

## Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update Aug 31 – Sept 14, 2010

In this round of fall migration monitoring, I sadly said goodbye to Meaghan as she headed back to school for her final semester at the U of A. Wishing you the very best semester ever Meaghan!

The change in the natural area has been dramatic over the past two weeks, leaves are turning and falling off, and the fireweed is all 'fiery' red now. Some of the fall species have shown up as well, I've now caught a few White-throated and White-crowned Sparrow, finally a few other Juncos, as well as a Red-breasted Nuthatch, and a Brown Creeper. Oh, and of course the Ruby-crowned Kinglets! Every year I seem to forget just how tiny they are.



During the day flocks of Greater White-fronted Geese are passing overhead, along with Canada Geese and a few Sandhill Cranes. I am starting to see more deer pairing up in the natural area, and am hoping the moose will show up soon as well. The Northern Flying Squirrels are also busily working at the bird feeder in the evening and I hear them running across the roof regularly. Chuck Priestley came out one day and we used a new 'spy-camera' to check the bat boxes in the natural area. It is basically a camera on the end of a flexible attachment that connects to a larger screen, allowing you to poke the camera into tiny

spaces. We didn't see any bats, but also looked in a few cavities, and it was really neat to see inside! This could be a very useful tool for checking cavity nests, nest boxes, and bat boxes next summer.

There was some poor weather during this round, quite a bit of rain, so I didn't get as many net hours in as I would have hoped. At least there is still another month of songbird banding. Lisa has also been out for the first few nights of Saw-whet banding. No luck the night of 10<sup>th</sup>, but on the 11<sup>th</sup> she caught the first owl of the season. What luck, it was a Long-eared Owl! What a great way to start the Saw-whet Owl migration monitoring season. On the 13<sup>th</sup> Chuck and I caught two Saw-whets, so it has begun!

In other lab news the fence to the Natural Area was cut twice over the long weekend while I was away. Apparently someone wasn't deterred by the locked gate. Unfortunately a few neighbouring cows found their way in but there was no damage done.



**Table 1. Results from Fall Migration Monitoring August 31 – September 14, 2009.**

Species	Banded	Repeat <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total
American Redstart	2	0	0	0	1	3
American Robin	1	0	0	0	0	1
Black-capped Chickadee	8	13	0	0	0	21
Blackpoll Warbler	3	0	0	0	0	3
Brown Creeper	1	0	0	0	0	1
Black-throated Green Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	5	0	1	0	0	6
Fox Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hermit Thrush	1	0	0	0	0	1
House Wren	5	0	0	0	1	6
Least Flycatcher	6	1	0	0	0	7
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Magnolia Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Myrtle Warbler	57	0	0	0	8	65
Orange-crowned Warbler	8	0	0	0	0	8
Ovenbird	6	0	0	0	0	6
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	0	0	0	0	2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	0	0	0	0	3
Ruffed Grouse	0	0	0	0	1	1
Savannah Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	0	0	0	1	1
Slate-coloured Junco	5	0	0	0	3	8
Swainson's Thrush	5	0	0	0	0	5
Tennessee Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
White-crowned Sparrow	3	0	0	0	0	3
Wilson's Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Western Palm Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
White-throated Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Yellow Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>163</b>

Net Hours: 645.00 NH

Capture Rate: 25.27 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).

