

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update Sept 8, 2020 – Sept 14, 2020

A new set of sounds has overtaken the BBO grounds. The soft *chups* of Myrtle warblers and the honks of Greater White-Fronted Geese reached a crescendo this week, peaking at over 1500 geese recorded in a single day! On that same day we observed the season’s first Snow Geese, which have been passing over with steadily increasing frequency. Myrtle Warblers continue to be found throughout the natural area in respectable numbers, and have been joined by the occasional Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart and Canada and Orange-Crowned Warbler. Wilson’s Snipes also have been seen passing over the weir in flocks of up to a dozen at a time, replacing the strident *tee-tee-tee* of Yellowlegs with the Snipe’s indescribable rasp.



Sara, our Head Biologist, pictured with the season’s first Long-Eared Owl

Owl banding opened to the public on September 9th to overwhelming interest and support. As of the time of writing, we have almost completely sold out for the entire season. Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket for your support! While owl migration continues to be slow, our visitors this week still got a guaranteed chance to see a Saw-Whet owl up close in the form of Rickie, our loyal ambassador bird, who made her first public appearance in six months on the first night of owl banding.

Our Saw-Whet nets have also finally been supplemented with our Long-Eared Owl net, which opened for the first time on September 10th. Luckily, we were rewarded with our first Long-Eared Owl of the season in the first two hours of operating that net!

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Northern Saw-whet Owl (M)	2		1			3
Northern Saw-whet Owl (F)		1				1
Long-Eared Owl	1					1
TOTALS	3	1	1	0	0	5

NSWO (M) Playback Hours: 38.5

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

Capture rate: 7.79 birds/100 playback hours

2 Banded at the BBO >90 days prior to recapture (e.g. in a previous year).

NSWO (F) Playback Hours: 32.5

3 Banded at a location other than the BBO

Capture rate: 3.07 birds/100 playback hours

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

LEOW Playback Hours: 26.5

Capture rate: 3.77 birds/100 playback hours