

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update August 25 to 31, 2008

Another fairly slow week at the BBO with only 49 birds all week! However, even though we seem to be getting fewer numbers of birds, our diversity hasn't suffered much with the same number of species as in previous weeks, and we even had a few new species for the year including a Cape May Warbler, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and a Blue Jay.

The 25th yielded a decent 18, the highlight of which was a beautiful fully grown male Cape May Warbler, a rare visitor during migration. There were also some Least Flycatchers, Yellow Warblers, and Black-capped Chickadees accompanied by a Song Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Tennessee Warbler and an American Redstart.

On the 26th and 27th I worked alone because Jonathan wasn't feeling well, so I again busied myself with the new swallow grid and routine maintenance jobs.

The 28th brought one of my favorite birds – a Blue Jay. Common as they are in the city, this was only our second or third sighting of them all year and we were so lucky to catch one hatch-year in the net. They are such gorgeous birds, and I'm glad I got to see one up close, but it was the biggest bird I've ever handled so it was tough to work with. We only caught 6 other birds that day and had to close the nets early due to rain, but it was one of the rare days where we didn't catch one flycatcher; we did catch other interesting species like a Downy Woodpecker.



On the 29th we caught only 5 birds after a full day of banding, which was unfortunate because Jonathan's cousin Michael came out to band with us. There was an unusual incident with a headless owl suddenly appearing in the bottom rung of one of our nets, and combined with the evidence of an owl killed by a raptor the day before, it seems that at least one Cooper's hawk is hunting the owls (rather successfully). We believe the hawk was flying through the forest with the owl kill and hit the net, dropped the owl, and escaped. I later found a Cooper's tail feather near the scene fingering it as the prime suspect.

Jim and Barb Beck were out to band on the 30th and 31st, and they caught a Ruby-crowned Kinglet on the 31st which was a first for this year. With 10 birds on the 30th there wasn't much new except a fairly common White-throated Sparrow, but on the 31st there were a few new arrivals of a Slate-colored Junco, and a Swainson's Thrush among the 9 birds caught.



-RSP

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Redstart	2	0	0	0	0	2
Black-and-White Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Black-capped Chickadee	7	3	1	0	0	11
Blue Jay	1	0	0	0	0	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	2	0	1	0	0	3
Cape May Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Downy Woodpecker	1	0	0	0	0	1
Least Flycatcher	7	1	0	0	0	8
Lincoln's Sparrow	2	0	0	0	0	2
Myrtle Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Ovenbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	0	0	0	0	1
Slate-colored Junco	1	0	0	0	0	1
Song Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Swainson's Thrush	1	0	0	0	0	1
Tennessee Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Traill's Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	0	1
Wilson's Warbler	0	0	0	0	1	1
White-throated Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Yellow Warbler	6	0	0	0	0	6
Total	42	4	2	0	1	49

Net Hours: 362.5
Capture Rate: 13.5

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).

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