

Weekly Update May 21st to 27th 2017

Our peak of migration passed this weekend, but we are still having lots of fun out here. We caught our first Mourning and Magnolia Warblers, which are both rare birds to catch, and we also caught our first Baltimore Oriole. Once we caught one oriole, we kept catching them! We caught five this week, in a variety of age and sex classes. These gorgeous birds breed here in the summer, making hanging basket nests. They also like to poach a bit of hummingbird nectar from our feeders! You can put out half an orange hung on a tree to attract them to your yard.

This week we ran our yearly Birdathon! We rocked our Canada Warbler Birdathon T-shirts, and birded for 24 hours on May 22nd to find a grand total of 109 species! What a day! The Morning Squad, consisting of Kevin, Jeremy, and Kyle, started at 00:00 hours at the BBO and found numerous Yellow Rails, and incredibly, one Virginia Rail! Wow! Sara was our Day Team and held the crew together while we all banded at BBO and birded at Amisk Creek and Elk Island National Park. Then Team Owl; Meghan, Alyssa, and Alyshia, went owling in Edmonton. We saw a Great-horned Owl chick and an adult Barred Owl! How beautiful.



2017 Birdathon Team!!! Left to right: Sara, Alyssa, Alyshia, Meghan, Kevin, Kyle, Jeremy. Photo by Sara Pearce Meijerink.

After our awesome birdathon, the weather went south. We experienced a huge wind/rainstorm, with 30-80mm of rain and 100km winds. Staff cleared six trees from the drive in afterwards, luckily not needing a saw until the very end. We had to traverse the rest of the trails in the natural area as well, and clear any fallen trees there for visitors.



Fallen tree after wind/rainstorm. Photo by Sara Pearce Meijerink.

Now that birdathon is over, our major spring fundraiser, the Big Birding Breakfast (BBB), is coming up fast. We started clearing the grass under our net lanes, cleaning up around the lab, and painting some signs to make sure everything is spic and span for this big event. This year we will run two days of BBB instead of our usual one. There will be delicious crepes, live birds, and tons of fun! We hope to get a huge turnout. Please join us!! Tickets at www.beaverhillbirds.com.

In addition to our regular banding, Kevin ran a live banding demo at Big Lake, near St Albert, Alberta. He brought Ray the Saw-whet Owl, and caught one wild Clay-coloured Sparrow for banding. This was contributing to the International Migratory /Bird Day event being run at Big Lake that day. Helmi was a huge help to him! Great to see you again Helmi.

We have noticed a wide variety of critters around the BBO lately. We saw White-tailed Deer, Moose, and even Mule Deer! We are also finding nests frequently, particularly duck nests. With the flooding in the lake this year, we are much closer to water than usual, making us a much better location

for duck nests than previous years. Ducks like to nest some distance from water and lead their chicks to water once they hatch. Some ducks and geese nest in cavities in trees, and make their young jump out.

Thank you to our awesome volunteers: Steve, Alyshia, Alyssa, Fraser, Francis, Evelyn, Jeremy, Kyle, Julia, Scott, Emily, Zach, Shannon, Meagan, Eric, Helen, Olivia and boyfriend and friend, Cala, Fred, Myla-rae, Helmi, Geoff and family. A special thanks to Kevin's Aunt Evelyn for offering to repair a few of our bags that could use the attention of a serger. Thank you as well to the visitors who came out to see us; Rose and family, the numerous other visitors and families, and the Edmonton Nature Club!

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Least Flycatcher	15	2	7	0	1	25
Black-capped Chickadee	0	0	1	0	0	1
House Wren	13	4	0	0	1	18
Hermit Thrush	2	0	0	0	0	2
Swainson's Thrush	11	0	0	0	0	11
Gray-cheeked Thrush	3	0	0	0	0	3
Yellow Warbler	5	3	1	0	0	9
Myrtle Warbler	3	0	0	0	0	3
American Redstart	11	0	0	0	0	11
Chipping Sparrow	6	0	0	0	0	6
Clay-coloured Sparrow	51	15	2	0	1	69
White-throated Sparrow	5	0	0	0	0	5
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	0	1
Magnolia Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Brown-headed Cowbird	2	1	0	0	0	3
Common Yellowthroat	2	0	0	0	0	2
Mourning Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Gray Catbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Baltimore Oriole	5	0	0	0	0	5
Blackpoll Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
American Goldfinch	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	142	25	11	0	3	181

Birds Caught 181
 Net Hours 264.75
 Capture Rate: 68.37

Capture Rate was 68.37 birds/100 Net Hours.

- 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).