

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update, May 15 – May 31, 2011



The Olive-sided Flycatcher!

Despite no busy banding days so far this month (our busiest day was 33 birds in the nets), we have caught some great birds in the last 2 weeks! We were all really surprised and excited to see the Olive-sided Flycatcher in the nets on the 27th. This is only the 3rd capture of this species at the BBO in the electronic records dating back to 1999, and a first for everyone at the lab that day. Katie also found a Brown Creeper hanging in the nets one morning. It was great to get a close look at such a unique species, even if he probably was

a little lost: Brown Creepers are usually found in older coniferous forest. Although Katie and I are both awaiting the usual wave of migrating warblers to come through, we did enjoy the Magnolia and Mourning Warblers that were caught. A trip out to the weir one evening also rewarded us with a great non-bird sighting of a badger, who was likely roaming around the shorelines looking for eggs.

We would like to welcome Sara, Maya and Ghazi who are here for the Golondrinas de las Americas project this summer. The crew for all 3 Canadian stations met up in Tofield for training, and were able to spend some time out at the lab with us before going their separate ways. It should be interesting to see if the bug population this spring has an effect on the Tree Swallow productivity: there is certainly no shortage of food for them! We are also looking forward to seeing what kind of information they collect using the new protocols for this year, as the adult birds will be fitted with RFID tags to track their activity going in and out of the nest boxes.



Katie with a handful of Yellow Warblers

The staff also participated in the Baillie Birdathon this year. The Golondrinas Crew came out with us to spend the day trying to see as many species as possible. We were able to count 79 species around the Tofield area.

The observatory has also been busy with people! We were able to catch enough birds for everyone in the Junior Forest Wardens group to get some hands on experience during their visit on the May long weekend. Thanks again to Erin Low who stayed out at the lab to volunteer, and the many visitors who have dropped by. Irene and Onyx, as well as Anna, Micah and Finn have been out regularly to check out the goings on in the natural area, and Mike Potter helped out with the banding. Maureen and Brenna, MC, Todd, Thera and Amir also all came out one morning to visit with the birds and the birders. A huge thank you to Al DeGroot for coming out and finishing both the roof on the lab and installing the fantastic new windows in our sleeping cabin.

Table 1. Results from Spring Migration Monitoring, May 15 – May 31, 2011.

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Goldfinch	1	0	0	0	0	1
American Redstart	1	0	0	0	0	1
American Robin	4	0	0	0	0	4
Baltimore Oriole	1	2	2	0	2	7
Brown-headed Cowbird	4	2	2	0	1	9
Blackpoll Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Brown Creeper	1	0	0	0	0	1
Clay-coloured Sparrow	31	5	0	0	2	38
Chipping Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Gray Catbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hairy Woodpecker	1	0	0	0	0	1
House Wren	13	1	0	0	2	16
Least Flycatcher	39	15	12	0	5	71
Magnolia Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Mourning Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Myrtle Warbler	4	0	0	0	0	4
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	0	0	0	0	1
Song Sparrow	1	3	0	0	1	5
Swainson's Thrush	18	0	0	0	1	19
Tree Swallow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Veery	1	0	1	0	0	2
Willow Flycatcher	2	0	0	0	0	2
White-throated Sparrow	2	0	0	0	0	2
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2	0	0	0	0	2
Yellow Warbler	11	12	12	0	3	38
Total	145	40	29	0	17	231

Net Hours: 854 NH

Capture Rate: 27.05 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).



Hardcore birders at the weir



The Brown Creeper



Ghazi, Katie, Sara and Maya with the beautiful Red-breasted Grosbeak