

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update, May 15-30, 2012

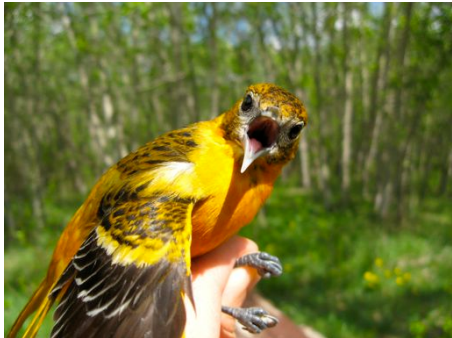
The last couple weeks at the BBO have been great! We've been keeping very busy with the Big Birding Breakfast, that took place on May 26th, with the Baillie Birdathon, that we completed on May 30th, regularly checking nest boxes and banding every morning of course!

Over the last couple weeks we've caught 233 birds, composed primarily of Least Flycatchers, Swainson's Thrushes, Yellow Warblers, and Baltimore Orioles. The last few weeks has also brought in a number of neat new warblers. We've caught a Nashville Warbler, some Mourning Warblers, and have spotted a couple of Magnolia Warblers that we're hoping will fly into one of our nets!



Male Mourning Warbler.

Lately, the most exciting species to return to the BBO has been the Baltimore Orioles! We've caught a number of them in the nets, a total of 17, and have



Sassy Female Baltimore Oriole

banded 11 of them. To keep these colourful visitors happy, we've started to put out halved oranges, which become hollowed out peels in a matter of days. We've also been diligently keeping our hummingbird feeder full, which they've regularly been visiting. So regularly in fact that refilling the hummingbird feeder has been added to the list of daily chores! A few of the Baltimore Orioles have even taken to pulling apart the tarp covering the deck as material to make their nests. This resulted in a female Oriole getting tangled in bits of tarp that she had torn off. When we saw her, we were more than happy to cut her out of the tangled mess she made and band her!

Meaghan also managed to catch one of the other Baltimore Orioles in the act and recorded the entire thing on video. These Baltimore Orioles have even been seen stealing some of our net ties! Hopefully they're putting them to good use.

The Big Birding Breakfast this year was a blast. Thanks to everyone that came out and enjoyed some delicious crepes and some birding! A special thanks to Janos, the crepe master, who spent the morning feeding us all, and to the set up and clean up crew! All of your help was greatly appreciated and made for a very successful event. The Big Birding Breakfast was the perfect way to christen the new lower cabinets and countertop that were just put in! Many thanks to the gents that came out and spent an entire day installing it!

Another thank you to everyone that sponsored us for our Birdathon! It is greatly appreciated. We managed to count 75 species. For anyone that is still interested in sponsoring us, donations are still being accepted, and you can do so at the Baillie Birdathon website by looking up either myself, Amélie Roberto-Charron, or Meaghan Bouchard.



Janos making crepes in our new kitchen!



Butterflying with John.

John Acorn, the self proclaimed Nature Nut, spent an afternoon with us, and taught us many of the butterflies that can be spotted in the natural area over the summer, which we also appreciated. A big thank you to him for taking an afternoon out of his busy schedule to come butterfly catching with us! We are planning on doing weekly surveys of the butterflies in the natural area by doing pollard counts, as has been done in previous years, so as to monitor their population size and diversity.

And one last thank you to the plethora of volunteers and visitors that have been out! We've been happy to get many visits from Irene and Onyx, who stop in regularly. Irene always

has something neat to show us, such as new nests! Thanks also to Erin, who spent a couple days out here with us, Jenny, who was here at the crack of dawn on a rather gloomy day, Rachel, who came to visit us with her family, Ken, who gave us some great ACA hats, Chris and Jeremy, who've been coming out regularly, and to everyone else that came out for the Big Birding Breakfast!

Table 1. Results from Migration Monitoring May 15-30, 2012.

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Goldfinch	4	0	0	0	0	4
American Robin	2	0	1	0	0	3
Baltimore Oriole	11	4	1	0	1	17
Black and White Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Black Pole Warbler	3	0	0	0	0	3
Black-capped Chickadee	0	2	0	0	0	2
Brown-headed Cowbird	6	0	0	0	0	6
Chipping Sparrow	10	0	0	0	0	10
Clay-coloured Sparrow	10	1	1	0	0	12
Gray Catbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hairy Woodpecker	0	0	1	0	0	1
Hermit Thrush	3	0	0	0	1	4
House Wren	5	0	0	0	1	6
Least Flycatcher	50	22	12	0	3	87
Lincoln Sparrow	4	0	0	0	0	4
Mourning Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Myrtle Warbler	3	0	0	0	0	3
Nashville Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ovenbird	2	0	0	0	0	2
Pine Siskin	7	0	0	0	1	8
Red Eyed Vireo	2	0	0	0	0	2
Rose Breasted Grosbeak	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ruby Throated Hummingbird	0	0	0	0	1	1
Song Sparrow	2	0	0	0	0	2
Swainson's Thrush	24	0	0	0	0	24
Tennessee Warbler	3	0	0	0	0	3
Tree Swallow	0	0	0	0	0	0
Warbling Vireo	3	0	1	0	0	4
Western Palm Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
White-throated	14	2	0	0	1	17

Sparrow
Yellow Warbler

5	6	9	0	3	23
181	37	26	0	12	233

Net Hours: 828 NH

Capture Rate: 27.48 birds/ 100 NH

- 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).