

# Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update May 29 – June 4, 2025



*A handsome Male Magnolia Warbler! This bird was at least 3 years old (After second year).*

This week was our annual Big Birding Breakfast event! We hosted 102 visitors over the course of 2 days, and our guests were treated to a delightful crepe breakfast alongside some busy and exciting bird banding. Many boreal migrants were observed this week including a pair of Magnolia Warblers, a handful of Mourning Warblers, and another Gray-cheeked Thrush. In addition to birds and breakfast, we took our visitors to the grassland to toss feathers for the Tree Swallows. Tree Swallows line their nests with feathers, so in addition to keeping our guests entertained we helped the birds put the finishing touches on their nests! Thank you to everyone who came out!

After the exciting weekend, banding remained steady while staff turned their focus to other projects. Willow continued to hear lots of Yellow and Virginia Rails during her surveys of the marshes around Lister Lake, Jon saw a pair of Red Knots while surveying the shorelines of Beaverhill Lake, and Emelie documented the beginnings of the Least Flycatcher nesting season in the aspen forest. Staff also began setting of for MAPS, which begins in just 1 short week. How is spring migration almost over already?!



*Gray-cheeked Thrushes are very similar to the more common Swainson's Thrush, but lack buffy tones to their cheeks and face.*

Thank you to our volunteers this week: El, Charlotte, Patrick, and Gabby! An extra-special thank you to the volunteers who helped out with Big Birding Breakfast: Helen, Carmen, Christie, Sian, and Geoff. And the very specialist of thank yous to Janos Kovaks, who spent both mornings of the event cooking delicious crepes for all to enjoy!

Table 1. Migration Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>		Other <sup>3</sup>	Total
American Goldfinch	4		1			5
American Redstart	8					8
American Robin	4	1	2			7
Baltimore Oriole	15	17			1	33
Brown-headed Cowbird	1	2				3
Clay-colored Sparrow	8	5			1	14
Common Yellowthroat	6					6
Downy Woodpecker		1				1
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1					1
Least Flycatcher	40	18	6			64
Lincoln's Sparrow	1					1
Magnolia Warbler	2					2
Mourning Warbler	3					3
Northern House Wren	2	2				4
Red-winged Blackbird	2					2
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	1	1			3
Ruby-throated Hummingbird					1	1
Song Sparrow	1					1
Swainson's Thrush	5					5
Traill's Flycatcher	3					3
Tree Swallow	1	1				2
Warbling Vireo	2	2	1			5
White-throated Sparrow	3					3
Yellow Warbler	18	25	5			48
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1				1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>226</b>

539.5 net-hours

41.9 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).