

Beaverhill Bird Observatory
Weekly Update July 30th – August 8th



The 2021 Young Ornithologists! From left to right, top to bottom: Henry Mingay, Silas Fuellbrandt, Cameron Montgomery, Jac Curry, Jana Teefy, Shane Abernethy, Stephanie Thunberg, Sara Pearce Meijerink, James Tedder, Reagan Griesbrecht, Evan Edwards, Xavier Quantz, Aiden Flewelling, Geoff Holroyd, Evan Larson, Hazel Flesher

This week staff were delighted to host the 5th annual Geoff Holroyd Young Ornithologist's Workshop! We hosted 10 youth aged 15-18 for the duration of the week to give them hands-on experience in banding birds, extracting birds from mist nets, and living the life of a field biologist. In addition to banding every morning, the students were able to participate in a wide variety of activities in the afternoons. These activities included catching and identifying butterflies, an aquatic invertebrate survey, a tour of a falconry farm, releasing rehabilitated ducklings, and presentations from guest speakers on a variety of conservation-related topics.

Another highlight of the workshop was the big day of birding lead by Irene Crosland. Students set out around the natural area and nearby hotspots to try and see as many species as possible in a single day. All together the group was able to see a phenomenal 108 species, even beating out the staff's own Birdathon number of 103 species from this spring! A huge thank you to all the volunteers who presented, lead activities during the workshop, and helped keep everything running: Geoff Holroyd, Phil and Helen Trefry, Dave Lawrie, Sarah Trefry, Irene Crosland, Kim Blomme, Jac Curry, Matt Turnbull, Stephanie Thunberg. We would also like to thank our fantastic group of young ornithologists for this year: Hazel Flesher, Evan Larson, James Tedder, Evan Edwards, Henry Mingay, Cameron Montgomery, Silas Fuellbrandt, Raegan Griesbrecht, Aiden Flewelling, Xavier Quantz. You were a fantastic group and it was a ton of fun hosting you!

This week also marked the last week of our MAPS program. We continued catching a high volume of birds at our SOPO station, but banding was slow at BLAB and LILA. The last of our late breeders appear to be done and we are now seeing migratory species from the boreal forest moving through the natural area – lots of Myrtle Warblers and Tennessee Warblers were caught during this round of MAPS. Migration banding

continues to be slow, and staff are beginning plans to set up experimental nets beyond the edge of the forest to determine whether forest succession is the cause of our low capture rates this year. Migration is not limited to banding however, and staff alongside the young ornithologists witnessed an incredible spectacle just outside the natural area – a flock of thousands of migrating swallows all grouping together to form an overnight roost!



Butterfly expert Dave Lawrie teaches the young ornithologists about butterfly and moth identification. Photo credit: Jac Curry



Photo credits: Jac Curry and Sara Pearce Meijerink

Table 1. Migration Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Least Flycatcher	25	2				29
Trail's Flycatcher	8					8
Myrtle Warbler	6					6
Northern Waterthrush	2					2
Downy Woodpecker	1					1
Tennessee Warbler	1					1
Black-capped Chickadee	11	8			1	23
Yellow Warbler	1					1
Grey Catbird	1					1
Cedar Waxwing	1					1
TOTALS	62	10	0	0	1	73

751.5 net-hours

9.31 captures/100 net-hours

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).

Table 2. MAPS Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Least Flycatcher	11	1				12
Trail's Flycatcher	2					2
Ruby-throated Hummingbird					1	1
Yellow Warbler	26				1	27
Tennessee Warbler	2					2
Warbling Vireo	2					2
Black-and-white Warbler	1					1
Black-capped Chickadee	4	2			2	8
House Wren	1				1	2
Northern Waterthrush	1					1
Myrtle Warbler	7					7
Song Sparrow	1				1	2
TOTALS	58	3	0	0	6	67

127.5 net-hours

52.5 captures/100 net-hours

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).