

## Weekly Update August 13<sup>th</sup> to August 19<sup>th</sup> 2016

This week we have finally experienced the beginning of migration!! Some days still have slow catch rates, but we have seen many new species this week, and we caught 27 species in total during the week! Exciting catches, among others, included another Black-billed Magpie!!! Crazy! We also finally had a solid day of 43 birds caught. We also got some more typical migrants like Red-eyed Vireo, Northern Waterthrush, Eastern Phoebe, Wilsons Warbler, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Blackpoll Warbler, and Black and White Warbler. These birds do not breed here so they are clearly migrating through.



Left photo: Black-billed Magpie. Right photo: American Redstart. The contrast between the orange on the body and the yellow under the wing indicates it is a young male rather than a female. Photo credits Helmi Hess.

However, regular fall migration wasn't the only banding we did this week. Geoff, our Chair of the Board, came in and did a few hours of hummingbird banding with us. In the Beaverhill Natural Area, we only catch Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, but we can catch them throughout the spring and summer, because they breed here. It is rare that we can band these birds, although they are sometimes caught in mist nets, because only our Chair of the Board has the appropriate permit. This week Geoff caught and banded a variety of ages of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, and one of the individuals was an older male with a gorgeous throat.

The Beaverhill Bird Observatory is a popular place right now. A recent article that Emily submitted to the Tofield Mercury prompted them to send a staff member out to interview us. Emily submitted an article about the flooding and high water levels in Lister Lake and the Beaverhill lakebed. It inspired a lot of interest in Tofield, and people wanted more information. Hopefully this translates to more interest in the bird observatory, and the Beaverhill lakebed.

Oddly, fall seems to be in full swing despite it still being mid-August. The unusual weather conditions appeared to stress our poplar trees so their leaves began turning brown and dropping off mid-July. The aspen trees are still mostly green but there are many bare poplar trees and we are often removing leaves from the nets. By this week, we also have also begun to see cooler temperatures overnight, with many nights of 8 degrees, and even one of 4 degrees Celsius. Chilly! There is one bonus though... finally, finally, the mosquitoes are getting better. They are still not gone, but the relatively lower temperatures overnight are keeping them down. Thank goodness.



Fall at the BBO.

This week we put up four new bat boxes! They are looking sharp. These large and very narrow boxes were painted a dark green to help absorb heat. They were placed facing south in each located because this is very important to keep the bats warm. We put them in some closed canopy habitat and in some treed area by a small meadow and it will be interesting to see which areas the bats prefer.

Thanks to Alyssa, Alyshia, Irene, Geoff and Gemma, Jordan, Matt, Ronnie, Rebecca from the Tofield Mercury, and other visitors. Not to mention a big thanks to Helmi for volunteering for two weeks!!! Your help keeps the observatory going.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Banded</b>	<b>Repeat<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Return<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Foreign<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Other<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	0	0	0	0	2	2
Black-billed Magpie	1	0	0	0	0	1
Alder Flycatcher	3	0	0	0	0	3
Trails Flycatcher	3	0	0	0	0	3
Least Flycatcher	61	10	1	0	2	74
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2	0	0	0	0	2
Black-capped Chickadee	0	7	0	0	2	9
House Wren	5	0	0	0	0	5
Warbling Vireo	10	1	0	0	0	11
Philadelphia Vireo	1	0	0	0	0	1
Red-eyed Vireo	1	0	0	0	0	1
Eastern Phoebe	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	1	0	0	0	2
Tennessee Warbler	9	1	1	0	0	11
Yellow Warbler	9	3	0	0	0	12
Myrtle Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Magnolia Warbler	8	0	0	0	1	9
American Redstart	10	0	0	0	1	11
Blackpoll Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Wilson's Warbler	6	0	0	0	0	6
Ovenbird	5	0	0	0	0	5
Common Yellowthroat	0	0	0	1	0	1
Black and White Warbler	1	0	0	0	1	2
Northern Waterthrush	2	0	0	0	0	2
LeConte's Sparrow	2	0	0	0	0	2
Clay-coloured Sparrow	5	3	1	0	1	10
American Goldfinch	2	1	0	0	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>193</b>

Birds Caught                    193  
 Net Hours                        494  
 Capture Rate:                    39.07

Capture Rate was 39.07 birds/100 Net Hours.

- 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).