

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update September 6 – 12, 2023



A hybrid Yellow-rumped Warbler, note the yellow centre to the throat which would not appear on a Myrtle Warbler.

This week was one of highs and lows: we had many quiet days with very few birds captured, but lucked out with two fairly busy days on September 7th and 8th. Most of our captures this week were Myrtle Warblers, which tend to push through in large numbers during this time of year. Myrtle Warblers are a subspecies of the Yellow-rumped Warbler found east of the Rocky Mountains, but this week we were lucky enough to catch a bird that was a hybrid between the Myrtle subspecies and the western Audubon's subspecies. These kind of intergrades are uncommon in this area but have been captured at the BBO in the past.

The signs of fall are becoming more and more evident at the BBO this week. The beautiful sea of golden aspen has started to rain down leaves throughout the morning.

These leaves get caught in the net and can be a real headache to take out on a windy day! Sandhill Cranes and Greater White-fronted Geese have been streaming overhead throughout the week, signalling that the warm weather will soon be behind us.

The fall weather does bring positives with it though, as we had another excellent week for owl captures. This included the first Long-eared Owls of the season as well as another foreign recapture Saw-whet Owl from Lesser Slave Lake! Owl banding events start next week, check out our website if you'd like to join us for a night of owl banding fun. Trust me, it's a hoot!

Thanks to our volunteers this week: Makayla, Leonard, Madi, Solène, Megan, Jo-Anne, Patrick, Nick, Kelsi, Gabby, and Maud. An extra-special thank you to Geoff, Irene, and Ethan for covering staff days off this week.



Two Long-eared Owls captured this week: a female on the left and a male on the right.

Table 1. Standard Migration Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Redstart	1					1
Black-capped Chickadee	2	5				7
Blackpoll Warbler	1					1
Downy Woodpecker	1					1
Hairy Woodpecker		1				1
House Wren	1	1			1	3
Lincoln's Sparrow	2					2
Magnolia Warbler	4	1				5
Myrtle Warbler	131	2	1		1	135
Northern Waterthrush	1					1
Orange-crowned Warbler	4					4
Ovenbird	2	1				3
Pileated Woodpecker	1					1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1					1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2					2
Slate-coloured Junco	2					2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1					1
Swainson's Thrush	5					5
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle x Audubon's hybrid)	1					1
Wilson's Warbler	3					3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1					1
TOTALS	167	11	1	0	2	181

539.5 net-hours

33.5 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).

Table 2. Experimental Nets Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Redstart	1					1
American Robin			1			1
Black-capped Chickadee	7					7
Blackpoll Warbler	1					1
Clay-coloured Sparrow	3					3
Common Yellowthroat	2		1			3
Downy Woodpecker	1					1
White-crowned Sparrow (Gambel's)	1					1
House Wren		2				2
LeConte's Sparrow	1					1
Least Flycatcher	2					2
Lincoln's Sparrow	2					2
Magnolia Warbler	1	1				2
Myrtle Warbler	8	1	1			10
Orange-crowned Warbler	13					13
Ovenbird	1					1
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1					1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5					5
Savannah Sparrow	1					1
Tennessee Warbler	1					1
Traill's Flycatcher	1					1
Warbling Vireo	1					1
Western Palm Warbler	2					2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2					2
Yellow Warbler	6					6
TOTALS	64	4	3	0	0	71

144 net-hours

49.3 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).

Table 3. Owl Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Northern Saw-whet Owl	19	1		1		22
Long-eared Owl	3					3
TOTALS	22	1	0	1	0	24

NSWO Male (17 captures)

37.5 playback hours

45.3 captures/100 playback hours

NSWO Female (4 captures)

37.5 playback hours

10.7 captures/100 playback hours

Long-eared Owl (3 captures)

33 playback hours

9.1 captures/100 playback hours