

# Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update May 29 – June 4, 2024

It was a breezy and rainy week at the BBO, which resulted in the very few net-hours over the course of the week. Nevertheless, it still ended up being a very busy week, because it featured this year's edition of the Big Birding Breakfast! This event occurred on June 1-2, and consisted of a full morning of songbird banding along with a delicious breakfast of crepes, bacon, fresh fruit, and other goodies. We also tossed feathers into the wind for the local Tree Swallows to catch and line their nests with, and took our visitors on a guided nature walk out to the weir for some waterfowl viewing. Thanks so much to everyone who came out!



*Visitors enjoying the fun at Big Birding Breakfast!*

We also hosted a class from Tofield High School on May 29 so they could also get in on the bird banding fun. While it was too windy to open any nets besides the bird feeder net, plenty of fun birds were still caught including another Common Grackle! We also captured a pair of Mountain Bluebird adults this week and banded their nestlings in one of our nest boxes. The female bird was originally banded at the same nest box as an adult back in 2022!



*A pair of Mountain Bluebirds, with a Second-Year (SY) Male on the left and an After-Second-Year (ASY) Female on the right. The female is at least 6 years old!*

As the calendar rolled over to June, we've seen spring migration activity slow down considerably. A Blackpoll Warbler, a handful of American Redstarts, and a smattering of Swainson's Thrushes were the only non-resident species captured this week. Many of the birds we did catch this week were repeat captures banded at the station this spring, indicating many of these are likely to be breeding locally in the area. Very soon, we will shift our activities to monitoring our local breeding birds through the MAPS (stands for **M**onitoring **A**vian **P**roductivity and **S**urvivorship) program!

Thanks to our volunteers this week: Sian, Matt, Sam, Adara, and Gabby! And an extra-special thank you to Janos Kovaks for cooking so many delicious crepes for the Big Birding Breakfast! Thank you as well to Geoff, Helen, Christie, and Peter for helping run Big Birding Breakfast as well!

Table 1. Standard Migration Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total
American Redstart	1					1
American Robin	1		1			2
Baltimore Oriole	8	11	1			20
Black-capped Chickadee		1				1
Brown-headed Cowbird		1				1
Downy Woodpecker		1				1
House Wren	4	3	1			8
Least Flycatcher	8	8	4			20
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		2				2
Swainson's Thrush	9					9
Warbling Vireo	1	1				2
Yellow Warbler	3	7	1			11
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>78</b>

233 net-hours

33.5 captures/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

<b>Species</b>	<b>Banded</b>	<b>Repeat<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Return<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Foreign<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Other<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
American Redstart	<b>2</b>					<b>2</b>
Baltimore Oriole		<b>2</b>				<b>2</b>
Blackpoll Warbler	<b>1</b>					<b>1</b>
Clay-colored Sparrow	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>
Common Yellowthroat	<b>1</b>					<b>1</b>
Least Flycatcher	<b>7</b>					<b>7</b>
Warbling Vireo	<b>1</b>					<b>1</b>
Yellow Warbler	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>			<b>11</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>36</b>

26.5 net-hours

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

135.8 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).