

## Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update August 1-7, 2006

Fall migration monitoring has begun! The number of different species caught in the mist-nets is increasing as migrating songbirds travel through our area. Several early fall migrants have been banded, including Myrtle (Yellow-rump) and Tennessee Warblers. And although mist-nets were only set on four days this week, we were fortunate to catch two Philadelphia Vireos—an unusual species at the BBO.



Myrtle (Yellow-rump) Warbler

This has been a good week for raptors: we were able to band three young Swainson's Hawks when Chuck Priestley noticed the almost-ready-to-fledge nestlings perched on the top of their nest in a tree near Francis Point. You can imagine that we felt a little silly, having not noticed the nest before, considering how often we drive on this road! It was a thrilling experience to climb the tree to band these hawks.



Lisa Priestley with a Long-eared Owllet

The absolute highlight of this week is the successful Long-eared Owl nest in the Natural Area. A pair of Long-eared Owls has been nesting in an old Black-billed Magpie nest near some of our songbird mist-nets. This past week we watched the young owls gradually leave the nest, beginning by sitting on top of the nest, and slowly working their way (clambering with their feet and wings) to different shrubs and trees in the surrounding area. The owlets aren't able to fly yet, but are learning to balance, and exercising their wings. The nest was getting a bit small for all three of them, and it's less likely all three birds will be predated if they are more spread out. The parents will continue to feed these young owls until they learn to fly and to hunt for themselves. We were lucky to band all three owlets, but it's equally exciting just to know that Long-eared Owls have successfully nested in the Natural Area this year.

*-Alicia and Katie*



3 banded Swainson's Hawks, back in their nest.



A very well-camouflaged owllet...



...up close and personal.

Table 1: Results from Fall Migration Monitoring August 1-7, 2006.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Banded</b>	<b>Recapture</b>	<b>Foreign</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
Baltimore Oriole	1	0	0	0	1
Black-capped Chickadee	6	13	0	0	19
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	0	0	0	1
Clay-coloured Sparrow	1	0	0	0	1
Cedar Waxwing	1	0	0	0	1
Hermit Thrush	1	0	0	0	1
Least Flycatcher	8	0	0	0	8
Myrtle Warbler	3	0	0	0	3
Ovenbird	1	0	0	0	1
Philadelphia Vireo	2	0	0	0	2
Red-eyed Vireo	2	0	0	0	2
Song Sparrow	3	0	0	0	3
Tennessee Warbler	4	0	0	0	4
Trail's Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	1
Warbling Vireo	3	0	0	0	3
Yellow Warbler	13	0	0	0	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>64</b>