

## Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update August 8-14, 2006



Fall banding is fun! The number of birds and species we are catching in the mist nets continues to grow, and this week was a good one. Birds that are new captures for the year include a Mourning Warbler, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Ruffed Grouse, Black and White Warbler, Red-breasted Nuthatch and Blue-headed Vireo. Unfortunately, as we only have a songbird banding permit the Ruby-throated Hummingbird and the Ruffed Grouse were released unbanded, but it was still very neat to see them up close!

Mourning Warbler

A few other birds are also starting to move through. We captured our first Magnolia Warblers of the fall. Though not as flashy as the adult male in breeding plumage we captured in the spring, they are still a lovely bird to find in the net. A Purple Finch visited the feeder as well, representing another species we haven't seen since spring migration. American Redstarts have made their appearance and are practically a daily visitor now. Ovenbirds have similarly picked up in numbers, and we're catching several in the nets.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird

It seems we are in the thick of the Alder Flycatcher migration, with a total of 11 captured this week. The *Empidonax* flycatchers can be an intimidating group to identify, but in the hand there are some particular wing morphology characteristics (including different lengths of primary flight feathers) that are useful in separating the very similar looking species. Alder Flycatchers are also larger than Least Flycatchers –the *Empidonax* species we catch most often - and a nice change from the more numerous Least Flycatcher.

The Weir is splashing with ducks in their eclipse plumage now, and one afternoon we were treated to a family of Green-winged Teal ducklings who weren't shy about coming close so we could have a good look at them. Another evening a Merlin caught dragonfly after dragonfly near the Weir and perched on the fence posts to feast in plain sight. Soras, Common Yellowthroats and a Black-crowned Night Heron have also been seen near the water this week.

We were happy to have some visitors this week, including Kyle and Cindy Kelly (Yellowknife), and Mike and Kay Berger (California). Thank you to Bryn Spence and Chuck Priestley for taking down an unnecessary fence in the Natural Area. We hope to see lots of avid birdwatchers out to see the fall migrants!



Kay stands near a young Long-eared Owl

~ Katie and Allicia

**Table 1. Results from Fall Migration Monitoring August 8-14, 2006.**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Banded</b>	<b>Recapture</b>	<b>Foreign</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
Alder Flycatcher	11	0	0	0	11
American Goldfinch	1	0	0	0	1
American Redstart	3	0	0	0	3
Baltimore Oriole	1	0	0	0	1
Black-and-White Warbler	2	0	0	0	2
Black-capped Chickadee	10	13	0	0	23
Blue-headed Vireo	1	0	0	0	1
Cedar Waxwing	1	0	0	0	1
Hermit Thrush	0	1	0	0	1
House Wren	1	0	0	0	1
Least Flycatcher	33	5	0	0	38
Magnolia Warbler	2	0	0	0	2
Mourning Warbler	1	0	0	0	1
Myrtle Warbler	6	3	0	0	9
Ovenbird	8	0	0	0	8
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	0	0	0	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	0	0	0	1
Red-eyed Vireo	3	0	0	0	3
Song Sparrow	4	2	0	0	6
Swainson's Thrush	1	0	0	0	1
Tennessee Warbler	11	1	0	0	12
Traill's Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	1
Warbling Vireo	6	2	0	0	8
Yellow Warbler	16	6	0	0	22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>158</b>



A pair (female and male) of Yellow Warblers