

# Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly update - August 24th to 30th, 2024



Mourning Warbler  
(*Geothlypis philadelphia*)

Due to uncooperative weather, we lost almost half of the potential hours our mist nets could be open. This meant the week didn't host a large number of captures. Despite this, various interesting species were captured as they moved through the natural area. These captures include 13 warbler species, the most of any week of fall so far. Some highlights among these warblers are Bay-breasted Warbler, Palm Warbler, Mourning Warbler, and Northern Waterthrush. In addition, this is the first week since spring where Yellow Warblers were not the most common warbler species with both Tennessee Warblers and Myrtle Warblers boasting a higher number of captures. Other than warblers, this week also turned up two Yellow-bellied flycatchers, a rare migrant in our area.

Our banders were accompanied by the first events of the fall this week. These events included classes from both Red Deer Polytechnic and the University of Alberta. The attendees of these events got to be a part of the day-to-day of the observatory including the banding process and interacting with Nina and Ken, our ambassador Burrowing Owl and Barbary Falcon.

While last week saw several of the quintessential summer birds at the BBO move on from the natural area this week saw classic fall birds begin to make appearances. The days this week were regularly punctuated with the squeaking of Greater White-fronted Geese and the bugling of Sandhill Cranes. In addition, the gentle chipping of American Pipits and Lapland Longspurs was heard with increasing regularity this week. The large migrant flocks of shorebirds are still a fixture on the shores of Beaverhill Lake. Among these flocks, a very rare Buff-breasted Sandpiper was located!



Our ambassador birds Nina (left) and Ken (right).

Aside from songbird banding the primary task this week was preparing for owl migration monitoring. With net lanes freshly cleared, the owl nets were set up and a fleet of brand new speakers, used to play owl songs to attract birds to the nets, were acquired. Usually, owls don't begin moving through the area until mid-September but to ensure the new speakers worked one night of owl banding was conducted. To everyone's surprise and delight one owl was captured!



The female hatch year Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*) that was caught this week.

<i>Standard Nets</i> <i>Species Code</i>	<i># of Captures</i>		<i>Grand Total</i>
	<i>Banded</i>	<i>Repeat</i> <sup>1</sup>	
American Redstart	2		2
Bay-breasted Warbler	1		1
Black-capped Chickadee	2	3	5
Cedar Waxwing	1		1
Downy Woodpecker	1		1
House Wren	3	1	4
Least Flycatcher	4	2	6
Magnolia Warbler	1		1
Mourning Warbler	1		1
Northern Waterthrush	2		2
Ovenbird	3		3
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2		2
Swainson's Thrush	7		7
Trail's Flycatcher	1		1
White-breasted Nuthatch	1		1
White-throated Sparrow	1		1
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2		2
Yellow Warbler	1		1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>42</b>

419 net-hours

10.0 captures/100 net-

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

<i>Experimental Nets</i> <i>Species Code</i>	<i># of Captures</i>				
	Banded	Repeat <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>	Unbanded <sup>3</sup>	Grand Total
American Goldfinch	2		1		3
American Redstart	1				1
Bay-breasted Warbler	3				3
Black-capped Chickadee	1	3			4
Blackpoll Warbler	1				1
Clay-coloured Sparrow	2				2
House Wren	6			1	7
Least Flycatcher	12	3			15
Lincoln's Sparrow	1				1
Magnolia Warbler	5				5
Mourning Warbler	1				1
Myrtle Warbler	15				15
Orange-crowned Warbler				1	1
Ovenbird	2				2
Philadelphia Vireo	1				1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1				1
Red-eyed Vireo	3				3
Song Sparrow	1				1
Tennessee Warbler	19	1			20
Trail's Flycatcher	6				6
Warbling Vireo	1				1
Wilson's Warbler	2				2
Western Palm Warbler	1				1
Yellow Warbler	5				5
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>102</b>

56 net-hours

182.1 captures/100

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)