

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update July 20-29, 2024



This female Cooper's Hawk was a very exciting capture. Look at the size of her talons!

While windy and rainy weather limited our banding this week, we still got some very exciting captures on the days we were able to open nets! While running our BLAB MAPS station on July 20, we caught a female Cooper's Hawk on one of the first net checks! We rarely catch these hawks due to their larger size, and were very fortunate to get to it before it escaped from the net.

Our other MAPS stations more than pulled their weight this week as well. While banding at SOPO, we caught 130 birds in a single morning! The staff were extremely busy that morning thanks to the high bird volume, which mostly consisted of young Yellow Warblers. Most of our captures were young birds, suggesting this was a good breeding year for local species.

At our LILA MAPS station we didn't manage the same high numbers of birds, but we did get a very high diversity of species. 15 different types of birds were captured including several Marsh Wrens, a Swamp Sparrow, and a very out of place Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. These flycatchers normally migrate through the BBO in August and September, so catching one in July was a big surprise!



Yellow Warblers like this cutie were our most abundant capture this week.



This week also marked the start of our fall migration monitoring program. While it might sound early to be talking about fall migration in July, many species of shorebirds and songbirds are already on the move south to their wintering grounds. Many of our local breeding Tree Swallows have departed, while shorebirds like Semipalmated Plovers and Least Sandpipers are appearing for the first time since May. Few migrant species have been captured in the nets aside from a lone Myrtle Warbler, but we suspect things will start picking up in the coming weeks.

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers breed in boreal bogs, so it was very surprising to catch this one during MAPS!

Table 1. Standard Migration Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Baltimore Oriole	1					1
Black-capped Chickadee	1	1				2
Gray Catbird	1					1
House Wren	3					3
Least Flycatcher	32	9			1	42
Myrtle Warbler	1					1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird					1	1
Tennessee Warbler	1					1
Warbling Vireo	1					1
White-throated Sparrow	1					1
Yellow Warbler	12	2				14
TOTALS	54	12	0	0	2	68

278 net-hours

24.5 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).

Table 2. Experimental Nets Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Baltimore Oriole	1					1
Brown-headed Cowbird	1					1
Clay-colored Sparrow	6					6
Cedar Waxwing	1					1
House Wren	3					3
Least Flycatcher	24	1	1			26
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1					1
Song Sparrow	1					1
Tennessee Warbler	5					5
Warbling Vireo	4	1			1	6
Yellow Warbler	39	4			1	44
TOTALS	86	6	1	0	2	95

19 net-hours

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

500.0 captures/100 net-hours

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. BLAB Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Black-capped Chickadee	1					1
Cooper's Hawk	1					1
House Wren	1					1
Least Flycatcher	6		1		1	8
White-throated Sparrow		1				1
TOTALS	9	1	1	0	1	12

60 net-hours

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

20.0 captures/100 net-hours

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 4. SOPO Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Trail's Flycatcher	1					1
Least Flycatcher	22	1				23
Black-capped Chickadee	8	1				9
House Wren	3	1				4
Warbling Vireo	1					1
Tennessee Warbler	9					9
Yellow Warbler	67	3			1	71
Clay-colored Sparrow	6					6
Song Sparrow	3	1				4
Gray Catbird			1			1
Marsh Wren	1					1
TOTALS	121	7	1	0	1	130

40.5 net-hours

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

321.0 captures/100 net-hours

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 5. LILA Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Least Flycatcher	9	1				10
Black-capped Chickadee	1					1
House Wren	4	1			1	6
American Robin	1					1
Tennessee Warbler	4					3
Yellow Warbler	26	1			2	29
Clay-colored Sparrow	1					1
Song Sparrow	4				2	6
White-throated Sparrow	1					1
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1					1
Common Yellowthroat	1					1

Marsh Wren	3				1	4
Swamp Sparrow	1					1
Cedar Waxwing	1					1
Gray Catbird	3					3
TOTALS	61	3	0	0	6	70

42 net-hours

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

166.7 captures/100 net-hours

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).