

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update September 1-15 2006.



September brought with it a flurry of migrating birds! Sandhill Cranes, Greater White-fronted Geese, Snow Geese and Canada Geese are flying over the observatory in huge flocks and can even be heard through the night. As for songbirds, the number of Myrtle Warblers moving through continues to amaze me, they are the highest catch everyday in the mist nets. A number of other species have made appearances, and though I don't like to pick favourites, its always nice to see something besides that bright yellow rump of the Myrtles! Some of

Brown Creeper

the new species captured

in September include: White-breasted Nuthatch, Pine Siskin, Blue

Jay, Western Palm Warbler, and probably my personal favourite for the last two weeks — the Brown Creeper!

The sparrows have shown up in greater diversity lately, and I was thrilled to catch a Swamp Sparrow on September 8th. These are a relatively uncommon capture as the nets are not set in areas where these little guys like to live, mainly marshy habitats. However, once in a while we catch them on migration, and I feel lucky to have seen one up close and personal.

The other new sparrows include a single Fox Sparrow, and the sleek looking White-crowned Sparrows.

Swamp Sparrow

Don't let anyone convince you that sparrows should be lumped into 'little brown birds'. Each has its own unique characteristics that make it a treat to see!

Another highlight of this stretch of banding was the capture of the first Sharp-shinned Hawk of the year! To my great dismay, it happened on my day off when Lisa Priestley was covering banding hours.

Thanks for being there to catch him Lisa!

As for other raptors, the Northern Saw-whet Owl monitoring has begun, but we are still waiting for that first capture of the year.



Hope you are all enjoying Fall,

Katie

Table 1. Results from Fall Migration Monitoring September 1 – 15, 2006.

Species	Banded	Returned	Other	Total
American Redstart	4	0	0	4
Black-capped Chickadee	18	2	0	20

Blue Jay	1	0	0	1
Blackpoll Warbler	8	0	0	8
Brown Creeper	1	0	0	1
Clay-coloured Sparrow	2	0	0	2
Downy Woodpecker	2	0	0	2
Fox Sparrow	1	0	0	1
Hairy Woodpecker	1	0	0	1
Hermit Thrush	1	0	0	1
House Wren	2	0	0	2
Least Flycatcher	3	0	0	3
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	0	0	1
Magnolia Warbler	9	0	0	9
Myrtle Warbler	241	2	0	243
Northern Waterthrush	1	0	0	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	25	0	0	25
Ovenbird	5	0	0	5
Philadelphia Vireo	1	0	0	1
Pine Siskin	4	0	0	4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	7	0	0	7
Red-eyed Vireo	3	0	0	3
Savannah Sparrow	1	0	0	1
Slate-coloured Junco	32	0	0	32
Swamp Sparrow	1	0	0	1
Swainson's Thrush	11	0	0	11
Tennessee Warbler	3	0	0	3
Traill's Flycatcher	2	0	0	2
Warbling Vireo	2	0	0	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	0	0	1
White-crowned Sparrow	11	0	0	11
Wilson's Warbler	12	0	0	12
Western Palm Warbler	3	0	0	3
White-throated Sparrow	12	0	0	12
Yellow Warbler	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	433	4	0	437
