

## Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update August 21 – 28, 2009

It was a pretty windy week out at the Observatory, meaning we weren't able to band on some days, or had to close the nets early. It always seems as though the wind picks up when the sun breaks the trees. To ensure bird safety in the nets, we close them during strong winds. However, some of the nets are more sheltered as they are back in the trees, and we were often able to open those nets at least.



Warbling Vireo

A few more bird species have been added to our fall species list this week. New birds to fall migration monitoring include Blue-headed Vireo, Cooper's Hawk, Lincoln's Sparrow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. The Cooper's Hawk was unfortunately an escapee that flew out of the net before Katie could get to him and band him. Ashley was really excited to band the Blue-headed Vireo, and promptly claimed it was one of her favourite birds. Pretty lucky for a birder to get to band a lifer let alone a favourite!

Our Rose-breasted Grosbeak was an interesting individual. Originally captured during the MAPS program this summer, we banded him on June 11<sup>th</sup> at the BLAB station. At the time, we aged him as a Second Year bird due to his mottled brown (old) and black (new) plumage. He was captured in the same net at the same time as a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak, presumably his mate. Captured again on August 28<sup>th</sup> we can assume he has been in the Beaverhill Natural Area, or at least nearby, since June 11<sup>th</sup>. It was also very interesting that he still had the mottled brown and black plumage of a Second Year bird. He had not bothered, or had not had the opportunity to molt into complete adult male plumage, which is white, black and rose. He may still delay this molt until he is on his winter grounds, which could be as far south as Mexico or South America.



Note brownish feathers

Nice to have a few visitors out during this week, Ashley's mom Anita Thorndick and her friend Vi Sylvester came out for a day of banding, as did Isaac Calon. A fellow that bands in Cambridge, Ontario also came out and we enjoyed 'talking shop' with him for a while. He quite liked BBO's set up of elastics on the nets and said he'd be modifying his nets the same way. The elastics allow for easier furling of the nets, and extends the life of the trammel lines, which can be prone to snapping when stretched too tight or when they become worn.

**Table 1. Results from Fall Migration Monitoring, August 21 - 28, 2009.**

Species	Banded	Repeat <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total
American Redstart	2	0	0	0	1	3
Black-capped Chickadee	2	1	0	0	1	4
Blue-headed Vireo	1	0	0	0	0	1
Clay-coloured Sparrow	3	0	0	0	0	3
Cooper's Hawk	0	0	0	0	1	1
House Wren	3	2	0	0	3	8
Least Flycatcher	6	0	0	0	0	6
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Magnolia Warbler	3	0	0	0	1	4
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	0	1	0	0	0	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	0	0	0	0	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	0	0	0	1	2
Traill's Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	0	1
Warbling Vireo	1	0	0	0	0	1
Wilson's Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	0	0	0	1	2
Yellow Warbler	4	0	0	0	1	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>46</b>

*Net Hours: 500.25 NH*  
*Capture Rate: 14.19 birds/ 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).



Vole sunning himself.