



Handsome male Baltimore Oriole.

The last 2 weeks at the BBO have been quite the adventure. We were spoiled by the company of interns, volunteers, board members and others who came out to enjoy the birds with us. Between banding and preparing for the Big Birding Breakfast we kept busy. Highlights over this time period include a Black-and-White Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Northern Waterthrush, American Redstart, Baltimore Oriole, Common Yellowthroat, and Ovenbird! We also managed to catch a Gray Catbird, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Savannah Sparrow, and Lincoln's Sparrow among others. A total of 193 birds were caught from 24 different species. Amélie and I would like to thank everyone who supported us on our Baille Birdathon efforts! We managed to identify 82 species on the day! The areas we visited during the Baille Birdathon included the Beaverhill Natural Area, Amisk creek, Cooking Lake airport, and plenty of pavement in between these spots.

The nest box building process is complete! A total of 447 nest boxes were built. This is a great achievement that was only made possible by a countless number of interns and volunteers who helped us with this endeavor, to which we are very grateful. Both Tree Swallow grids have been updated with these new boxes and House Wren grids have been established in the woods. Many Tree Swallow and Mountain Bluebird boxes have been replaced along roadways as well.



A Black-and-White Warbler



Kevin with Pete the troublesome Red Squirrel.

Pete, the troublesome Red Squirrel, was captured in a small mammal trap and re-located approximately 10 km outside of the natural area. We are now relieved of his antics, which included stealing our net-ties, chewing on the wires of the solar panel battery and nesting in the solar panel battery box and a Northern Saw-whet Owl nest box. Pete was quite the menace but we do miss him just a little bit, as he added a bit of animation to our day.

The exterior of the lab was completely repainted for the Big Birding Breakfast. The outside of the cabin was repainted, as well as the trim, the deck was also stained and the Labtiuk bench was sanded down and re stained. A new sign welcoming visitors to the Beaverhill Bird Observatory has also been put up. We have also started on painting the kitchen, and curtains have been added making the cabin much cozier and up to date! We had lots of fun and plenty of help from Donna and Ted McKen and a few of our interns. It was a great feeling to finish in time for all of our visitors on Saturday.



Amélie with the American Crow

On the June 25th Amélie and I were invited to the John Janzen Nature Centre for their annual Scale, Tails, Hoots and Howls event to do a banding demo and to put up a table. Colonel Slade, the Barred Owl, came with us and she was a big hit with everyone, not just the kids! During the banding demo we only caught one bird, but it was a good one! We caught an American Crow! He was huge, and sassy! Quite the handful for Amélie as she extracted it.

Many Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Brown-headed Cowbirds and American Goldfinches have been frequent visitors to our feeders lately. We have also seen lots of Northern Harriers and Red-tailed Hawks

at the south end of the Beaverhill Lake bed which has been great! We have also spotted a Turkey Vulture soaring overhead, and heard several shorebirds over the last few weeks including: Marbled Godwits, Common Snipes, and American Bitterns! Lots of gorgeous birds!

Table 1. Results from Migration Monitoring May 15-31, 2013.

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Redstart	1	0	0	0	0	1
American Robin	5	0	0	0	0	5
Baltimore Oriole	2	0	2	0	0	4
Black-and-White Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Black-capped Chickadee	1	0	0	0	1	2
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	0	1	0	1	2
Chipping Sparrow	5	0	0	0	0	5
Clay-colored Sparrow	14	0	1	0	2	17
Common Yellowthroat	1	0	0	0	0	1
Gray Catbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
House Wren	16	5	1	0	1	23
Least Flycatcher	33	5	14	0	4	56
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Myrtle Warbler	17	0	0	0	0	17
Northern Waterthrush	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ovenbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Pine Siskin	12	0	0	0	0	12
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	0	0	0	0	1
Savannah Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Song Sparrow	3	0	0	0	0	3
Swainson's Thrush	13	0	0	0	0	13
White-throated Sparrow	8	0	0	0	0	8
Yellow Warbler	5	0	6	0	5	16
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	144	10	25	0	14	193

Net Hours: 747 NH

Capture Rate: 25.84 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).

