

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update September 1 – 15th, 2011



Hard to believe it is once again September at the lab. The leaves are really starting to come off of the trees now. The cooler weather brings with it a bunch of neat birds which is always fun for a bander. When Lisa and Kate Priestley came out we were very happy to have caught a Palm Warbler, a rare but enjoyable species at the BBO! We saw the first fall Purple Finch on September 6th, so those birds are on their way now.

Summer seems a bit late in arriving this year, as we are currently experiencing our hottest temperatures at the lab. We even had to close the nets one day as it is heated up beyond our high temperature cut-off. Can't lie, we have enjoyed the warmth, but it makes it hard to prepare for the day when you start the morning in

The tiny Ruby-crowned Kinglet long-johns and then have to shed layers by 10 AM.

We were happy to see the Ruby-crowned Kinglets come through, they are one of the cutest little fall birds. Blowing apart the feathers on the crown reveal the deep rich red hidden at the base of the feathers. I have never seen them show the red, but it is used in their breeding and territorial displays. I suppose few birds are territorial or displaying when I have them in my hand!

The Myrtle Warblers are now topping the chart as the most caught bird species, so most of the Least Flycatchers have started on their way. I always enjoy the change over of the most common bird species as fall progresses. Hope the American Tree Sparrows will move through in a big way in the later half of September. We were lucky to enjoy the biggest sparrows, we have caught 3 Fox Sparrows in this round!



The much larger Fox Sparrow!

Meaghan managed to take a trip to the Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory, and enjoyed seeing a few different species that we have not caught at BBO. The Blue Jay in hand was really great, and it was surprising to see



Annie at the LSLBO

the number of Sharp-Shinned Hawks that ended up in the nets: four in the few hours spent visiting as opposed to the 2 we have caught her all season. The burn that went through the area in the spring also made for some easy birdwatching; the flocks of Myrtle Warblers in the trees really stand out with no leaves to hide behind! The different net set up has also inspired big ideas for repairing our aerial net now!

Additional visitors that have come out to band with us include Ashley Thorsen, Loreley Will, Mike and Dave, Irene, and Peter Haddock.

Saw-whet monitoring started on Sept 10th with Lisa setting up the nets. It was a great first night with her capture of a Long-eared owl! After that Meaghan took over, but didn't catch any owls until Sept 12th. That night Meaghan brought in two owls, and she hasn't caught

any since then. But we are sure they will come!

Table 1. Results from Songbird Banding September 1 – 15th, 2011.

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
American Redstart	1	0	0	0	0	1
American Robin	1	0	0	0	0	1
Black-capped Chickadee	1	7	0	0	1	9
Clay-colored Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Downy Woodpecker	1	0	0	0	0	1
Fox Sparrow	3	0	0	0	0	3
Gray Catbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hairy Woodpecker	1	1	0	0	0	2
Least Flycatcher	3	0	0	0	0	3
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Magnolia Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Mourning Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Myrtle Warbler	61	0	0	0	4	65
Orange-crowned Warbler	25	0	0	0	1	26
Ovenbird	3	0	0	0	1	4
Philadelphia Vireo	1	0	0	0	0	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4	0	0	0	0	4
Savannah Sparrow	2	0	0	0	0	2
Slate-colored Junco	4	0	0	0	1	5
Swainson's Thrush	6	0	0	0	0	6
Tennessee Warbler	3	0	0	0	0	3
White-crowned Sparrow	2	0	0	0	2	4
Wilson's Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Western Palm Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
White-throated Sparrow	5	0	0	0	0	5
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	0	0	0	0	1
Yellow Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	140	8	0	0	10	158

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).