

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update July 20 – July 29, 2022

Fall migration is now underway at the Beaverhill Bird Observatory! This might sound weird at first considering it's still July, but for our birdy friends autumn comes early. Many species of shorebird that breed on the Arctic tundra are already headed south for their wintering grounds in South America, and many of our resident Tree Swallows have left for their molting grounds in the Dakotas.

So far during our bird banding operations we've also encountered a number of species migrating south from their breeding grounds in the boreal forest. So far we've caught a good number of Tennessee Warblers, a few Myrtle Warblers, two Ovenbirds, and a Blue-headed Vireo! During our daily census counts flocks of Yellowlegs and Dowitchers have been spotted overhead, and ducks have been plentiful as they gear up for their southward journeys.

Migration may have started, but staff also ran our three MAPS stations this week. It was a very busy week of banding thanks to the large number of juvenile birds remaining in the area in addition to ones moving through on migration. One notable capture was a Marsh Wren, a secretive but noisy songbird that breeds in cattail marshes.



This Blue-headed Vireo stopped by the BBO on its way from the boreal forest to its wintering grounds in the southern United States!



In addition to our monitoring programs, staff have been hard at work getting ready for the Young Ornithologists' Workshop which begins next week! We will be hosting 11 youth this year for a full week of learning how to be a field biologist. You can find more information about this program on [our website!](#)

Marsh Wrens breed in cattail marshes. They may be tiny, but their song is very loud and reminiscent of a sewing machine!

Table 1. Standard Migration Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Least Flycatcher	27	1				28
House Wren	3	1				4
Warbling Vireo	1					1
Red-eyed Vireo	1					1
Yellow Warbler	4	1	1			6
Red-winged Blackbird					1	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird					2	2
Black-capped Chickadee	3	1				4
Red-eyed Vireo		1				1
Brown-headed Cowbird	1					1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1					1
American Robin		1				1
Swainson's Thrush	2					2
TOTALS	43	6	1	0	3	53

487.5 net-hours

10.9 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).

Table 2. Experimental Nets Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Trail's Flycatcher	2	6				8
Least Flycatcher	52	5			2	59
Black-capped Chickadee	9	4				13
House Wren	26	1			1	28
Red-eyed Vireo	1					1
Tennessee Warbler	22	1			1	24
Yellow Warbler	108	6			4	118
Ovenbird					1	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	20					20
Common Yellowthroat	9					9
LeConte's Sparrow	2					2
Warbling Vireo			1			1
Myrtle Warbler	4					4
Baltimore Oriole	1					1
Song Sparrow	2		1		1	4
Unidentified Sparrow					1	1
White-throated Sparrow	1					1
TOTALS	259	23	2	0	11	295

145 net-hours

203.4 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).

Table 3. MAPS Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Least Flycatcher	25	3			1	29
Black-capped Chickadee	12	1			2	15
Yellow Warbler	13					13
Baltimore Oriole	1					1
Red-winged Blackbird	7				9	16
Downy Woodpecker	1					1
Trail's Flycatcher	1					1
House Wren	2					2
Swainson's Thrush	2					2
American Robin	2	2	2			6
Cedar Waxwing	3					3
Warbling Vireo	5					5
Red-eyed Vireo	2					2
Tennessee Warbler	2					2
Myrtle Warbler	1					1
Ovenbird	1					1
Clay-colored Sparrow		1				1
Brown-headed Cowbird	1					1
Blue-headed Vireo	1					1
Marsh Wren	1				1	2
Song Sparrow	4					4
White-throated Sparrow	1					1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	1				2
Common Yellowthroat	1					1
TOTALS	90	9	2	0	13	114

153 net-hours

74.5 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).