

# Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update May 1- May 2, 2022

With the extended winter conditions, the staff arrived on site to set up for the season armed with snow shovels and a snow-blower to clear the access road and net lanes. The snow is slowly melting, and the ground in the area is quite wet. However, the staff are thrilled to see the shoreline of Beaverhill Lake is nearer than in the previous few years.

The 2022 field started with a record-shattering 56 captures on the first day of migration monitoring, including 47 Slate-colored Juncos, 2 Myrtle Warblers, 1 Orange-crowned Warbler, and to the staff's delight, a very handsome Ruffed Grouse. The remainder of the week continued to have a slow trickle of captures, with 1-6 captures each day. Migration seems to be slightly delayed this spring, with most songbirds having not yet arrived. Apart from the tail end of the junco movement, staff have observed a few migratory songbirds like sparrows and warblers, with primarily local breeders being noted on census and with captures. Some exciting sightings include large flocks of Sandhill Cranes and small flocks of White-faced Ibis, a Common Loon, and a huge Turkey Vulture perched in a tree in the clearing. Additionally, an uncommon and beautiful Fox Sparrow was captured and banded.



*Ruffed Grouse that was captured in one of the mist nets. Could this possibly be our regular BBO drummer Oscar the Grouse?*



*Fox Sparrow. An uncommon catch at the BBO.*

The new lab building brings many amenities, including on-site internet and the opportunity to live-stream banding events. However, the solar system is currently down, and we are working tirelessly to restore it. Bear with us in the meantime, as returning emails, organizing events, and everything else that involves internet access is a challenge while in the field.

After daily banding was completed, the staff were busy scouting and setting up additional experimental net locations. The 4 experimental nets last season were 10 times more productive than the standard migration nets. These standard nets were established nearly a decade ago, and the forest succession has since outgrown them. The canopy is well above the net height, and the songbirds are often flying over and missing the nets entirely.

Species	Banded	Repeat <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total
Black-capped Chickadee	1	1				2
American Robin	2		2		1	5
Orange-crowned Warbler	1					1
Myrtle Warbler	7					7
Lincoln's Sparrow	4				1	5
Slate-colored Junco	50	4				54
Hairy Woodpecker	1					1
Ruffed Grouse					1	1
Song Sparrow	1					1
Fox Sparrow	1					1
White-throated Sparrow	2					2
<b>totals</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>80</b>

Net hours: 443  
Capture Rate: 18 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).