

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update: September 12-18, 2005



You think raking leaves is bad in the fall, try taking them out of mist nets!! Yes, very frustrating to have the nets filled with leaves, you also can't see the birds, as they look like leaves. It was a great week for songbird monitoring, with 137 captures represented by 24 species. There are still large numbers of Myrtles and Orange-crowns going through, the Tennessee Warblers and Least Flycatchers are almost gone. Nice to see some adult male Redstarts, so pretty with their black and orange feathers (photo on left). Juncos and Ruby-crowned Kinglets are in the nets almost daily now, and we were lucky to catch a Sharp-shinned Hawk on Saturday when volunteers Cory and Ian were out. My favourite of the week was a nice adult male Red-breasted Nuthatch. Most interesting

capture was a Hairy Woodpecker recapture, that was originally banded in 2003. I need to thank Alicia Kelly, Martina Frey, Ian Tichkowsky, and Cory Olsen for coming out to volunteer this week for songbirds.

Table 1. Results from fall migration netting at BBO September 12-18, 2005.

Species	Banded	Recapture	Other	TOTAL
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	0	0	1
Hairy Woodpecker	0	1	0	1
Least Flycatcher	2	0	0	2
Black-capped Chickadee	5	12	0	17
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	0	0	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	11	0	0	11
Swainson's Thrush	3	0	0	3
Hermit Thrush	4	0	0	4
Warbling Vireo	1	0	0	1
Tennessee Warbler	3	1	0	4
Orange-crowned Warbler	26	1	0	27
Cape May Warbler	1	0	0	1
Myrtle Warbler	37	0	1	38
Wilson's Warbler	2	0	0	2
Magnolia Warbler	1	0	0	1
Western Palm Warbler	1	0	0	1
Blackpoll Warbler	3	0	0	3
American Redstart	3	0	0	3
Savannah Sparrow	2	0	0	2
Song Sparrow	1	0	0	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	1	0	0	1
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	0	0	1
Slate-colored Junco	8	2	0	10
American Goldfinch	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	119	17	0	137



The Raptor traps were successful again this week. On Sunday September 18, I walked up to the Swedish goshawk trap to find a Great Horned Owl sitting there!! What an amazing owl, with such HUGE talons. I think out of all the hawks and owls that we capture at BBO this species is the most scary to work with. But that didn't prevent volunteer Martina from holding it and releasing it.

Saw-whets had poor coverage again due to rainy windy conditions. We did capture a second owl on the 13th. That brings our total to 2, they should be picking up more this week. We also had a group from the City of Edmonton come out for saw-whets, unfortunately none captured, but a captive Burrowing Owl made an appearance. Steaks and Saw-whets is almost full it should be a great weekend to celebrate owl migration!!

