

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly update - July 30th to August 8th, 2024



Participants of the Young Ornithologist's Workshop 2024! From left to right and top to bottom: Geoff Holroyd, Helen Trefry, Emelie Dykstra, Mariana Prado, Anna Reichenbach, Casey Elliott, Jana Teefy, Jewels (dog and official greeter), Jon Van Arragon, Xavier Quantz, Ethan Denton, Cohen Seatter, Jocelyn Pyne, Bentley Colwill, Anna Heming, Andrew Tymchuk, Blake Gervais, Evan Gervais, and Niko Dmytriw.



We hear them often but this is the first Nelson's Sparrow (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) we caught this year year!

This was an exciting week with the 9th Young Ornithologist Workshop being run from August 2nd to the 8th! Ten youths from across Canada and the USA were chosen to join the BBO staff for a week of banding. Throughout this time the youth learned all the techniques required of a bander including aging and sexing based on plumage, measurements, skull, and much more. Eventually, they were even extracting birds from mist nets themselves!

Besides banding almost every day, the Workshop consisted of a variety of other activities. On the first day, the youth followed Ethan on a shorebird survey. The next day, David Lowrey (an undeniable butterfly expert) showed off an amazing preserved collection of insects and then took the youth to

collect bugs. The day after that was rainy and windy so banding had to be postponed. Instead, the youth participated in a bioblitz across the natural area where they identified as many species of plants, birds, fungi, and other forms of life as possible. This event was a success with 254 species being cataloged! On the next day, they travelled to the Trefry's Falconry where they got up close and personal with several raptors and also got to release ducklings into the wild. The next day, the youth went on a big day of birding led by Irene Crosland and Ethan through Elk Island and around Beaverhill Lake. After many hours of birding the group came up with a whopping 113 bird species! On the final day of the Workshop, the youth returned home after banding in the morning. The group this year was amazing and hopefully we see some of them around the BBO in the future!



The first Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) of the year!

This round of MAPS banding had mixed results; BLAB was characteristically slow, SOPO was busy with some exciting catches, and LILA was decent. SOPO turned up a few species that were new for this year including a Sedge Wren and Nelson's Sparrow! Despite the relative slowness of LILA, there was a Philadelphia Vireo caught which happens to be a first of the year as well. We were also treated to some first of years during Migration Monitoring including a Red-breasted Nuthatch and Yellow-shafted Flicker. Some other fun captures during this time were a Sharp-shinned Hawk and a higher-than-usual amount of LeConte's Sparrows.



Young Ornithologists out on the mudflats for a shorebird survey.



A Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*) in the undignified process of being banded.



Geoff demonstrating banding a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*)



The youths learning banding techniques around the banding bench.



Geoff demonstrating banding a Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*)



The Young Ornithologist along with Irene stop for a break and pose for a photo during their big day.

Table 1. Summary of MAPS banding at BLAB on August 3rd.

Species	Banded	Repeats ¹	Returns ²	Other ³	Total:
Least Flycatcher	4	2	2		8
Black-capped Chickadee		2			2
Warbling Vireo	1				1
Total:	5	4	2		11

60 net-hours

18.3 captures/100 net-hours

1 - banded 90 or fewer days ago, at the BBO

2 - banded over 90 days ago, at the BBO

3 - caught but not banded (e.g. escaped)

Table 2. Summary of MAPS banding at SOPO on August 4th.

Species	Banded	Repeats ¹	Returns ²	Other ³	Total:
Downy Woodpecker	2				2
Trail's Flycatcher	2				2
Least Flycatcher	21	4		2	27
Black-capped Chickadee	6	2			8
House Wren	1			1	2
Marsh Wren	1				1
Sedge Wren	1				1
American Robin		1			1
Gray Catbird	1	2	1		4
Warbling Vireo	1	1			2
Tennessee Warbler	1				1
Yellow Warbler	15	1		2	18
Northern Waterthrush	1				1
Common Yellowthroat	2	1			3
Song Sparrow	2				2

Nelson's Sparrow	1				1
Total:	58	12	1	5	76

47.5 net-hours

160 captures/100 net-hours

1 - banded 90 or fewer days ago, at the BBO
 2 - banded over 90 days ago, at the BBO
 3 - caught but not banded (e.g. escaped)

Table 3. Summary of MAPS banding at LILA on August 6th.

Species	Banded	Repeats ¹	Returns ²	Other ³	Total:
Least Flycatcher	17	1		1	19
Black-capped Chickadee	1	1			2
House Wren	1	1			2
Red-eyed Vireo	2				2
Philadelphia Vireo	1				1
Tennessee Warbler	4				4
Yellow Warbler	5	2			7
Northern Waterthrush	1				1
Common Yellowthroat	1				1
Total:	33	5		1	39

38.5 net-hours

101.3 captures/100 net-hours

1 - banded 90 or fewer days ago, at the BBO
 2 - banded over 90 days ago, at the BBO
 3 - caught but not banded (e.g. escaped)

<i>Regular Nets</i> <i>Species Code</i>	<i># of Captures</i>				
	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Unbanded ³	Grand Total
American Robin	3				3
Baltimore Oriole	3				3
Black-and-white Warbler	1				1
Back-capped Chickadee	4				4
Cedar Waxwing	1				1
House Wren	2		1		4
Least Flycatcher	64		12		79
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2				2
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1				1
Red-eyed vireo	2				2
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				1	1
Song Sparrow	2				2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1				1
Swainson's Thrush	2				2
Tennessee Warbler	4				4
Trail's Flycatcher	1				1
Warbling Vireo	5		1	2	8
Yellow Warbler	21		5		26
Yellow-shafted Flicker	1				1
Grand Total	120	19	2	5	146

638 net-hours

22.9 captures/100 net-hours

1 - banded 90 or fewer days ago, at the BBO

2 - banded over 90 days ago, at the BBO

3 - caught but not banded (e.g. escaped)

<i>Experimental Nets</i> <i>Species Code</i>	<i># of Captures</i>				
	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Unbanded ³	Grand Total
Black-capped Chickadee	6				6
Clay-coloured Sparrow	48		5		53
Cedar Waxwing	1				1
Chipping Sparrow	1				1
Common Yellowthroat	4				4
Downy Woodpecker	1				1
Gray Catbird	1		1		2
House Wren	19			1	20
LeConte's Sparrow	5				5
Least Flycatcher	75		7	3	85

Marsh Wren	1			1
Myrtle Warbler	1			1
Northern Waterthrush	1			1
Purple Finch	1			1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1			1
Red-eyed Vireo	1		1	2
Savannah Sparrow	1			1
Song Sparrow	3			3
Swainson's Thrush	1			1
Tennessee Warbler	30	1	1	32
Trail's Flycatcher	4			4
Unidentified Sparrow			1	1
Warbling Vireo	8	1	1	10
Yellow Warbler	156	23		182
Grand Total	370	38	1	419

122.5 net-hours

342 captures/100 net-hours

1 - banded 90 or fewer days ago, at the BBO
 2 - banded over 90 days ago, at the BBO
 3 - caught but not banded (e.g. escaped)