

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update May 15 – 28th, 2010

Another few weeks full of excitement here at the BBO. We would like to welcome Justin, from New York, and Thera, from Virginia who are here for the Golondrinas Project for the summer. They are already hard at work with both the Tree Swallow boxes and helping out around the lab.



The Canada Warbler

Weather has been crazy, everything from scorching 28°C to cold and rainy, but did provide us with some great banding numbers and really super observations days! The warblers arrived *en force* which was a real treat, and a bunch of firsts both for the season and personally. Sightings included Black-throated Green, Cape May and Mourning Warblers grounded by the rain. We have been really lucky with our captures as well, having banded a Canada Warbler, a few Common Yellowthroats, and a Magnolia Warbler, all in flashy spring plumage.

The biggest banding day found us with 50 birds in the nets, in fact it was going so well we stayed open for an extra two hours. We were rewarded by a fiesty and strong Hairy Woodpecker, who had originally been banded here in 2007 by Anna Daku.

Despite a few more attempts at trapping the Short-eared Owls, no luck at actually capturing one yet. There seems to pair that is going to stick around, and Katie, Thera and Justin were lucky enough to see some courtship displays when they went out on the 17th. Al DeGroot and Hardy Pletz also let us tag along to go band Great Horned Owl chicks from the nests around Tofield. It was quite an experience, from scaling trees and fending against unimpressed parents, to handling the chicks and getting the opportunity to talk to the landowners. Katie even gave it a go and scaled the tree for the last of 6 nests of the day, and did a great job of getting the three chicks down to earth and then safely back into the nest.

The raven nest being built behind the lab seems to have been abandoned, but we are hopeful that an owl will adopt it in future years. The House Wrens have also showed up, and have been making themselves quite at home in the nest boxes around the lab.

We had a few visitors out to the lab over the past two weeks; Irene and her dog Onyx came out to visit during the nicer weather. Rachel, who used to work for the BBO, and her two sons also came out to see the banding, but unfortunately we had no nets up that day because of the rain. Thanks again to Al and Hardy who were out doing maintenance before heading out to visit the owl nests.



A well-supervised Katie returning chicks to the nest

Table 1. Results from Songbird Banding, May 15 - 28, 2010.

| Species | Banded | Repeat ¹ | Return ² | Foreign ³ | Other ⁴ | Total |
|---------------------------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Alder Flycatcher | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| American Redstart | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| American Robin | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Baltimore Oriole | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | 7 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 13 |
| Blackpoll Warbler | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Canada Warbler | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Clay-colored Sparrow | 40 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 53 |
| Chipping Sparrow | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Common Yellowthroat | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Hermit Thrush | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| House Wren | 14 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 20 |
| Least Flycatcher | 38 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 7 | 58 |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Magnolia Warbler | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Myrtle Warbler | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Northern Waterthrush | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Orange-crowned Warbler | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Ovenbird | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Song Sparrow | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Sparrow sp. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Swainson's Thrush | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 21 |
| Tennessee Warbler | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Tree Swallow | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| White-throated Sparrow | 12 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 13 |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Yellow Warbler | 10 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 24 |
| Total | 184 | 31 | 13 | 1 | 22 | 251 |

Net Hours: 665.75 NH
Capture Rate: 37.7 birds/ 100 NH

- 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).



Left to right: Alder Flycatcher, Great Horned Owl, and Tennessee Warbler