

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Weekly Update May 30th – June 5th, 2015

This week started off with a bang with the big event of the spring: the Big Birding Breakfast! We entertained around 70 people throughout the morning, with bird banding, kids' crafts, and delicious crêpes. Thankfully the weather held, and we caught 21 birds during the event. The guests' favorite for the day was an American Goldfinch caught just near the lab. Hope to see you next year!

Although we may be approaching the end of migration with decreasing numbers of birds caught, this week has yielded some pretty cool birds indeed! During one particularly drizzly day, we caught both our first Gray Catbird of the season, but also our first Chestnut-sided Warbler as well. Only a handful of Chestnut-sided Warblers have been banded at the BBO before! We re-caught our pair of Baltimore Orioles in our nets, revealing that they are nesting in the area, as the female was developing an egg. To end off this exciting week, we caught an unsuspecting Wood Thrush, well out of its range and the first ever individual of this species to be banded at the BBO! This species normally resides in the Eastern USA. It was pretty cool to find one up here.



The first Wood Thrush ever caught and banded at BBO!

To spruce up our week even further, we banded a few of the Mountain Bluebird chicks nesting in nest boxes near the Observatory. These cute little birds will leave the nest around three weeks after hatching. It is amazing how fast these chicks can grow from new-born to an adult who is ready to fly away! Hopefully we will catch some of these individuals nesting here next year.

This Saturday was also the last day of our live-in volunteer Victoria. Victoria helped us out with our various projects, including setting up the breeding bird grid, setting up bat boxes, and helping extract lots of birds for us to band. We would not have been able to do it without you!

We would like to thank the many visitors we had this week, including: Meaghan Bouchard, Erin Low, Irene Crosland, Helen Trefry and Jackie, Geoff Holroyd, Danielle, Cala, Allen Leach, Douglas Meikle, and the 70 individuals who attended the Big Birding Breakfast Event. Please keep coming out to visit us!

Species	Banded	Repeats ¹	Returns ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Alder Flycatcher	8					8
Trails Flycatcher	1					1
Least Flycatcher	34	13	11			58
Black-capped Chickadee		1	1			2
House Wren	11	7			1	19
Swainsons Thrush	5					5
Warbling Vireo	4		1			5
Tennessee Warbler	1					1
Yellow Warbler	7	3	2			12
American Redstart	6				1	7
Chipping Sparrow	1					1
Clay-coloured Sparrow	12	6	3		1	22
Song Sparrow	2					2
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	1				2
American Goldfinch	5					5
Gray Catbird	6					6
Wood Thrush	1					1
Baltimore Oriole		2				2
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2					2
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1					1
Hairy Woodpecker			1			1
Common Yellowthroat	1					1
Tree Swallow	1					1
Blackpoll Warbler	1					1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak			1			1
Mourning Warbler	1					1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1					1
Total	113	33	20	0	3	169

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

2 Banded at the BBO > 90 days prior to capture (eg. in a previous year)

3 Banded at a location other than BBO

4 Caught in a mist net but not banded (eg. Escaped)

Net hours: =120 NH

Capture rate: = 141 birds/100 net hours