

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Weekly Update, May 9th – 15th 2019



Rufous Hummingbird

This week we caught a lot of first of the season birds, as our feathery friends start returning to their northern breeding ranges. We caught our first Western Palm Warblers, Blue Jays, Gray-checked Thrushes, Clay-coloured Sparrows, White-crowned Sparrows, Black-and-white Warbler and a couple Ovenbirds! The highlight to the WEEK though, was catching a RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD!!! A FIRST in BBO's History! Their range is normally out west by the Rocky Mountains, but this little one decided to go on an adventure to the BBO! We were happy to meet him!

In preparation for the breeding season, BBO staff painted numbers on the new nest boxes installed in our swallow girds, removed an old barbed wire fence at the weir, repaired the natural area barbed wire perimeter fence and mended our mist nets. Our Purple Martin House was also checked and European Starling nests were removed in the hopes that some Purple Martins might finally occupy it.

On May 11th we hosted a World Migratory Bird Day event at the BBO which was free and open for the public to attend. 16 guests joined us that morning, including young families, and everyone had a wonderful time learning more about our migratory birds and some of the challenges they have to face in order to survive.

Kelsie Norton from Nature Alberta, visited the BBO for the first time in many years and we were happy to have her out for the day. As well, Andrew Cook, a PhD student, and his assistant Beth Blanchette have joined BBO staff in the mornings, to collect some samples for his study. Andrew will be looking at the mites presents on live bird feathers and how the mites might be using different parts of the feathers, as well as how mite species might prefer living in different parts of the birds feather tracks and many more interesting hypothesise!

Lastly, this week, we welcome Sonia Vallocchia to the BBO! Sonia will be a full time volunteer for the next 2 weeks, helping us to band our birds in the mornings and maintenance tasks in the afternoon. Sonia comes from Italy originally, and just finished a 6 month internship in Mauritius, working with their endangered species of wildlife, alongside Amelie Roberto-Charron, former BBO expectative director. We are excited to have Sonia's help these next two weeks!!!



Western Palm Warbler

Thank you to all the visitors ad volunteers that came out to the BBO this week: Man Young and her partner, Deanne and Silas, Geoff, Laurie Hunt and her family, Emily Upham-Mills and friends, and Irene Crosland. BBO wouldn't be the same without you all!

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Black-and-white Warbler	1					1
Black-capped Chickadee			1			1
Blue Jay	2					2
Clay Coloured Sparrow	2				1	3
Grey-checked Thrush	2					2
House Wren	1					1
Hermit Thrush	2					2
Hybrid (Myrtle/Audubon warbler)						0
Lincoln Sparrow	14					14
Myrtle Warbler	2					2
Ovenbird	1					1
Orange-crowned Warbler	4					4
Rufous Hummingbird					1	1
Song Sparrow	1					1
Swainson's Thrush	1					1
Western Palm Warbler	4					4
White-crowned Sparrow	2					2
White-throated Sparrow	14					14
TOTALS	53	0	1	0	2	56
Net Hours: 397 hrs						
Capture Rate: 13.85 birds/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).