

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update, September 1-15, 2012

It's been another terrific couple of weeks at the BBO! We've caught a lot of different species, a total of 35, and a lot of birds, a total of 294 birds! As such, we've been incredibly busy! We've even been utilizing Meaghan's bike to help with net checks so that we don't get too behind! Along with songbird banding, we started owl banding on September 10th, and have been getting ready for the fall by doing chores around the lab!

Amazingly the number of catches for the first two weeks of September this year is almost double that of last year! Last year from September 1st-15th 155 birds were caught, whereas this year 294 birds were caught. The catches almost doubled from last year!

The vast majority of our catches were Myrtle Warblers. The Myrtles made up 45.9% of our catches! Thankfully they're a lovely bird, albeit a little tricky to age and sex at times, but none the less a pleasure to be catching! We caught a couple sleek older males, who are still very bright even in the fall! Other species that made up the majority of our totals were Red Breasted Nuthatches (a personal favourite), Least Flycatchers, Ovenbirds, and White Throated Sparrows.



Myrtle Warbler.

Some of the most notable catches of the last two weeks include a Fox Sparrow, an American Tree Sparrow and some adorable Ruby Crowned Kinglets!



Fox Sparrow.

During the last two weeks we caught the first Fox Sparrow of the year! Walking up to the net, he was definitely a bit of a surprise! Being a larger Sparrow and being bright rufous, it was clear that we caught a Fox Sparrow! The next day we spotted a couple more Fox Sparrows, but unfortunately they evaded the nets! Thankfully there should be more to stop

by with the onset of fall.



Another very exciting capture was an American Tree Sparrow although he was quite sassy while being extracted! The American Tree Sparrow was aged as an after hatch year bird



Ruby Crowned Kinglet.

Mohawk!

Northern Saw Whet Owl mist netting started on September 10th. Strangely enough we caught our first Saw Whet that night! Which was very unexpected! I had a hard time composing myself, they're so ridiculously cute! We heard a pair of Great Horned Owls a couple of nights in a row while we were banding which was really cool, although it meant that we didn't catch any Saw Whets that night!

Thanks to everyone who has been coming out to visit lately! We've been getting a fair amount of visitors and volunteers out, including Irene, Jesse, Logan, Alex, Steven, Lorelei, Chris, Thea, Julia, and a group of students from NAIT! Thanks also to Geoff Holdroyd, and Jim Beck who came out to band with me while Meaghan was away on days off!

Also, a friendly reminder that Steaks and Saw Whets is coming up quickly, September 28th and 29th! It's already more than half full, so if you are interested in coming please contact Lisa Priestly as soon as possible!

Sassy American Tree Sparrow.

By far my favourite new species from the last two weeks is the Ruby Crowned Kinglet! We've caught a total of 5 individuals. They are very squirmy, and are a little tricky to extract, but they are definitely worth it. They're adorable little birds that weight about 6 grams. They're especially cute when they have their distinctive ruby crown! It looks like a little



Northern Saw Whet Owl.

| Species | Banded | Repeat¹ | Return² | Foreign³ | Other⁴ | Total |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| American Redstart | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| American Tree Sparrow | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Bay Breasted Warbler | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Black and White Warbler | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Black Capped Chickadee | 8 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 28 |
| Blackpoll Warbler | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Cedar Waxwing | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Fox Sparrow | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Hermit Thrush | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| House Wren | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Least Flycatcher | 8 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Nashville Warbler | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Northern Flicker | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Magnolia Warbler | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Myrtle Warbler | 124 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 135 |
| Orange Crowned Warbler | 22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 22 |
| Ovenbird | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Red Breasted Nuthatch | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Red Eyed Vireo | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Ruby Crowned Kinglet | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| Ruffed Grouse | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Slate Colored Junco | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 14 |
| Sparrow sp. | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Swainson's Thrush | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Tennessee Warbler | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Warbling Vireo | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| White Breasted Nuthatch | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| White Crowned Sparrow | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| White Throated Sparrow | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7 |
| Wilson's Warbler | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Yellow Bellied Sapsucker | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Yellow Warbler | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 246 | 27 | 1 | 0 | 20 | 294 |

Net Hours: 872 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).