

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update August 1 – 14th, 2011

Fall Migration Monitoring has officially begun! Starting on August 1st we opened the nets and were happy to have a relatively busy day with 29 birds. They were still all resident species, Least Flycatchers, Black-capped Chickadees, a Yellow Warbler and an American Goldfinch, but it was nice to catch so many. The next day Meaghan left to do bat surveys for Strix Ecological Consulting for two weeks, so I was on my own the rest of the time. I have started to catch some of the neat fall migrants, starting with the Tennessee Warblers. I caught both a Hatch Year bird and an After Hatch Year which was still molting, and it was neat to compare them. Both birds were molting body feathers, but only the AHY was molting its flight feathers.



After Hatch Year TEWA

Hatch Year TEWA

On August 9th, I was so excited to finally catch a Cedar Waxwing. These birds are just undeniably beautiful, and I haven't caught one for such a long time even though they are around all summer. I was really surprised on August 11th when I caught two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. I don't know why, but we haven't had them at the lab all summer long, despite having the feeder set. It was great to see them; they are always a fascinating bird to see up close. On the same day, I also caught the first Ovenbird of the fall.



On August 14th Lisa came out to band with me. It was great to have the company, and she caught some cool birds too! A very young Hermit Thrush, as well as a Blackpoll Warbler, and the first Black-and-White Warbler of the entire year. Thanks for coming out Lisa!

We will be starting to monitor bat fall migration at the BBO this year. We use the same mist-nets as for the birds, but set them up in different areas and open them after dark. So far we haven't caught anything, but we are hoping to try a few more nights in the coming weeks.



Table 1. Results from Songbird Banding August 1 - 14, 2011.

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Alder Flycatcher	2	0	0	0	0	2
American Goldfinch	1	0	0	0	0	1
Black-and-White Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Black-capped Chickadee	8	4	0	0	1	13
Blackpoll Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	3	0	0	0	0	3
Cedar Waxwing	1	0	0	0	0	1
Gray Catbird	1	1	0	0	0	2
Hermit Thrush	1	0	0	0	0	1
House Wren	2	0	0	0	0	2
Least Flycatcher	71	9	1	0	2	83
Ovenbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	0	0	0	0	2	2
Song Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Tennessee Warbler	9	0	0	0	0	9
Warbling Vireo	2	0	0	0	0	2
Willow Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	0	1
Yellow Warbler	5	1	0	0	1	7
Total	111	15	1	0	6	133

Net Hours: 730 NH

Capture Rate: 18.21 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).



Black-and-White Warbler



Molting Gray Catbird