

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Weekly Update May 16th-22nd, 2015

Despite a rainy start to our week, this week has had the highest catch rate of the season thus far. Even on a poor weather day (when we were unable to open nets), we were joined by Lisa Priestley to run censuses in order to estimate the bird numbers on site despite the rain. However, the following day, we caught our highest number of birds so far - a grand total of 43! We aptly called this day the “thrush rush” as over half the birds were a combination of Swainson’s and Grey-cheeked Thrushes. We even caught three Northern Waterthrushes – even though they are warblers and **not** thrushes. To add to the excitement, we also caught a Sharp-shinned Hawk the following day. Later in the week we also caught one of the Rose-breasted Grosbeaks that have been frequenting the lab feeders. Our next goal is to catch one of the Baltimore Orioles that have been seen around the lab. One in particular taunted us by perching on the guide lines in-between two open mist nets. We have our eyes on you mister!

We had a lovely addition to our lab this week with a new volunteer, Victoria Hansen, who has helped us immensely with our many side projects. We’ve been repairing and painting signs, adding to the breeding bird and House Wren grids, and updating educational materials. We’ve also been preparing for our International Migratory Bird Day event, partnered with Nature Alberta, where we’ll be giving the public a chance to see some bird banding first-hand.



Sharp-shinned Hawk!

We've had a lot of visitors this week including Lisa Priestley and Buttons, Jeff Manchuk, Ryan Fisher, Victoria Snable, Elly Knight, Tonya Lwiwski,, Emily's parents and some of her family from Montana, Alyssa Bohart, Irene Crosland, Melissa, Ted and Donna McKen, Deb Paterson, Geoff and Gemma, and Helen and Jackie.

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Robin	3	1				4
Black-capped Chickadee						0
Blackpoll Warbler	1					1
Brown-headed Cowbird	3					3
Chipping Sparrow	3					3
Clay-colored Sparrow	40	6	2			48
Grey-cheeked Thrush	12					12
Hermit Thrush						0
House Wren	10	1	2			13
Least Flycatcher	20	1	2		1	24
Lincoln's Sparrow	4					4
Magnolia Warbler	1					1
Myrtle Warbler	1					1
Northern Waterthrush	3					3
Orange-crowned Warbler						0
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1					1
Savannah Sparrow	1					1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1					1
Slate-colored Junco	1					1
Swainson's Thrush	28					28
Tennessee Warbler	1					1
Thrush spp.					1	1
Tree Swallow	1		2			3
White-crowned Sparrow						0
White-throated Sparrow	9					9
Wilson's Warbler	1					1
Yellow Warbler	4					4
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1		1			2
Total	150	9	8	0	2	168

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).

Net Hours: = 156 NH

Capture Rate: = 108 birds/ 100 NH