

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update May 15-21, 2026



A Tennessee Warbler, one of the boreal breeders that we observed this week.

It was an exciting week at the BBO! The weather was iffy to start the week, resulting in limited net hours and captures. We did start to see our first boreal migrants moving through the natural area later in the week! A Blackpoll Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, and an Ovenbird were all welcome additions to the season's banding species list!

This week was also our Birdathon! On May 20th we spent the entire day searching for birds, trying to see as many species as possible to raise money for bird conservation. We started long before sunrise to try and hear some rails singing in the marshland, but sadly they had not arrived yet. During banding a group of us headed out to the weir, which had some neat sightings including a handful of Surf Scoters and a flock of

Sabine's Gulls! The morning banding yielded a handful of songbird species, after which we went south to the badlands near Rosalind. We saw many Mountain Bluebirds, Say's Phoebes, and a Sharp-tailed Grouse as highlights down there! We made our way back to BBO after that, some shorebirding at Mundare beach added Dunlin and Baird's Sandpiper to our list, and some city birding by Willow added House Finch, Pileated Woodpecker, and Red-breasted Nuthatch to our list. Our species total was 111 species, and you can view the whole trip report [on eBird here!](#) We raised over \$2000 to support the BBO and Birds Canada, thank you so much to everyone who donated!



A group photo of the 2026 Birdathon crew!

Visitors continue to liven the BBO with their presence as well. Weekend banding events have been lively with many new and familiar faces coming out to enjoy the morning with us! We also hosted a group of local students from Tofield school during the week.

Thank you to our volunteers this week: Jacqueline, Jordyn, Kalia, Stefanie, Gabby, and Jie! Your help keeping things at the BBO running smoothly is greatly appreciated!

Table 1. Migration Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Black-and-white Warbler	1					1
Black-capped Chickadee			1			1
Blackpoll Warbler	1					1
Chipping Sparrow	11					11
Clay-colored Sparrow	19	2	3			24
Common Yellowthroat	1					1
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1					1
Least Flycatcher	15	1	2		2	20
Lincoln's Sparrow	2					2
Northern House Wren	1					1
Ovenbird	1					1
Swainson's Thrush	8					8
Tennessee Warbler	1					1
Tree Swallow	1		1			2
White-throated Sparrow	8					8
Yellow Warbler	9		4			13
TOTALS	80	3	11	0	2	96

450.25 net-hours

21.3 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).