

## Beaverhill Bird Observatory

### Weekly Update May 22-28, 2021



*A handsome male Downy Woodpecker. These fellows can be extremely challenging to age, but luckily this second year bird was quite straightforward.*

This week was one of highs and lows: while the weather was a constant hindrance throughout the week, staff were delighted to participate in Birds Canada annual Birdathon fundraiser on the 27<sup>th</sup>. The premise of a Birdathon is simple – raise money for bird conservation and ask your friends and family to sponsor you during a big day of birding to try to find as many species as possible! Staff saw a total of 103 species including Willets, a Bobolink, and a Pileated Woodpecker and raised \$1,645 for bird conservation. It was a ton of fun, a great chance for us to practice our birding skills and a great fundraiser for our birds.

Banding remains slow due to a combination of poor weather and what appears to be a generally slow spring migration. We still managed a few interesting captures: highlights were a Black-and-white Warbler, a pair of Northern Waterthrush, and a Downy Woodpecker that was caught in a non-standard feeder net. As we draw nearer to the end of spring migration, we still have not

caught many of our usual boreal migrant species. It remains to be seen whether there will be a rush of migration in the tail end of the season or whether our current low capture rate will continue.

The forest has become even more alive with sounds of our resident songbirds returning and beginning to establish their breeding territories. Warbling Vireos, Red-eyed Vireos, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks have been serenading us from the treetops, while others have even started nesting. A pair of American Robins has been constructing a nest beneath our rainwater tank, while industrious House Wrens have been seen filling tree cavities with sticks. The staff were also delighted to see some freshly hatched goslings at the weir, with their parents diligently watching over them as they foraged among the grasses.

With Birdathon behind us, and the end of spring migration approaching, the start of our MAPS program seems closer than ever.



*A Northern Waterthrush. These birds aren't actually thrushes; they're a type of warbler found in wet and riparian areas.*

<b>Species</b>	<b>Banded</b>	<b>Repeat<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Return<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Foreign<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Other<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
Least Flycatcher	<b>2</b>		<b>1</b>			<b>3</b>
Black-capped Chickadee		<b>1</b>				<b>1</b>
House Wren	<b>1</b>					<b>1</b>
Swainson's Thrush	<b>8</b>					<b>8</b>
Northern Waterthrush	<b>2</b>					<b>2</b>
Black-and-white Warbler	<b>1</b>					<b>1</b>
Clay-colored Sparrow	<b>3</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
Lincoln's Sparrow	<b>2</b>					<b>2</b>
White-throated Sparrow	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>
Baltimore Oriole	<b>3</b>					<b>3</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>31</b>

140.5 net-hours

22.06 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).