

## Beaverhill Bird Observatory Weekly Update May 23<sup>rd</sup> - May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015

It has been a busy week for us at the BBO! We began on Saturday with our International Migratory Bird Day event, partnered with Nature Alberta. We ran some crafts for the families who visited, and introduced them to banding at the BBO. The event was a success, with good weather, lots of birds, and fun had by everyone!

Not only has it been busy for us humans, but also for our birds! We had quite a few new species this week, including: an Alder Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Hairy Woodpecker, American Redstart, Mourning Warbler, American Goldfinch, Blue-headed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Common Yellowthroat, and Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Most notably, we succeeded in catching a pair of Baltimore Orioles who have eluded us so far! This week also included our busiest day so far this season, with 56 birds in one day, as well as our 500<sup>th</sup> bird this season, a Least Flycatcher. This is appropriate for the BBO as it is one of our most commonly caught species, and while it is very common here, as a species its numbers are in decline. It is great that the BBO provides such ideal habitat for this little bird!



Featured here is the Baltimore Oriole pair we finally caught!

Sadly, our dedicated intern finished working with us this Friday. Steven did a lot of work for the BBO in the month that he was here, including: setting up our breeding bird survey grids, setting up and repairing our tree swallow nestbox grids, setting up our new batboxes, extracting many birds for us to band, and helping out anywhere he was needed. On top of this, Steven banded 100 birds himself before he left! He left this Friday to attend his graduation from college and start his summer job in fisheries. We wish you the best of luck Steven!



Steven with a Common Yellowthroat on his graduation day.

We had a number of visitors this week. We appreciate our visits from Helen Trefry, Geoff Holroyd and Gemma, Jeff Manchuk, Lisa Priestly and Buttons, Andrew, Deb, and Alicia Smits, Len and Christine Peleshole, Iain and Helen Forrest, Andrew, Kara Lise, and Elliot Forrest, Dennis and Jeremiah Verbeek, Jeremy Stork and Chris O'Brien, Irene Crosland, Meaghan Bouchard, and everyone else who joined us for our Migratory Bird Day event. We always enjoy your company!

Species	Banded	Repeats <sup>1</sup>	Returns <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total
Alder Flycatcher	4					4
American Goldfinch	2					2
American Redstart	7					7
American Robin			1			1
Baltimore Oriole	1	1	1			3
Blackpoll Warbler	3					3
Blue-headed Vireo	1					1
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	1	2			5
Clay-coloured Sparrow	30	16	1			47
Common Yellowthroat	1					1
Gray-cheeked Thrush	2					2
Hairy Woodpecker	1		1			2
House Wren	22	4	1		2	29
Least Flycatcher	46	2	11		1	60
Magnolia Warbler	4					4
Mourning Warbler	2					2
Myrtle Warbler	1					1
Ovenbird	1					1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1					1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird					1	1
Savannah Sparrow	1					1
Swainsons Thrush	35					35
Tennessee Warbler	1					1
Warbling Vireo	2					2
White-throated Sparrow	8					8
Yellow Warbler	27	5	6			38
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1					1
<b>Total</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>24</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>263</b>

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: =168 NH

Capture rate: = 156 birds/100 net hours