

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update May 29- June 4, 2021

Although migration monitoring continues to be slow, the staff had a busy week at the BBO. The weather has been a bit more cooperative and we were able to have a number of days with full net hours. A highlight capture this week was a leucistic American Robin, which means the robin has a pigment defect and is a lighter color than normal. We have 3 female hummingbirds frequenting the feeders and are hoping to spot a male, indicating the possibility of a breeding pair in the area. There are many Baltimore Orioles, with at least 5 breeding pairs in the natural, area and staff have banded 14 individuals. Purple Martins have been spotted at the nest boxes; we wish them a successful breeding season.



Leucistic American Robin. Instead of the classic grey back and black head, this fella was light brown with a dark brown head

When the staff are not banding, we are laboring away on trail maintenance, repairing the mist nets, replacing nesting boxes for the Northern Saw-



A diversity of songbirds! Top to bottom, left to right; Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Mourning Warbler

whet Owls, and preparing our MAPS stations for our summer banding program. We are also attempting to dissuade Steve the Skunk from denning under the old bunkhouse. Our attempts have been foiled thus far. Staff has also been keeping an eye on how much water has returned to Beaverhill Lake this spring. This is the first spring we have been able to see open water from the historical shoreline since the lake dried up in 2005. With the return of water to the lake, we have seen an influx of species diversity and volume of waterbirds on the lake. We regularly see upwards of 5000 gulls hovering the lake and nearby land, as well as a large variety of waterfowl, which is very exciting!

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Least Flycatcher	21	6			1	28
American Robin	4	1				5
Warbling Vireo	1					1
Swainson's Thrush	10					10
Yellow Warbler	7	1			1	9
Myrtle Warbler	1					1
Clay-colored Sparrow	6	1			2	9
Chipping Sparrow	2					2
Lincoln's Sparrow	1					1
White-throated Sparrow	3					3
Baltimore Oriole	8	5				13
Mourning Warbler	2					2
Black-capped Chickadee			1		1	2
House Wren	1	2				3
Brown-headed Cowbird		1				1
Gray Catbird	1					1
Northern Saw-whet Owl		1				1
TOTALS	68	18	1		5	92

492 net-hours

18.7 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).