

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update - August 9 – August 15, 2026

It was an exciting week at the BBO, as we hosted nine teens from across the country for the 10th Geoff Holroyd's Young Ornithologist Workshop! The students camped in the clearing, joining staff and volunteers for early morning banding, learning how to age and sex songbirds and allies, and even stayed up for two late nights of owl banding!



Young Ornithologists with staff, volunteer Calvin, Geoff Holroyd and Dr. Dave Lawrie

Students were also provided educational experiences with Alberta lepidopterist Dr. Dave Lawrie to learn about insects, Chair Geoff Holroyd to learn about Purple Martins, and the local bat populations with biologist Victoria Berg. They toured the Upsandowns Falconry with Co-chair Helen Trefry and Phil Trefry and participated in a Big Day with volunteer Irene and board member Andra, finding 105 species!

Thanks to our hardworking board, volunteers, staff, and Young Ornithologists, the week went off without a hitch.

Banding this week was steady despite the intermittent torrential rain. In total we caught 321 birds in our nets, 26 species in total. Some highlights of this great diversity were our first Blackpoll Warblers of the year, a Canada Warbler, an Eastern Phoebe, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, two Northern Waterthrush, and our first Wilson's Warbler- a harbinger of fall. In total, we captured nine warbler species, which indicates the beginning of the autumn rush of mixed warbler flocks that will be moving through in late August through September.



Eastern Phoebe

Migration Monitoring banding totals:

	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Unbanded ³	Grand Total
Alder Flycatcher	2				2
American Goldfinch	1				1
American Redstart	3				3
Black-and-white Warbler	1				1
Black-capped Chickadee		1			1
Blackpoll Warbler	2				2
Brown-headed Cowbird	1				1
Canada Warbler	1				1
Cedar Waxwing	1				1
Chipping Sparrow	1				1
Clay-colored Sparrow	3			1	4
Eastern Phoebe	1				1
Eastern Warbling-Vireo	9				9
Gray Catbird	1				1
Least Flycatcher	83	7	2	10	102
Northern House Wren	7	2			9
Northern Waterthrush	2				2
Ovenbird	3				3
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				2	2
Song Sparrow	3				3
Tennessee Warbler	21	4		3	28
Traill's Flycatcher	11				11
Unidentified Warbling Vireo	3				3
Wilson's Warbler	1				1
Yellow Warbler	109	11	1	6	127
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1				1
Grand Total	271	25	3	22	321

601.33 net-hours

53.4 captures/100 net-hours

1 - banded 90 or fewer days ago, at the BBO

2 - banded over 90 days ago, at the BBO

3 - caught but not banded (e.g. escaped)