

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update, August 1-15, 2012

The past two weeks at the BBO have been unbelievable! We've started fall migration, and already many species are starting to come through. Over the last two weeks we've caught 166 birds, of 24 species!

Notably we've caught a Black Throated Green Warbler, a Sharp Shinned Hawk, a Rose Breasted Grosbeak, a Magnolia Warbler, a McGillivary's Warbler, Willow Flycatchers, Alder Flycatchers, American Redstart and Black and White Warblers.



Black Throated Green Warbler.

One of my favourite catches was a Black Throated Green Warbler. Definitely made the first Monday back from days off a good one! Meaghan walked up to the net and saw an adorable little warbler in the net! Took us a while to determine what he was, as we've never seen or heard any Black Throated Greens in the natural area. After a lot of deliberation, measurements and references to Sibley and Pyle we were convinced determined that it was in fact a Black Throated Green Warbler!



Sharp Shinned Hawk.

During the same day we also caught a Sharp Shinned Hawk! Once again Meaghan was the one who came around the corner to see him. He had followed a hatch year Downy Woodpecker into the net. The Downy Woodpecker was understandably terrified of the hawk and was screaming at the top of his lungs. Next to both of them was a Black Capped Chickadee watching the entire thing, seemingly unaffected. We banded both the Black Capped Chickadee and the Sharp Shinned Hawk.

The Downy, however, was released without being banded as the Sharp Shinned Hawk had grazed him, thoroughly scared him, but he was fine and flew off without any trouble.



Willow Flycatcher.

Lately we've been catching a lot of different Flycatcher species. This has resulted in a bit of paranoia. We now have become reluctant to call anything a Least Flycatcher without checking whether the sixth primary is emarginated. Thankfully we have seen a lot of Least Flycatchers over the course of the summer, and so when we do catch one of a different species it always looks a little different. We've caught both Willow and Alder Flycatchers, and Trail's Flycatcher that could not be more specifically identified. To differentiate these species we first check the 6th primary, determine whether it is emarginated. If it is, it's a Least Flycatcher. If it isn't, we take a number of measurements to determine if it is

either an Alder or a Willow Flycatcher. If the measurements overlap between both species, we call it a Trail's Flycatcher.



Female Rose Breasted Grosbeak.

We also caught our first female Rose Breasted Grosbeak of the summer! We were able to sex her by the coloration under her wing. Females have a yellow coloration, whereas males have a pink under wing color. We managed to band her without being bit too badly either! The same, unfortunately, cannot be said for the male Rose Breasted Grosbeak that we caught in the spring. Sadly he got us both. The bites are definitely worth it though, they're really neat birds. Its just always a bit of a challenge to get them out of the net with your fingers intact. We've learned to give them a bit of rope to chomp down as a means to distract them.

Along with all the migrants, we've also been getting a lot of volunteers coming through over the last couple weeks! Thanks to James and Sarah, Julia, and Irene and Onyx who have come by.

Table 1. Species captures for Fall Migration August 1st to 15th, 2012

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Alder Flycatcher	2	0	0	0	0	2
American Redstart	2	0	0	0	0	2
American Goldfinch	5	0	0	0	0	5
Black and White Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Black Capped Chickadee	4	4	0	0	1	9
Black Throated Green Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Clay Colored Sparrow	3	0	0	0	2	5
Cedar Waxwing	2	0	0	0	0	2
Downy Woodpecker	0	0	0	0	1	1
Hairy Woodpecker	1	0	0	0	1	2
House Wren	1	6	0	0	7	14
Least Flycatcher	65	6	0	0	5	76
Magnolia Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
McGillvary's Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Oven Bird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rose Breasted Grosbeak	1	0	0	0	0	1
Sharp Shinned Hawk	1	0	0	0	0	1
Tennessee Warbler	6	0	0	0	0	6
Trail's Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	0	1
Willow Flycatcher	3	0	0	0	0	3
Warbling Vireo	5	1	0	0	0	6
White Throated Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Yellow Bellied Sapsucker	1	0	0	0	0	1
Yellow Warbler	11	0	1	0	0	12
Total	122	17	1	0	17	157

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).

Net Hours: 816 NH

Capture Rate: 19.2 birds/ 100 NH

- 3 Banded at a location other than the BBO.
- 4 Caught in a mist-net but not banded (e.g. escaped net).