

## Beaverhill Bird Observatory Bi-Weekly Update: August 1<sup>st</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014

With the final days of MAPS banding in the books, the BBO staff were looking forward to fall migration. However, a late night thunderstorm the night before made the landscape very damp, and delayed the grand opening. Once we did get going though, we caught 5 species and 19 birds (probably close to the grand total for an entire MAPS station).

By the end of the third morning of fall migration we had already banded 50 birds over 10 species, when MAPS reared its ugly head again. In the afternoon of August 3<sup>rd</sup>, the staff conducted a Habitat Suitability Assessment (HSA) on each of the three MAPS stations. An HSA shows the different breeding habitat types present in a MAPS station and can help elucidate what bird species breed in which habitats. The next HSA won't have to be completed – or updated – until 2018. And with that, MAPS is officially done for 2014.

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, I extracted and banded my first Black-capped Chickadee. I have heard horror stories of extracting Black-capped Chickadees from every bird-bander I have ever met, and so to extract one I feel is a right-of-passage for me. Now I feel like a real bird-bander. That same day we also banded our first Downy Woodpecker of the Fall season.

On the 7<sup>th</sup>, the legendary Jim Beck came out to be head-bander for the weekend. His first day here we caught an Orange-crowned Warbler and he helped us cut a large tree that had fallen down on one of the Owl net lanes and took out one of the poles. On the second day of Jim, Al and his brother-in-law tried to install a new propane heater in the lab, but it was dented and needed to be taken back... so they settled for just installing new, 1 Watt lights in the lab; Al always finds something he can improve! On the third day of Jim we banded a small flock of four Chickadees – no problem for us. But on August 10<sup>th</sup>, the last day of Jim, we banded a record 68 birds! Tennessee Warblers (14), Yellow Warblers (11) and Warbling Vireos (12) were on the move. We also caught an over-abundance of Least Flycatchers (25). It was crazy busy.

From the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> the banding was slow, but the staff spent the afternoons working on their articles. Which worked out well for the staff, as outside was exceptionally dense with mosquitoes.

It is worth noting that although the *new* nets out-caught the *historical* nets overall, nets 9 and 9X have been very productive. Net 9 was open for the least amount of time, but managed to capture more birds than any other net during this two week time period (56), and is the only net to have a capture rate of more than one bird per hour; although

net 56 came close with 45 birds in 53 hours. Together, 9 and 9X caught 80 birds in 98 hours, more than double the capture rate for the *new* nets.

A huge thanks to regular volunteers – Allyn Esau, Alyshia, Alyssa Bohart, Emily Cicon, Michelle Zarowny, Norma-Jane Young, and Victoria Giacobbo for all their time and help! We the staff, are very lucky to have such great visitors, volunteers, and Board members at the BBO.

### Appendices:

Table 1. Banding results from *historical* nets, August 1<sup>st</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

| Species                | Banded     | Repeat <sup>1</sup> | Return <sup>2</sup> | Foreign <sup>3</sup> | Other <sup>4</sup> | Total      |
|------------------------|------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------|
| American Goldfinch     | 1          | 0                   | 0                   | 0                    | 3                  | 4          |
| American Redstart      | 1          | 0                   | 0                   | 0                    | 0                  | 1          |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 7          | 5                   | 0                   | 0                    | 0                  | 12         |
| Downy Woodpecker       | 3          | 1                   | 0                   | 0                    | 0                  | 4          |
| Fox Sparrow            | 1          | 0                   | 0                   | 0                    | 0                  | 1          |
| Gray Catbird           | 1          | 0                   | 1                   | 0                    | 0                  | 2          |
| Hairy Woodpecker       | 1          | 0                   | 0                   | 0                    | 0                  | 1          |
| House Wren             | 1          | 0                   | 0                   | 0                    | 0                  | 1          |
| Least Flycatcher       | 57         | 4                   | 0                   | 0                    | 6                  | 67         |
| Myrtle Warbler         | 2          | 0                   | 0                   | 0                    | 0                  | 2          |
| Red-eyed Vireo         | 1          | 0                   | 0                   | 0                    | 0                  | 1          |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | 1          | 0                   | 0                   | 0                    | 0                  | 1          |
| Swainson's Thrush      | 1          | 0                   | 0                   | 0                    | 0                  | 1          |
| Tennessee Warbler      | 10         | 1                   | 0                   | 0                    | 0                  | 11         |
| Trail's Flycatcher     | 1          | 0                   | 0                   | 0                    | 0                  | 1          |
| Warbling Vireo         | 6          | 4                   | 0                   | 0                    | 2                  | 12         |
| Yellow Warbler         | 5          | 0                   | 1                   | 0                    | 0                  | 6          |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>100</b> | <b>15</b>           | <b>2</b>            | <b>0</b>             | <b>11</b>          | <b>128</b> |

*Net Hours: 635 NH*  
*Capture Rate: 20 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).

Table 2. Banding results from *new* nets, August 1<sup>st</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

| 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     |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 2      | 3                   | 0                   | 0                    | 0                  | 5     |
| Brown-headed Cowbird   | 1      | 0                   | 0                   | 0                    | 0                  | 1     |

|                           |            |           |          |          |           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------|------------|
| Cedar Waxwing             | 4          | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0         | 4          |
| Chipping Sparrow          | 1          | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0         | 1          |
| Clay-colored Sparrow      | 0          | 2         | 0        | 0        | 0         | 2          |
| Blackpoll Warbler         | 3          | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0         | 3          |
| Brown Creeper             | 0          | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0         | 0          |
| Brown-headed Cowbird      | 3          | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0         | 3          |
| Chipping Sparrow          | 27         | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0         | 27         |
| Clay-colored Sparrow      | 4          | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0         | 5          |
| Downy Woodpecker          | 2          | 1         | 0        | 0        | 0         | 3          |
| Hairy Woodpecker          | 1          | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0         | 1          |
| House Wren                | 3          | 1         | 0        | 0        | 2         | 6          |
| Least Flycatcher          | 53         | 7         | 0        | 0        | 3         | 63         |
| Myrtle Warbler            | 1          | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0         | 1          |
| Orange-crowned Warbler    | 1          | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0         | 1          |
| Red-eyed Vireo            | 1          | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0         | 1          |
| Song Sparrow              | 1          | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0         | 1          |
| Swainson's Thrush         | 1          | 0         | 1        | 0        | 0         | 2          |
| Tennessee Warbler         | 17         | 1         | 0        | 0        | 3         | 21         |
| Warbling Vireo            | 18         | 2         | 0        | 0        | 2         | 22         |
| Yellow Warbler            | 12         | 2         | 0        | 0        | 1         | 15         |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | 1          | 0         | 0        | 0        | 0         | 1          |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>149</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>176</b> |

*Net Hours: 447 NH*  
*Capture Rate: 39 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).