

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly update - May 15th to 21st, 2025

The weather this week could easily be described as dreary. Because of this, migration was slowed, and our nets frequently closed due to rain and/or wind. As a result, we captured only 126 individuals over this entire week. Despite these subpar captures, several exciting migrants still made their way through our nets. These highlights include our fifth and sixth Gray-cheeked Thrushes, a Blackpoll Warbler, two Northern Waterthrushes, and a Gray Catbird. In addition to the birds captured in the nets, a set of nestling Saw-whet Owls were banded!



Blackpoll Warbler
(*Setophaga striata*)

The field staff also hosted two public banding events this week, which added excitement to some otherwise slow banding days. Between these events, 36 individuals visited the BBO. During one event, weather forced the nets to be closed early; luckily, Keith, Emelie's specimen display, and the feeder nets kept everyone entertained in the absence of standard banding.

Arguably, the most exciting part of this week was the annual Big Birding Day fundraiser! During this event the BBO staff search all day to find as many species as they could. This search started

before banding when the staff found nocturnal species like Yellow Rails, Virginia Rails, and American Bittern. Banding was cut short but still included highlights of a Common Yellowthroat and Gray-cheeked Thrush. After that, several wetlands were scanned for waterbirds and shorebirds such as Greater Scaups, Pied-billed Grebes, Phalaropes, and Willets. Grasslands also turned of birds like Sprague's Pipit, Bobolink, and Horned Lark. Finally, the group made their way to Elk Island where Barrow's Goldeneye, Western Tanager, and Cinnamon Teal were all found. The 16 hours of birding and fundraising turned up a total of 120 species! Not quite above last year's total, but nonetheless a strong result.



Northern Waterthrush
(*Parkesia noveboracensis*)



The BBO team feeling equal parts satisfaction and exhaustion at the end of the Big Birding Day.

<i>Species Name</i>	<i># of Captures</i>			
	Banded	Repeat	Return	Grand Total
Baltimore Oriole	1			1
Black-capped Chickadee	1	1		2
Blackpoll Warbler	1			1
Brown-headed Cowbird	2		1	3
Clay-colored Sparrow	31	1	2	34
Common Yellowthroat	1			1
Gray Catbird	1			1
Gray-cheeked Thrush	2			2
Least Flycatcher	26	4		30
Lincoln's Sparrow	1			1
Myrtle Warbler	1			1
Northern House Wren	4			4
Northern Waterthrush	2			2
Song Sparrow	1			1
Swainson's Thrush	20			20
Tree Swallow	1	1		2
White-throated Sparrow	4			4
Yellow Warbler	12	2	2	16
Grand Total	112	9	5	126

369.5 net-hours

34.1 captures/100 net-hours

Repeat - banded 90 or fewer days ago, at the BBO

Return - banded over 90 days ago, at the BBO

Other - caught but not banded (e.g. escaped)