

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly update - May 22th to May 28th, 2024



The Ovenbird is a type of warbler despite its thrush-like appearance and lifestyle.

Weather at the station this week started cold and gradually warmed. Populations of mosquitoes followed this trend. These factors seem to be issuing in the start of summer with captures of migratory birds in a bit of a lull. Several interesting migrants were still caught, however, including the first Ovenbirds of the season and several other warbler species. There are also still tons of Swainson's Thrushes going through, though not as many as previous weeks. Tagging along with these thrushes were three more Grey-Cheeked Thrushes. In addition to these birds, a Gray Catbird, an uncommon migrant, was caught. Overall, while not a large number of migrants were captured the week was still exciting.

Despite the low number of migrants the nets turned up a total of 374 birds. The majority of this count was made up of our resident breeders like Clay-Colored Sparrows, Least Flycatchers, Yellow Warblers, and Baltimore Orioles. The most numerous birds of this week were Clay-Colored Sparrows with 71 newly banded and Least Flycatchers with 56 newly banded. Adding to these regulars a few less common local breeders were captured including a LeConte's Sparrow, Red-eyed vireo, and several Warbling Vireos.



Grey Catbirds often copy other bird's songs like their relative the mockingbird.



The LeConte's Sparrow is a beautiful yet hard to spot bird.

The warmer and drier weather meant that Rowan's Route (TWP 262) was finally in decent condition. This turn of fate allowed the BBO to host its first banding events of the season which were a success as always! The research projects at the BBO other than banding also continued along. The number of individual birds observed on the shorebird survey this week were noticeably lower than previous ones. Despite this, the uncommon dunlin and white-rumped sandpipers were spotted once again. Also, the Marshland Monitoring Protocol started up this week with

surveys done both at dawn and dusk. These surveys turned up interesting wetland species like Virginia Rails, American Bitterns, and large populations of Soras. Despite incidentally hearing Yellow Rails, none turned up on the surveys.

<i>Regular Nets</i> <i>Species Name (Autofills)</i>	<i># of Captures</i>				
	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Unbanded ³	Grand Total
American Redstart	2				2
Baltimore Oriole	21	10	7	1	39
Black-and-white Warbler	1				1
Blackpoll Warbler	2				2
Brown-headed Cowbird	4	2			6
Clay-colored Sparrow	11	1			12
Downy Woodpecker	1				1
Gray-cheeked Thrush	3				3
House Wren	8	5		3	16
Least Flycatcher	29	9	5	2	45
Lincoln's Sparrow	1				1
Ovenbird	3				3
Red-eyed Vireo	1				1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2	3	2		7
Swainson's Thrush	19			1	20
Tennessee Warbler	2				2
Traill's Flycatcher	1				1
White-throated Sparrow	4	2	1		7
Yellow Warbler	9	3	7		19
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		2			2
Grand Total	124	37	22	7	190

550.5 net-hours

34.5 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 Caught in a mist-net but not banded (e.g. escaped net).

<i>Experimental Nets</i> <i>Species Name (Autofills)</i>	<i># of Captures</i>				<i>Grand Total</i>
	<i>Banded</i>	<i>Repeat</i> ¹	<i>Return</i> ²	<i>Unbanded</i> ³	
American Goldfinch			2		2
American Redstart	2				2
Baltimore Oriole	4	1			5
Black-capped Chickadee		1	2		3
Brown-headed Cowbird				1	1
Chipping Sparrow	2				2
Clay-colored Sparrow	60	14	3	3	80
Common Yellowthroat	2				2
Gray Catbird	1				1
House Wren	3		1		4
Least Flycatcher	17	3	1		21
LeConte's Sparrow	1				1
Lincoln's Sparrow	2				2
Orange-crowned Warbler	1				1
Red-winged Blackbird	1			1	2
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1				1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				1	1
Savannah Sparrow	2				2
Song Sparrow	1				1
Swainson's Thrush	8				8
Tennessee Warbler	2				2
Trail's Flycatcher	2		1		3
Tree Swallow	1		1		2
Warbling Vireo	3				3
Yellow Warbler	21	8	2		31
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1			1
Grand Total	137	28	13	6	184

127 net-hours

145 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 Caught in a mist-net but not banded (e.g. escaped net).