

## Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update May 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Welcome back to the BBO!!!! These were the first words I heard upon entering the natural area this season and I would like to warmly return that phrase to you! It is great to be back for another season. Due to the cold weather it has been a slow start but we still managed to catch 78 birds across 23 species! Highlights included Cooper's Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Blackpoll Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Ruby (and Golden!) crowned Kinglets, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Purple Finch, and Tree Swallows!! It has been very exciting for the BBO staff to start regularly banding again.



Tree Swallow recaptured with a geolocator.

We had a few mornings in the first week of May that were below zero, which is our cut-off temperature for banding. This made the daily census even more critical in our daily estimated totals of bird species seen or heard in the natural area. There were good numbers of Canada, Snow and Greater-white Fronted Geese and Sandhill Cranes moving through. Northern Harriers and Red-tailed Hawks have been seen nearly every day, and a Sprague's Pipit was seen on May 1<sup>st</sup>! The high count for raptor diversity was on May 5<sup>th</sup> when we saw Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, and American Kestrel. We also had 7 species of Sparrows on the 12<sup>th</sup> including Clay-colored, Vesper, Savannah, Leconte's, Song, Lincoln's, and White-crowned! I have always enjoyed census and it has not disappointed this year so far!



New net with Tree Swallow on pole.

Last fall the BBO staff opened two new experimental net lanes in the willows, closer to the dried up lakebed. These nets are 50 and 51, and proved quite successful in their trial runs. Therefore we decided to open a further 6 net lanes, from 52-57 for a total of 20 migration nets. These nets are also experimental and are kept separate from the historical migration data for now. Due to their habitat location (willow dominated) they have caught some interesting species so far. One of these has been Tree Swallows, one of which had a Geolocator attached to it!! This was a very exciting capture for us because so few of these devices are

recovered and they hold valuable information regarding the migration of these lovely birds.

The opening of the BBO lab is no small undertaking and every year we depend on the help of volunteers, interns, and board members. The BBO staff would like to thank Geoff Holroyd for erecting a 4-pronged bird feeder, a hand-wash station, a bird-bath, covering our banding operation for 2 days, and maintenance of the Tree Swallow grid. We'd also like to thank Lisa and Chuck Priestley for setting up the bat monitor, the banding-to-go kit, and ensuring our lab and kitchen was ready for the field season. Al Degroot must be mentioned for taking us raptor banding and for adding beds to the cabins which will be well used by the end of the season. Irene Crosland (our field mom) brought us baked goods, a rain barrel, and great bird sightings. We also would like to thank from Gemma, Jackie, Onyx, Alyssa Bohart, Emily Cicon, Helen Trefry, Rachel Keglowsch, Megan Jacklin, Victoria Gidacobbo, Suzanne Gidacobbo, Claude and Jeanne Roberto, Laura Vehnig, Scott Claypool, Irene's family, Allyn Essan, Jime Beck, Norma Young, Steve Anderson, Laura Vehrig, Ethan Green, Katie Chestnut, and Kevin Ma.

Table 1. Results from Migration Monitoring May 1-15, 2014.

Species	Banded	Repeat <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total
American Robin	2	2	2	0	0	6
Black-capped Chickadee	1	3	3	0	0	7
Blackpoll Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	1	1	0	0	1	3
Cooper's Hawk	0	0	0	0	1	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hermit Thrush	2	0	0	0	0	2
Least Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	0	1
Myrtle Warbler	14	0	0	0	0	14
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Purple Finch	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	0	0	0	0	1
Slate-colored Junco	1	0	0	0	0	1
Swainson's Thrush	12	0	0	0	0	12
White-crowned Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
White-throated Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Yellow Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	0	1	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>59</b>

*Net Hours: 541 NH*

*Capture Rate: 10.91 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).

Table 2. Results from Migration Monitoring (Nets 50-57) May 1-15, 2014.

Species	Banded	Repeat <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total
Black-capped Chickadee	0	2	2	0	0	4
Clay-colored Sparrow	9	0	0	0	0	9
Hairy Woodpecker	0	0	1	0	0	1
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Myrtle Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Savannah Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Swainson's Thrush	3	0	0	0	0	3
Tree Swallow	2	0	1	0	0	3
White-crowned Sparrow	3	0	0	0	0	3
White-throated Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	23	2	4	0	0	29

*Net Hours: 144.75 NH*  
*Capture Rate: 20.03 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).