

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update June 5-9, 2025

As the sun sets on this year's Spring Migration Monitoring, there is both much to fondly reminisce upon and much to look forward to!



A beautiful Canada Warbler perched atop Emelie's beautiful nails!

As of June 9th, there is a tally of 46 species that were banded during Spring Migration Banding! This week, on June 6th, a Canada Warbler and Bay-breasted Warbler made their appearances in the eleventh hour of spring banding, to the utmost delight of the staff! An exciting observation was that of a Wood Thrush, treating us to a few of its impressive songs on June 5th!

The MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) Program will begin on June 10th, bringing the biologists outside of their usual net lanes and into three other trail systems located in the Beaverhill Bird Observatory. The staff have spent the past few days mowing net lanes, setting up nets, preparing the banding kit, and amping up their mosquito-proof clothing artilleries in anticipation of the coming months!

These past few weeks marked the beginning of the individual monitoring programs run by the staff. Jon's Shorebird Surveys, Xavier's Breeding Bird Surveys, Emelie's Least Flycatcher Nest Monitoring, and Willow's Marsh Monitoring are soon to all be fully underway and are showing great promise! Emelie has performed a number of dedicated Least Flycatcher nest surveys, no matter the weather, photographing the nests with a camera on a 30 ft pole. Jon, unfortunately, is observing a retreat of the shoreline of Beaverhill Lake and the accompanying decrease in shorebird sightings. In brighter news, however, he gained a new addition to his life list after observing some Red Knots! First observed last year by Xavier, the elusive Yellow Rail is once again making its presence known on Willow's surveys at Lister Lake.

There are also some "hellos" and "goodbyes" happening this week. Jocelyn, a brilliant Young Ornithologist from last year, arrived on June 9th for her 4 week stay at the BBO! This week also marks the final days that El Whitby will be spending with many of the staff before leaving on June 11th.



Our long-term volunteer, El, who became difficult to distinguish from Keith on World Migratory Bird Day!

It is with heavy hearts that we must bid her farewell as she travels back to her home across the pond (please come visit us soon, EI!).

In many ways, this last week of banding was very representative of the entire spring migration season. Beautiful birds, mostly-decent weather, and many hours of joyful camaraderie amongst the passionate and hardworking staff, interns, and volunteers.

A huge thank-you goes out to this week's spectacular volunteers: Kelsey, Adara, Stefanie, and Gabbi!

Table 1. Migration Monitoring Banding Totals

<i>Species Name (Autofills)</i>	Banded	Foreign ¹	Repeat ²	Return ³	Unbanded ⁴	Grand Total
American Redstart	4					4
American Robin	3			1		4
Baltimore Oriole		1		6		7
Bay-breasted Warbler	1					1
Black-capped Chickadee				1	1	2
Brown-headed Cowbird	1			1		2
Canada Warbler	2					2
Clay-colored Sparrow	9			1	1	11
Common Yellowthroat	1					1
Downy Woodpecker	1			1		2
Gray Catbird	1					1
Least Flycatcher	17			14	2	33
Magnolia Warbler	1					1
Mourning Warbler	2					2
Northern House Wren	2			1		3
Red-eyed Vireo	2				1	3
Red-winged Blackbird	2				1	3
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				1		1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1					1
Song Sparrow	1					1
Swainson's Thrush	7					7
Trail's Flycatcher	9					9
Warbling Vireo	2				1	3
White-throated Sparrow	1					1
Yellow Warbler	11			13	2	26
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				1		1
Grand Total	81	1		41	5	132

Total Net Hours: 434.5 net-hours

30.38 captures/100 net-Hours

- 1 - Banded at a location other than the BBO.
- 2 - Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO.
- 3 - Banded at the BBO >90 days prior to recapture (e.g. in a previous year).
- 4 - Caught in a mist-net but not banded (e.g. escaped net).