

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update, May 15- May 21, 2018



Yellow Warbler

Finally, things at the BBO are beginning to pick up for spring migration. We caught our first Yellow Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, a Hairy Woodpecker, a pair of Baltimore Orioles, an American Redstart, and a Tennessee Warbler. Additionally, the Least Flycatchers are back, and are singing throughout the entire Natural Area and are gaining strength in numbers. The huge number of Franklin's Gulls that were within the area have mostly continued their migration journey.

However, since there is lots of water in Beaverhill Lake currently (the water can be seen from the gravel road) there are hundreds of different duck species that can be heard and seen over the lake which has been very enjoyable! Furthermore, the White-faced Ibises can still be found near the weir.

Over the course of the week, there were multiple different interns who came out to perform their first maintenance tasks of the season. Jeremy also completed a marsh survey this past week and while he was completing this survey a skunk decided to stock him! Jeremy never got sprayed, but that skunk is one brave critter. Other visitors



Blackpoll Warbler



The sunrise on the morning of May 18th

out to the lab included a person from Alberta Parks (Dave Prescott) who is conducting a bee study across the province. He has chosen the Natural Area as one location for a bee trap. Throughout the summer the BBO staff will monitor the bee trap to aid this government study to increase our knowledge regarding bee species within the province and their current

conservation status. We also had numerous other visitors including families and children come out to the banding lab this past week which was awesome!

This past weekend Jeremy and I (Emily), went to Lois Hole Provincial Park with Rickie (our Northern Saw-whet education owl)

and the BBO poster board to give visitors of the BLESS Lake event more information regarding programming at the BBO. Rickie was the highlight of course for the approximately 500 visitors who stopped by throughout the day.

Huge thanks to Helen Trefry, Geoff Holroyd, Laurie Hunt and other volunteers who spent a full day building eight bat maternity roosts which will replace the smaller bat boxes which were put up last year, as we believe we will have higher roosting rates with these maternity roosts.

Make sure to watch for next week's update, as our Great Canadian Birdathon took place on Monday, May 21st, and we will have an exciting update about all the species we saw along our adventure!



Kevin and Jeremy holding the pair of Baltimore Orioles (a male and a female).

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
American Redstart	1					
Blackpoll Warbler	1					
Chipping Sparrow	1					
Clay-colored Sparrow	48	8	2		1	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	2					
Hairy Woodpecker	1					
House Wren	4					
Least Flycatcher	11	1	1		2	
Lincoln Sparrow	6				2	
Mourning Warbler	1				1	
Northern Oriole	2	1				

Orange-crowned Warbler	1					
Swainson's Thrush	9				1	
White-throated Sparrow	7					
Yellow Warbler	7		2			
	102	10	5	0	7	124

Net Hours: 481

Capture Rate: 25.78/100 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).