

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update September 16th to 30th, 2011



Katie and the Varied Thrush

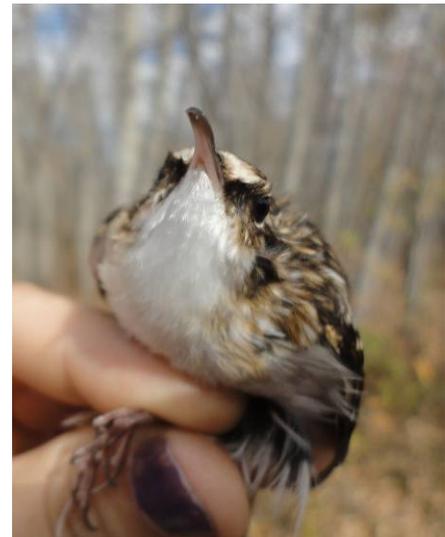
And there goes September! Despite losing quite a few net hours to weather (usually the wind), we caught a good number of birds, with 149 being pulled out of the nets. There were a few very exciting catches as well! It was great to find the two Brown Creepers in the nets; I also really enjoyed the Blue Jay, as it was the first one I have handled before. But the winner in the category of best catches for this round is the Varied Thrush that Katie banded, one of only 5 that are recorded in the BBO computer.

Katie and I also got a bit of a change of scenery for banding; the BBO had a table set up at the John Janzen Nature Centre for free admission day in Edmonton. We set up 2 nets,

and managed to steadily catch Black-capped Chickadees that were a hit with the crowds going through. Many of the visitors seemed interested in coming out to the Natural Area, so hopefully we will see some new faces out at the lab.

The lab has also been busy with visitors and volunteers. The NAIT Biological Science class came out to visit twice; once in the morning to take in the songbird banding (and a delicious pancake breakfast) and returned later in the week to see the owls. Luckily, we were able to catch some birds for them both times, and it was great having such an interested crowd.

I have also been lucky to have plenty of visitors out in the evenings to see the saw-whets, thanks Maureen and Bob, and Brenna, Sara and Jason, and Heather and Lloyd for visiting. Loreley, James and Thea have also been out to volunteer and learn the banding process, and regular visitor Irene also tried her hand at extracting on a very busy songbird morning. Katie also had her good friends Riley and Quentin (and their puppy O'Maley) out for supper. A special thanks to all the volunteers and board members who have been out at the lab helping to set up for Steaks and Saw-whets. Thanks also to Geoff Holroyd for covering songbirds.



Brown Creeper



Blue Jay, Pine Siskin and a hatch-year American Goldfinch

Table 1. Results from Songbird Banding September 16th to 30th, 2011.

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
American Goldfinch	1	0	0	0	0	1
American Tree Sparrow	7	2	0	0	1	10
Black-capped Chickadee	3	6	0	0	0	9
Blue Jay	1	0	0	0	1	2
Brown Creeper	2	0	0	0	0	2
Clay-coloured Sparrow	0	1	0	0	0	1
Downy Woodpecker	1	1	0	0	0	2
Hermit Thrush	1	0	0	0	0	1
Lincoln's Sparrow	2	0	0	0	0	2
Myrtle Warbler	59	0	0	0	2	61
Orange-crowned Warbler	7	1	0	0	1	9
Pine Siskin	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-coloured Junco	36	1	0	0	2	39
Varied Thrush	1	0	0	0	0	1
White-crowned Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
White-throated Sparrow	4	0	0	0	1	5
Total	129	12	0	0	8	149

Net Hours: 682 NH

Capture Rate: 21.85 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).