

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update: August 22 to 28, 2005

Well, our numbers were down a bit from last week, but diversity of birds continued to increase. The Warblers are now going through (14 species), Bay-breasted, Western Palm, and Myrtle were added this week. We had four species of Vireos (Blue-headed Vireo right, photo by Paul Burwell) and three thrush species. Also our first Slate-colored Junco and Ruby-crowned Kinglet, but these are early records, and the numbers of these will just increase as the fall progresses. Last year we had 7 Myrtles compared to 18 this year, however, we had 76 Redstarts in 2004 and we are only at 51 this year to date.... We need to catch up more!! At least eh weather seems to be cooperating more.



Table 1. Results from fall migration netting August 22 to 28, 2005.

Species	Banded	Recapture	*Other	TOTAL
Downy Woodpecker	3	0	0	3
Northern Flicker	0	0	1	1
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	0	0	1
Trail's Flycatcher	4	0	0	4
Least Flycatcher	26	0	1	26
Black-capped Chickadee	6	7	1	13
House Wren	1	1	0	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	0	0	1
Swainson's Thrush	4	0	0	4
Hermit Thrush	0	1	0	1
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	0	0	1
Cedar Waxwing	0	1	0	1
Warbling Vireo	2	0	0	2
Red-eyed Vireo	1	0	0	1
Philadelphia Vireo	2	0	0	2
Blue-headed Vireo	1	0	0	1
Tennessee Warbler	18	0	0	18
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	0	0	1
Yellow Warbler	2	2	0	4
Black and White Warbler	1	0	0	1
Common Yellowthroat	1	0	0	1
Western Palm Warbler	2	0	0	2
Black-throated Green Warbler	2	0	0	2
Bay-breasted Warbler	2	0	0	2
Myrtle Warbler	17	0	0	17
Wilson's Warbler	11	0	0	11
Magnolia Warbler	5	0	0	5
Blackpoll Warbler	5	0	0	5
Ovenbird	6	0	0	6
American Redstart	11	2	0	13
Song Sparrow	1	0	0	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	1	0	0	1
Lincoln's Sparrow	2	0	0	2
Song Sparrow	1	0	0	1
White-throated Sparrow	1	0	0	1
Slate-colored Junco	1	0	0	1
American Goldfinch	1	0	0	1
Purple Finch	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	145	14	3	162

*escaped from nets

We have been fortunate to have three volunteers out this week: Martina made another trip out and Cory Olsen from the University of Alberta held his first birds ever!! Chuck Priestley also came out for a day, and happened to check the front nets when we had our busiest net check this fall, 23 birds in nets 8, 9, and 9X. Most were in a single net 9X. I always get such a rush of excitement when I see that many birds hanging in a few nets. And there was such diversity as we extracted them, Western Palm, Myrtles, Wilson's, Redstarts, Waxwing, Junco, Flycatcher, and Philadelphia Vireo to name a few!!

Brings me back to those days when we had to shut nets because we couldn't keep up with the banding. Well, if my predictions are correct and the numbers play out properly, this spring we are on the low end a cycle and this fall should show an increase in the numbers of birds captured and will return to those numbers we had in the late 90's.

More and more people are out visiting the Natural Area. Remember to pick up your trail map at the BBO on your travels. To get to the BBO just follow the trail east from the parking area (Harrier Highway) and take Warbler Way through the forest. This will also get you alongside Lister Lake which still has water. The White-fronted Geese are returning, and there are plenty of shorebirds and ducks also. And remember, saw-whet owl monitoring starts this week on September 1 (if the weather is good). Nets are set up an hour after sunset and run for four hours. Looking forward to setting up some of the raptor traps this week also!! Things are hopping, hope to see you out at the BBO!

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Beaverhill Bird Observatory

