

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Weekly Update, May 16th – 22nd 2019



Blue-headed Vireo

Another week at the BBO has come to an end! This week some first of the year birds captured include: Traill's Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Chipping Sparrow, American Redstart, Blackpoll Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Red-breasted Nuthatches and more! Staff have also seen or hear our returning Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Tennessee Warblers, Ovenbirds, American Goldfinches and Peregrine Falcons which are exciting! Migration seems to be slowly picking up with a high capture of 52 birds in one morning this week! Hopefully these numbers will keep up.

With help from some of our amazing volunteers, staff were able to start nest searching, check the Tree Swallow Nesting Grid on the road, and GPS all new Tree Swallow grids! Staff also quickly ran into town this week to get 4X4s from Rona in preparation of installing new Alberta Parks signs throughout the Beaverhill Natural Area.

The 2019 BBO Birdathon occurred this week and all staff, as well as 10 enthusiastic members of the public, spent an intensive day birding in the beaver county together, trying to see as many different bird species as possible! From banding in the morning, to checking out ponds/lakes in the afternoon, and owling in the evening, together 87 bird species were spotted and \$1,915 was raised to help bird conservation efforts across Canada!

Al DeGroot, a local raptor bander, took BBO staff out banding one afternoon and they got to aid in banding Great-horned Owl nestling! The nestlings were fluffy and sassy and everyone had a wonderful time! These nestlings are now wearing new bands and we wish them happy long lives and hope they get captured again in the future so we can learn more about their species!

Lastly, Greg Ottoway, volunteer extraordinaire, joined the BBO and will be spending the next week with us. Together, with his help and guidance, staff will begin installing new signage in the natural area to make navigation easier for the visiting public.



2019 BBO Bird Nerds - Birdathon Team

As always, a big thank you to our volunteers and visitors! The BBO wouldn't be the same without your participation and efforts! So thank you to: Sonia, Andrew, Beth, Richard, Catriona and 3 high school students, Man Young, Jana & Amie, Emily and friends, Steve, Devin and the homeschool group composing 20 individuals! Thank you all for coming out and joining us! We really appreciate it!

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
American Redstart	1					1
American Robin	2					2
Black-capped Chickadee			1			1
Blackpoll Warbler	2					2
Blue-headed Vireo	1					1
Brown-headed Cowbird	4					4
Chipping Sparrow	2					2
Clay Coloured Sparrow	66	4	3		4	77
Downy Woodpecker	1					1
Grey-checked Thrush	4					4
Hairy Woodpecker			1			1
House Wren	17				1	18
Least Flycatcher	23	1	4		2	30
Lincoln Sparrow	3					3
Myrtle Warbler	5					5
Orange-crowned Warbler	2					2
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1					1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2	1				3
Song Sparrow	1					1
Swainson's Thrush	8					8
Trail's Flycatcher	2		1			3
Tree Swallow	2					2
Warbling Vireo	2					2
Western Palm Warbler	1					1
White-throated Sparrow	14					14
Yellow Warbler	5	1	3			9
TOTALS	170	6	10	0	7	197

Net Hours: 499.5 hrs

Capture Rate: 39.4birds/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).