

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update August 23 – 30, 2021

The week began with a thorough, albeit much-needed drenching of rain, which was almost immediately absorbed by the thirsty ground. As storms do, it drove a major influx of birds ahead of it, and the next morning, with the benefit of our experimental nets, our capture rates went through the roof! For three days in a row, we were forced to close nets so as to avoid being overwhelmed by high volumes of Yellow, Tennessee and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Not even the migration nets, which are still lagging behind our new experimental net lanes, were safe, capturing a startlingly large flock of warblers all at once, including an out-of-range Nashville Warbler! They continued to perform surprisingly well throughout the week, capturing a wide variety of warblers and vireos, several more Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, and two Hairy Woodpeckers, one of which was a female that was at least five years old!

For some perspective on just how busy the weeks were in the last week, our four experimental nets alone nearly caught as many birds in six days as our thirteen standard nets caught in the entire spring season. That's a bit of an upgrade!

For those of you wanting some hands-on action with our new influx of birds, our new volunteer portal is now launched and accepting applicants! Banding is an excellent way to get some hands-on experience with wildlife handling and identification, as well as a great thing to show off to your friends about! Volunteers can sign up through our newly launched When to Help portal, available via our [website](#).

As another exciting development, we were pleased to formally host our first group of visitors for the fall migration season! For those of you reading this who haven't yet reserved a slot, do so at your earliest opportunity. Our visitor slots are limited and tickets are going fast. Click [HERE](#) to buy your tickets today!

This week's episode of BirdBytes is live on both [YouTube](#) and Instagram, and features a quick look at the Tennessee Warbler, a boreal migrant that has been quite numerous in the natural area of late. Give it a watch on your platform of choice!

That's all for this week. Keep an eye on our social media for updates on the upcoming and much anticipated Saw-Whet Owl banding program!



A lovely male Mourning Warbler in his full adult plumage. No idea what he's so sad about; he looks great!



Not to be outshone, this Magnolia Warbler flashes his striking white tail-bar. Calm down, bud, you're pretty too.

Standardized Migration Monitoring

| Species | Banded | Repeat¹ | Return² | Foreign³ | Other⁴ | Total |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Traill's Flycatcher | 13 | | | | | 13 |
| Least Flycatcher | 6 | | | | 1 | 7 |
| Yellow-Bellied Flycatcher | 3 | | | | | 3 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 1 | | 1 | | | 2 |
| Black-Capped Chickadee | 7 | 8 | 2 | | | 17 |
| House Wren | 1 | | | | 1 | 2 |
| Myrtle Warbler | 30 | | | | 1 | 31 |
| Northern Waterthrush | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Ovenbird | 8 | | | | | 8 |
| Tennessee Warbler | 8 | | | | | 8 |
| Yellow Warbler | 17 | | | | 1 | 18 |
| Magnolia Warbler | 3 | | | | | 3 |
| Blackpoll Warbler | 3 | | | | | 3 |
| Wilson's Warbler | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| American Redstart | 6 | 1 | | | | 7 |
| Nashville Warbler | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Blackpoll Warbler | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Bay-Breasted Warbler | 1 | 1 | | | | 2 |
| Mourning Warbler | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| Cape May Warbler | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Common Yellowthroat | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| Swainson's Thrush | 8 | | | | | 8 |
| White Throated Sparrow | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| Warbling Vireo | 3 | | | | | 3 |
| Red-Eyed Vireo | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Total | 132 | 10 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 149 |

425.5 net-hours

35 captures/100 net-hours

Non-standard banding (experimental new nets)

| Species | Banded | Repeat¹ | Return² | Foreign³ | Other⁴ | Total |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Traill's Flycatcher | 7 | | | | 1 | 8 |
| Least Flycatcher | 9 | | | | 1 | 10 |
| Black-Capped Chickadee | 9 | 7 | | | | 16 |
| House Wren | 1 | 1 | | | | 2 |
| Tennessee Warbler | 26 | 2 | | | 6 | 34 |
| Yellow Warbler | 43 | 2 | | | 3 | 46 |
| Magnolia Warbler | 4 | | | | | 4 |
| Myrtle Warbler | 74 | 2 | | | 5 | 81 |
| Black-and-White Warbler | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| Northern Waterthrush | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| American Redstart | 6 | | | | | 6 |
| Wilson's Warbler | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Bay-Breasted Warbler | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Blackpoll Warbler | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| Common Yellowthroat | 8 | | | | 1 | 9 |
| Savannah Sparrow | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Clay-Coloured Sparrow | 8 | | | | | 8 |
| Song Sparrow | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Swainson's Thrush | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Warbling Vireo | 3 | | | | | 3 |
| Philadelphia Vireo | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Purple Finch | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Grey Catbird | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Total | 212 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 243 |

49.5 net hours

490.9 captures/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).