Red-breasted Nuthatch. At least we know that there are still many Warblers north of us, so there should still be more to catch at BBO over the next while.



At BBO, the first saw-whet of the fall was captured on Sept. 11, so they have begun!! Bets are in as to how many will be captured this fall. We had 147 in 2002, 151 in 2003, and 309 in 2004. How many do you think we will catch?? We will have a thermometer posted at the lab indicating the captures.

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