

## Beaverhill Bird Observatory

### Weekly Update August 30 - September 5

By Shane Abernethy

As we begin moving into September, we have started noticing that with temperatures finally falling, birds have started migrating in earnest. We've found ourselves looking upwards at the squeaking flight calls of Greater White-Fronted Geese on a nearly daily basis, and flocks of Myrtle Warblers have been appearing with more regularity and in higher densities. Other boreal migrants have been making regular appearances as well, including Nashville and Orange-Crowned Warblers.

But this movement seems to be despite the persistent heat that still plagues the observatory. The mornings have started off well, but the moment the sun comes up and the temperature begins to climb, activity drops off an absolute cliff. Since the long-distance flights during migration are so energy-intensive, temperature regulation is a major factor influencing its pace, and so we're unlikely to see a significant increase in volumes until temperatures finally drop. However, other factors are at work to push birds our way, namely the active wildfires in Jasper, which seem to have pushed several waves of boreal migrants to us despite the warm weather. One of these waves led to our first day over 100 captures, which presented a hectic challenge for our staff.

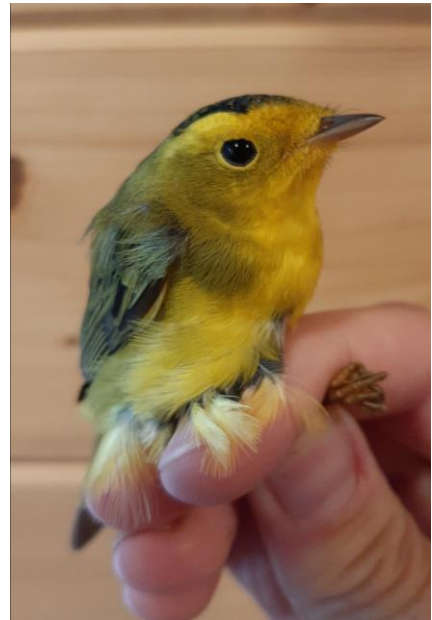
But now that we've entered September, another exciting development is taking place: for the first time this year, we hauled out a series of speakers and unfurled our owl nets. After a few deliberate days of no captures (better to start too early in the season than too late), our efforts were rewarded by our first Northern Saw-Whet, and our first Long-Eared Owl as a bonus!



*Left: A Long-Eared Owl gives us its trademark perpetually-surprised look from inside its restraint box.*



*This MacGillivray's Warbler, uncommon in this area, was probably pushed here by the wildfire in Jasper.*



*A Wilson's Warbler, one of the many boreal warblers streaming through, is objectively adorable.*

Table 1. Migration Monitoring Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total
Orange-Crowned Warbler	1					1
Myrtle Warbler	26	6				32
Nashville Warbler	2					2
Ovenbird	2				1	3
Wilson's Warbler	1					1
Tennessee Warbler	2					2
Magnolia Warbler	2					2
Blackpoll Warbler	1					1
Downy Woodpecker	1	1				2
Black-Capped Chickadee	1	3			1	5
House Wren	1					1
Swainson's Thrush	1					1
Slate-Colored Junco	1					1
Ruffed Grouse					1	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>55</b>

427.5 net-hours

12.8 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 Net Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total
Trail's Flycatcher	4					4
Least Flycatcher	14					14
Black-Capped Chickadee	2	16			2	20
House Wren	3	1				4
Yellow Warbler	15	1				16
Myrtle Warbler	94	9			1	104
Blackpoll Warbler	3					3
Tennessee Warbler	21	1			1	23
Magnolia Warbler	2					2
Orange-Crowned Warbler	8					8
Wilson's Warbler	6					6
Nashville Warbler	1					1
MacGillivray's Warbler	1					1
Ovenbird	3	1				4
American Redstart	4					4
Common Yellowthroat	6					6

White-Throated Sparrow	1					1
Swamp Sparrow	1					1
Clay-Colored Sparrow	3				1	4
Song Sparrow	5					5
Swainson's Thrush	1					1
Warbling Vireo	5	1				6
Red-Eyed Vireo	1					1
Philadelphia Vireo	1					1
American Goldfinch	1					1
Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker	1					1
Downy Woodpecker		1				1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>243</b>

183 net-hours

132.8 captures/100 net-hours

Table 3. Owl Migration Monitoring Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total
Northern Saw-Whet Owl (M)	1					1
Northern Saw-Whet Owl (F)						0
Long-Eared Owl	1					1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

NSWO Male Lure Playback Hours: 25

Capture Rate: 4 captures/100 net-hours

NSWO Female Lure Playback Hours: 24.5

Capture Rate: captures/100 net-hours

Long-Eared Owl Playback Hours: 17.5

Capture Rate: 5.7 captures/100 net-hours