

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update May 29 – June 9, 2010

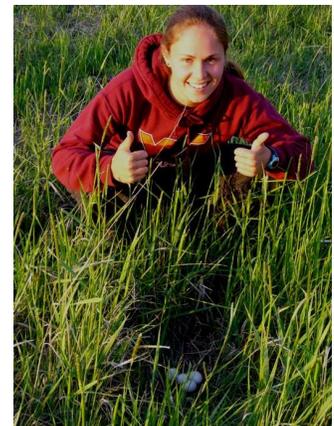


Well, there goes Spring Migration Monitoring (total captures in Table 2). It is amazing how quickly the spring can go, and how quickly the flocks move on to their breeding territories. In this final round we had some great birds, a few new species for me to band, including the Black-throated Green Warbler, and the Gray Catbird. Some exciting spring warblers that came through were the MacGillivray's Warbler and the Western Palm Warbler, thanks to Anna for bringing the Palm back from a net check!

On May 30th we had a call from the Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton (WRSE), saying they had one of our banded birds turned into their shelter. As it turns out, one of the owlets we had banded at the Tofield Cemetery with Al and Hardy had been found by a concerned passer-by who took it in to Edmonton assuming it was injured. After being assessed by the WRSE staff, it was determined that that was not the case. Many owls leave the nest before they are able to fly and disperse in the area of the nest often crawling up diagonal trees and shrubs. At this stage they are called 'branchers', and are perfectly fine, the adults come and feed them and when they are better able to fly, they all move off. That was the case with this owl, so it was returned to its nest to be cared for by its parents.

June 6th was the Big Birding Breakfast, there were approximately 25 people out to eat and enjoy watching the banding. It is always such a fun event, everyone is so interested in what we are doing and excited to see every bird. We ended up catching 17 birds that day, so everyone got to see one, and a few of the kids got to be pecked by a chickadee! Thanks to all the volunteers for coming out and ensuring everyone had a great time; we always love having a hot breakfast so thanks especially to Janos, yet again! In other educational outreach news, Lisa also presented a talk to the Tofield Biology 20 class on Monitoring, Research, and Education at the Beaverhill Bird Observatory.

Yes, the Short-eared Owl saga continues, but boy was there some excitement on the evening of June 6th, Geoff, Justin, Thera, and I headed out to try another evening of trapping with the so-far fruitless traps. Geoff headed off into the lake to watch a pair he had seen the night before, and Thera, Justin and I went out to the Weir to watch a pair that had been spotted earlier as well. We hadn't been waiting long before we saw one cruising low for about three seconds before it dropped into the grass. We waited... it didn't come back up, so with some clever hand signals from Justin (manning the scope) back at the Weir, Thera and I headed out in a bee-line for the location the owl had disappeared. Voila, after all the effort of trying to trap the adults, we found a nest! 4 warm eggs and a few thrilled biologists, and not half an hour later Geoff reported the good news, he found a nest as well! 7 eggs in that one, and we are very much looking forward to following the status of the nests!



We've had many visitors and volunteers lately, Anna + Finn (thanks for catching cool birds Anna!), and Geoff + Gemma have been out for days going after Short-eareds. Big thanks to Geoff for covering our two mornings of banding for us when we were away! Irene + Onyx have been out, as well as Al DeGroot, and Anita Hanneman and her two juveniles, Leyton and Kayla.

Table 1. Results from Songbird Banding, May 29 – June 9, 2009.

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Alder Flycatcher	3	0		0		3
American Goldfinch	8	0		0		8
American Redstart	3	0		0		3
American Robin	6	0		0	1	7
Baltimore Oriole	1	1	1	0		3
Black-capped Chickadee	0	1		0		1
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	2	1	0	1	5
Black-throated Green Warbler	1	0		0		1
Clay-colored Sparrow	18	7		0	2	27
Chipping Sparrow	1	0		0		1
Common Yellowthroat	2	0		0		2
Gray Catbird	2	0		0		2
Hermit Thrush	1	1		0		2
House Wren	6	4	1	0	1	12
Least Flycatcher	34	26	10	0	3	73
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	0		0		1
MacGillivray's Warbler	1	0		0		1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2	0		0		2
Song Sparrow	3	0		0		3
Swainson's Thrush	6	0		0		6
Warbling Vireo	1	1	3	0		5
Western Palm Warbler	1	0		0		1
White-throated Sparrow	1	0		0		1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	1		0		2
Yellow Warbler	5	6	1	0	1	13
Total	109	50	17	0	9	185

Net Hours: 677.75 NH

Capture Rate: 27.7 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).



A crew of kids from the Big Birding Breakfast



Female Common Yellowthroat

Table 2. Results from Spring Migration Monitoring, May 1 – June 9, 2009.

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Alder Flycatcher	4	0	0	0	0	4
American Goldfinch	8	0	0	0	0	8
American Redstart	5	0	0	0	0	5
American Robin	9	0	0	0	1	10
Baltimore Oriole	2	2	2	0	0	6
Black-capped Chickadee	0	6	8	0	0	14
Blackpoll Warbler	3	0	0	0	0	3
Brown-headed Cowbird	8	5	1	0	4	18
Black-throated Green Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Canada Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	59	15	1	0	6	81
Chipping Sparrow	11	0	0	0	0	11
Common Yellowthroat	5	0	0	0	0	5
Eastern Phoebe	1	0	0	0	0	1
Gray Catbird	2	0	0	0	0	2
Hairy Woodpecker	0	1	0	0	0	1
Hermit Thrush	6	1	0	0	2	9
House Wren	20	4	3	0	5	32
Least Flycatcher	72	36	13	0	10	131
Lincoln's Sparrow	3	0	0	0	1	4
MacGillivray's Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Magnolia Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Myrtle Warbler	35	0	0	0	3	38
Northern Waterthrush	2	0	0	0	0	2
Orange-crowned Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Ovenbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2	0	0	0	0	2
Song Sparrow	5	0	0	0	2	7
Sparrow sp.	0	0	0	0	1	1
Swainson's Thrush	26	0	0	0	1	27
Unknown Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Tennessee Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Tree Swallow	0	0	0	1	0	1
Warbling Vireo	1	1	3	0	0	5
Western Palm Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
White-throated Sparrow	16	0	0	0	2	18
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3	1	0	0	0	4
Yellow Warbler	15	14	6	0	2	37
Total	333	86	37	1	40	497

Net Hours: 2015.75 NH
Capture Rate: 24.7 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).