

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update May 1-7, 2023



A male (left) and female (right) Myrtle Warbler, some of our earlier migrants.

The 2023 field season is officially underway! Despite it being early in the season, the staff have been treated to very warm temperatures that have us feeling like it's mid-summer already! The first week is always a busy one: we've been hard at work unpacking lab supplies, organizing the station, and setting up mist nets for our spring migration monitoring!

Our first week of banding has shown some early trickles of migrants just starting to move through the natural area. We caught some Myrtle

Warblers, Orange-crowned Warblers, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and a very early Black-and-white Warbler! The local Black-capped Chickadees were thrilled as always to grace us with their presence in the nets, and we caught a couple of the local breeding Tree Swallows in our nets as well!



A Black-and-white Warbler, very early for this time of year!



An adorable Chipping Sparrow, one of many birds with a song that sounds like a trill.

Other migrating birds sighted this week include the first Baltimore Oriole and Western Palm Warbler of the season. The water in Beaverhill Lake has receded from where it was last year, leaving huge mudflats in its wake. Many shorebirds are already taking advantage of this including Least Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers, and a Long-billed Dowitchers.

We would also like to welcome our new staff members for the field season: Sierra Jamieson, Cala Jorgensen, and Ethan Denton! We're looking forward to a great summer of bird nerding and research with all of you!

Table 1. Standard Migration Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Robin	9		4			13
Black-capped Chickadee	1		3			4
Song Sparrow	1					1
Myrtle Warbler	4					4
White-throated Sparrow	5					5
Slate-coloured Junco	1					1
Savannah Sparrow	1					1
Black-and-white Warbler	1					1
White-crowned Sparrow	2					2
Orange-crowned Warbler	1					1
Chipping Sparrow	2					2
Clay-coloured Sparrow	1					1
TOTALS	29	0	7	0	0	36

418.5 net-hours

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

8.6 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 2. Experimental Nets Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Black-capped Chickadee	1	1	4			6
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1					1
Tree Swallow	2					2
Orange-crowned Warbler	3					3
Song Sparrow	1					1
TOTALS	8	1	4	0	0	13

116 net-hours

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

11.2 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).