

## BEAVERHILL BIRD OBSERVATORY UPDATE AUGUST 1-7, 2007

FALL MIGRATION MONITORING has begun and we're off to a good start! MAPS was extremely slow this year compared to other years, and it feels good to get our bird extracting and banding skills back up to speed. One of the highlights have been juvenile Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, one which flew into a net while we were putting them in place for fall migration – it just couldn't wait to be caught!

We have caught juveniles of many species so far. Sometimes they are easy to identify as the young of this year by streaked or spotted plumage, but often the only distinction is that adults have feathers of a different shape or wear than juveniles. All birds replace feathers at least once a year, but how many depends on their age and species. Since young birds need to grow their first set of feathers quickly to get out of the nest and start flying, their feathers are of lower quality, often are thinner, more sharply pointed and duller in colour. We look for these differences while determining the age of birds we catch.



*Juvenile Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*



*Myrtle Warbler in fall plumage*

Unfortunately, we've lost a few hours of banding this week to wind and rain. It is actually raining as I write this, so August is feeling more like spring at the moment! However, the few leaves that are turning yellow and falling off the trees remind us otherwise. Katie Cameron, one of the staff from last year, came out to band during one of our days off and also stayed to help out after we returned. Even though banding was slow that day so the extra hands and banding expertise were not made as useful as they could have been, it was still great to have her and Annie (her dog) around.

We have seen a good number of birds in the net, including a significant increase in Tennessee Warbler captures and the return of Myrtle Warblers. There are many warblers in the trees, chipping and flitting about. Since we try to identify and count all the birds we see during the day, this can be very frustrating, but also exciting because it may mean lots of birds during the next net check! Fall is usually a busier time for bird captures than spring, so it is a great time to come out and see some banding in action, and you are more than welcome to do so. We may even put you to work recording the data!



*Tennessee Warbler*

- Anna and Allicia

Table 1: Results from Fall Migration Monitoring August 1 – August 7, 2007.

<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>
Alder Flycatcher	2	0	0	0	0	2
American Goldfinch	3	0	0	0	0	3
Black-and-White Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Black-capped Chickadee	3	3	0	0	0	6
Downy Woodpecker	2	1	0	0	0	3
Hermit Thrush	1	0	0	0	0	1
House Wren	1	0	0	0	0	1
Least Flycatcher	32	1	0	0	0	33
Myrtle Warbler	4	1	0	0	0	5
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	0	0	0	0	1
Song Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Swainson's Thrush	1	2	0	0	0	3
Tennessee Warbler	15	0	0	0	0	15
Warbling Vireo	5	2	1	0	0	8
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	0	0	0	0	2
Yellow Warbler	29	0	1	0	1	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>116</b>

*Net Hours: 464.5 NH*

*Capture Rate: 24.97 birds/ 100 NH*

<sup>1</sup> Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO.

<sup>2</sup> Banded at the BBO > 90 days prior to recapture (e.g. in a previous year).

<sup>3</sup> Banded at a location other than the BBO.

<sup>4</sup> Caught in a mist-net but not banded (e.g. escaped net).



*Sunrise over the swallow grid*