

## Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update August 15 – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011



Well, the second half of August has still been pretty slow, but we have been catching and seeing some great species. The warblers are starting to trickle through, and we are enjoying the variety of species that we are seeing on a daily basis. In addition to the species caught, we have also seen Black-and-white, Orange-crowned and Black-throated Green Warblers flitting through the woods. One lucky Wilson's Warbler even volunteered to be Katie's 4000<sup>th</sup> banded bird. Identifying and ageing some of the fall and juvenile plumages has occasionally proved to be a challenging task, but we have not been completely stumped yet. The poplar trees have also mostly shed their leaves (straight into the nets!), and the drab fall-coloured birds are much easier to spot on the bare branches.

Another memorable catch was the couple of Blue-headed Vireos we were able to band. This was the first time I have ever seen them, and I think they are my favourite catch of the year.

We also put up the bat nets, and we hoping to catch either some bats or one of the 4 Long-eared owls that have been hanging around the clearing at dusk. One of the owls did bounce out of the net, but no success at catching either of our nocturnal species.

The raptors have also seem to have had a good summer, we have been seeing lots both on census and from the lab. Several Red-tailed Hawks, and a pair of Merlins and Northern Harriers have been regularly spotted in the natural area, as well as a Broad-winged Hawk circling over the lab. Two Sharp-shinned hawks have ended up in the nets; it is always great to catch such a different bird from the tiny songbirds that we usually see.



We have had lots of visitors out to visit and help out with the banding.

Thanks Maureen for coming to keep me company on one of our slowest days, and Lorelei, Kathey and Muriel for spending their morning helping at the lab. Thanks Robin Pimm for coming to band, and for finding a Sharp-shinned Hawk in the net! Mel Thorn from the Vasseaux Lake banding Station and Csilla Sik spent the morning with Katie. Heather, her Danish relatives, as well as Irene and Onyx also stopped by to check out the activity at the lab.



**Table 1. Results from Songbird Banding August 15 – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011.**

Species	Banded	Repeat <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total
Alder Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	0	1
American Goldfinch	0	0	2	0	0	2
American Redstart	1	0	0	0	0	1
American Robin	1	0	0	0	0	1
Black-capped Chickadee	1	6	0	0	1	8
Blue-headed Vireo	2	0	0	0	0	2
Blackpoll Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Canada Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Clay-coloured Sparrow	11	0	1	0	2	14
Chipping Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Gray Catbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Least Flycatcher	44	3	1	0	3	51
Magnolia Warbler	3	0	0	0	0	3
Mourning Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Myrtle Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Ovenbird	10	1	0	0	0	11
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	0	0	0	0	1
Savannah Sparrow	2	0	0	0	0	2
Song Sparrow	2	0	0	0	0	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	0	0	0	0	2
Swainson's Thrush	3	0	0	0	0	3
Tennessee Warbler	9	0	0	0	1	10
Traill's Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	0	1
Warbling Vireo	2	0	0	0	0	2
Wilson's Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	0	1
Yellow Warbler	8	3	0	0	1	12
Total	115	13	4	0	8	140

Net Hours: 1177 NH

Capture Rate: 11.89 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).

