

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update June 1 to 9, 2008

This week was our last round for the spring migration monitoring and, as expected, our capture rate declined as fewer birds move through the natural area, but we did manage to capture a couple of interesting species.



Katie Calon was out to volunteer on the 1st of the month banding with Robin, and started the shift off with a bang—catching 22 birds from 9 species. The highlights of the morning included a Gray Catbird, and two new warbler species for the year: a Mourning and a Canada Warbler. Both of these are beautifully plumaged species that spend their summers in the boreal forest, and they were gracious enough to drop by our lab on their way up north. Robin and Katie also caught two Baltimore Orioles, which are always a treat to see up close.

The next few days were a little slower, we were catching mostly Flycatchers (mainly Least, with a few Alders to keep us on our toes). And besides the slowdown in birds migrating through the area, more signs that summer is here are starting to show up: wood frogs are becoming

common hopping along in the leaf litter along our trails, and we've been observing two separate Yellow Warbler nests, one of which is low enough to watch the cup being slowly filled with eggs.

Tuesday, the 3rd was the first morning out for Shern, a guest to our lab from Cornell University. Shern will be spending several weeks at the lab, studying the Tree Swallows that call the nestbox grid near the lab home. We'll be sure to keep you posted on how that research is coming along as well.



On Wednesday we caught our second Canada Warbler of the year, this time a stunning yellow and blue-gray adult male, with a dark black necklace and eye-ring.

Thursday was a nice, sunny day and there were large numbers of geese overhead, mostly Canada Geese. This was a little unusual, as the number of migrating waterfowl observed has really dropped off in the last little while. Knowing that these birds tend to move in front of weather systems to take advantage of the prevailing winds, we were a little anxious about what would be arriving at the lab once all the geese were gone.

Sure enough, the next morning was cool and grey, but luckily the rain held off long enough to get most of a morning's worth of banding in. The low pressure system hunkered in for our days off, and was still around the

morning of the 9th when I was out by myself to put in one last day of migration monitoring before starting our summer protocols. After a couple soggy Flycatchers and Yellow Warblers, I closed the nets a little early, and ended the season's banding with a whimper.

—JMDR

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Least Flycatcher	30	17	0	0	0	47
Yellow Warbler	6	12	0	0	0	18
Brown-headed Cowbird	3	8	0	0	0	11
Alder Flycatcher	6	0	0	0	0	6
Clay-colored Sparrow	4	2	0	0	0	6
Swainson's Thrush	5	0	0	0	0	5
Warbling Vireo	0	5	0	0	0	5
American Goldfinch	4	0	0	0	0	4
Baltimore Oriole	1	1	0	0	0	2
Canada Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Gray Catbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hermit Thrush	1	0	0	0	0	1
Mourning Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Song Sparrow	0	1	0	0	0	1
Veery	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total	64	47	0	0	0	111

Net Hours: 509

Capture Rate: 21.8 /100 NH

- 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).



Yellow Warbler, Second Year Male, showing molt limits in the greater coverts between alternate and basic plumage (b/w 2nd and 3rd feathers from the left) and between replaced adult feathers and retained juvenile feathers (b/w 5th and 6th from the left).