

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update July 20-29, 2026



Cooper's Hawks are a forest-dwelling hawk species that mostly hunt smaller songbirds

Fall migration monitoring is finally upon us at the BBO! As strange as it seems to talk about fall in July, birds are already beginning to migrate through the natural area from their breeding grounds north of us in the boreal forest. Some of the migrants captured already include a number of Tennessee Warblers, a pair of Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers, and an American Redstart! Migratory shorebirds such as Semipalmated Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers, and Long-billed Dowitchers have also been sighted visiting the many damp and flooded fields surrounding our area.

We had 2 noteworthy captures this week: a Yellow-headed Blackbird and a Cooper's Hawk! Both species are rarely banded here – the last Yellow-headed

Blackbird banded at BBO was in 2021, and a Cooper's Hawk was last banded in 2024. Staff have also been delighted to hear a plethora of Yellow Rails clicking away in the flooded grassland along our census loop.

Staff have been hard at work outside of banding, mostly dealing with the aftermath of 2 strong storms that downed many trees in the area! Fallen trees were removed from trails, and we began mowing the trail network and parking lots that are finally beginning to dry out enough to be walkable. MAPS officially ends next week, and our Young Ornithologists' Workshop is fast approaching! Where did the field season go?!

A special thank-you to our long-term volunteer Calvin who arrived this week and will be helping out at the station for the next few weeks!



This juvenile Yellow Warbler fledged super recently, some birds are still breeding even as others migrate!

Table 1. BBO Lab (BLAB) MAPS Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Least Flycatcher	4	1	1			6
TOTALS	4	1	1	0	0	6

49.5 net-hours

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

12.1 captures/100 net-hours

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. Migration Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Redstart	1					1
American Robin	1					1
Baltimore Oriole	1					1
Black-capped Chickadee	6	1				7
Cedar Waxwing	3					3
Common Yellowthroat	5		1		1	7
Cooper's Hawk	1					1
Eastern Warbling-Vireo	4	1				5
Gray Catbird	2					2
Least Flycatcher	89	9			11	109
Myrtle Warbler	2					2
Northern House Wren	5					5
Ovenbird	3					3
Red-eyed Vireo	1					1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		1				1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird					3	3
Song Sparrow	4					4
Swainson's Thrush	1					1
Tennessee Warbler	18				1	19
Traill's Flycatcher	3					3
Unidentified Empidonax					1	1
Unidentified Warbling Vireo	6		2			8

Yellow Warbler	35	5	1			41
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1					1
Yellow-headed Blackbird	1					1
TOTALS	193	17	4	0	17	231

758.5 net-hours

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

30.4 captures/100 net-hours

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).