

# Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update May 1 – 7, 2025



*This befuddled Sharp-shinned Hawk was our first capture of the field season!*

Welcome to the start of the 2025 BBO field season! After the wonderful Snow Goose Festival, the staff headed out and finished setting up the station and mist nets on April 30<sup>th</sup>. On the first day of migration monitoring that followed, we were absolutely delighted by our first capture of the year – a tiny male Sharp-shinned Hawk! The bird was seemingly just as surprised as we were when it found itself caught in one of our nets. Captures were generally slow throughout the week, outside of 21 captures on May 6, our daily totals remained in the low single digits each day. Our other highlight captures were a handful of Myrtle Warbler x Audubon's Warbler intergrades, a Swainson's Thrush, and our first Least Flycatcher of the year! Soon the Flycatcher's distinctive "cheBEK" song will be ubiquitous throughout the forest.

Each year, the BBO hires 8-10 student interns to assist us with our long-term monitoring projects. These projects include surveying nest boxes, monitoring bats, surveying butterflies, and doing census counts of grassland birds. This year's intern orientation took place on May 4, thank you to our 9 eager interns who came out! We're looking forward to working with you all over the coming months.



*The first staff ice cream trip of the season!*

This week featured many hot and muggy days, which has kept migration at a relatively slow pace for this time of year. Some Greater White-fronted Geese and Snow Geese are still migrating overhead, and we've seen the odd flock of Sandhill Cranes as well. Two shorebird surveys took place this week, and large numbers of small *Calidris* sandpipers have

started moving through the area alongside Long-billed Dowitchers, Marbled Godwits, Willets, and American Avocets. While the start of the season has been a bit slow, we're eager to see what the rest of the year brings!

Thank you to our long-term volunteer EI, who will be staying with us until early June to help out with banding!



*Official greeter and pawpositive vibe specialist Jewels has been enjoying her return to the field as well!*

Table 1. Migration Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total
American Robin	3				1	4
Black-capped Chickadee			2			2
Chipping Sparrow	8					8
Least Flycatcher	1					1
Lincoln's Sparrow	5					5
Myrtle Warbler	5					5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1					1
Slate-colored Junco	1					1
Song Sparrow	1					1
Swainson's Thrush	1					1
Tree Swallow	6					6
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's x Myrtle intergrade)	3					3
White-throated Sparrow	4					4
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>42</b>

490.5 net-hours

8.56 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).