



Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update May 23rd – 30th, 2022

The last week of May has been a busy one! We caught 313 birds this week, which includes our highest day of captures with 59 birds, and the species diversity was amazing! Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Mourning Warblers, American Redstarts, our first Gray-cheeked Thrush of the year and so many Baltimore Orioles!

Visitors joined us through our Songbird Banding Events to see wild birds up close and personal and we successfully hosted our annual Big Birding Breakfast, which has been absent for the last 2 years due to the pandemic! 100 people over the course of two morning came out for a delicious crepe breakfast with fresh fruit, baked goodies and more and got to participate in bird banding activities. There were crafts for kids, a guided nature hike to the weir and everyone had a fantastic time! A BIG THANK YOU to Janos Kovacs for being our crepe chef master for the 2 mornings and Helen Trefry for organizing the event!!

This week we, BBO Staff members, conducted our Birdathon to raise funding for birds and conservation! In a 24 hour period, we spotted 100 different species of birds between Tofield and Elk Island. Highlights from Birdathon included some late migrating Snow Geese, Greater-white Fronted Geese, and a Barrow's Goldeneye!.

When not banding birds, we spent our time conducting Marsh Monitoring Surveys along Lister Lake and going on nest sweeps to find locally breeding bird nests. During one of these nest sweeps, we discovered a pair of Glover's Silkmoths mating on the trails, which haven't been seen in the area in years! We also banded a nest box of Northern Saw-whet Owl chicks to everyone's delight and celebrated when our solar power was fixed, bringing power, cell reception and internet back into the building.



Visitor Ryan helping to release a Baltimore Oriole after banding



Pair of Glover's Silkmoths mating



Six Northern Saw-whet Owl chicks were banded in a nest box this week!

Table 1. Standard Migration Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Alder Flycatcher	1					1
American Robin	1		1			2
Baltimore Oriole	11	2	1			14
Brown-headed Cowbird	4	1	1		1	7
Chipping Sparrow	1					1
Clay-coloured Sparrow	14	4				18
Downy Woodpecker	1					1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1					1
Gray Catbird	1					1
Gray-checked Thrush	1					1
House Wren	7	1			1	9
Least Flycatcher	18	1	2		2	23
Mourning Warbler	2					2
Ovenbird	1					1
Swainson's Thrush	19					19
Trail's Flycatcher	1					1
White-throated Sparrow	5	1				6
Yellow Warbler	9	1	1			11
TOTALS	98	11	6	0	4	119

Net Hours: 504 hrs

Capture Rate: 23.6 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).

Table 2. Experimental Nets Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
American Goldfinch	2					2
American Redstart	1					1
Black-and-white Warbler	1					1
Brown-headed Cowbird	1					1
Chipping Sparrow	3					3
Clay-coloured Sparrow	85	12	1			98
Common Yellowthroat	11					11
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1					1
Gray Catbird	1					1
House Wren	1					1
Least Flycatcher	19	2			2	23
Myrtle Warbler	5					5
Northern Waterthrush	1					1
Orange-crowned Warbler	1					1
Red-winged Blackbird	1					1
Ruby-crowned Kinglets	1					1
Savannah Sparrow	2					2
Song Sparrow		1				1
Swainson's Thrush	6					6
Tree Swallow	1					1
Warbling Vireo	2					2
White-throated Sparrow	2	1	1			4
Yellow Warbler	23		3			26
TOTALS	171	16	5	0	2	194

Net Hours: 173 hrs

Capture Rate: 113.5 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).