

# Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly update - May 22nd to 28th, 2026



Sharp-shinned Hawk  
(*Accipiter striatus*)

This week contained significant changes to our weather and environment. We started with cool spring days before abruptly swapping to sweltering heat. When the heat hit, so did the mosquitoes, in apocalyptic numbers. The change in weather brought more than just our blood-sucking nemesis, it also brought many of our local breeding birds that were late on migration this year, including Baltimore Orioles, Red-eyed Vireos, and Yellow Rails! To continue with the trend of changing weather, the week ended with ominous warnings about an upcoming multi-day storm.

Banding had its ups and downs, but the ups were pretty great! For one, we had our top four highest capture days of the spring. The 27<sup>th</sup> takes the cake with 73 birds. Some of the most exciting birds we captured this week include a Morning Warbler, Gray Catbird, and Sharp-shinned Hawk. All of these species are infrequent but regular captures during spring migration; our rarest capture, however, hasn't been caught at the BBO for three years: a Veery!

The BBO staff were also kept busy with the educational events this week. In addition to a regular banding event, two school groups visited the Observatory. Also, several staff and volunteers from Wild North participated in a workshop where they learned to age and sex birds to help with identifying their patients. All this was a lot of work, but the staff weren't on their own, as there was a revolving door of long-term volunteers. First, we said goodbye to our first long-term volunteer of the year, Ryan Robison. After that, we greeted our next two wonderful long-term volunteers, Adam Cheney and Nadia Wilkins!



Veery  
(*Catharus fuscescens*)

<i>Species</i>	Banded	Repeat	Return	Other	Grand Total
American Goldfinch	1		1		2
Baltimore Oriole	8	6	7	1	22
Black-capped Chickadee		2	1		3
Brown-headed Cowbird			1	1	2
Chipping Sparrow	5				5
Clay-colored Sparrow	34	7		1	42
Eastern Warbling-Vireo	3		3		6
Gray Catbird	3				3
Least Flycatcher	66	8	11	2	87
Lincoln's Sparrow	5				5
Mourning Warbler	1				1
Myrtle Warbler	1				1
Northern House Wren	14			1	15
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1				1
Song Sparrow	1				1
Swainson's Thrush	21				21
Tennessee Warbler	3				3
Traill's Flycatcher	4				4
Tree Swallow	2	2	2		6
Veery	1				1
White-throated Sparrow	3				3
Yellow Warbler	26	4	13		43
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	1			2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>279</b>

591.0 net-hours

47 captures/100 net-hours

Repeat - banded 90 or fewer days ago, at the BBO  
Return - banded over 90 days ago, at the BBO  
Other - caught but not banded (e.g. escaped)