

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update September 14th – September 20th

High winds were a persistent annoyance throughout this week, frequently forcing us to shut down our nets early or not open them in the first place. Despite the generally uncooperative weather, this was still a very exciting week at the BBO! After two days of no banding due to wind, birds that had been stuck in place due to the weather rushed through the natural area resulting in 162 captures in a single morning!



A hatch-year male Pileated Woodpecker. These are the largest woodpeckers currently found in North America, and a rare sight in an area with very few large trees! This fellow is likely passing through the area as he searches for his own territory.

The excitement didn't end with high volume days though. On a slower day of banding later in the week staff were beyond excited to catch a **Pileated Woodpecker** in one of our nets! This was only the 3rd Pileated Woodpecker ever caught at the BBO, making this an incredibly rare and exciting treat.

Not wanting to be left out on the fun, our owl monitoring has had its share of excitement as well. Migration has started to pick up, and staff are now typically catching at least 1 owl per night. The biggest excitement came on the evening of September 20th, when a Saw-whet Owl that was wearing a band we didn't recognize was captured. After looking up the band number, we were amazed to find out that this owl was originally banded in 2019 in the state of Pennsylvania! Band recoveries this far are very rare and provide extremely valuable information about the movements of our owls!

Thank you to our volunteers who came out this week: Irene, Martine, Maud, Phil, and Isabelle. You guys rock! If you'd like to get involved as a volunteer at the BBO, check out the ['Volunteer' page](#) on our website for information on how to sign up!



A foreign recapture Saw-whet owl! This after-second-year female was originally banded in Elk County, Pennsylvania back in 2019. The distance between BBO and the original banding site is over 2800 km!

Table 1. Standard Migration Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Myrtle Warbler	175	8			5	188
Swainson's Thrush	1					1
Ovenbird	1					1
Downy Woodpecker	3				1	4
Hairy Woodpecker					1	1
Black-capped Chickadee	7	13			1	21
Orange-crowned Warbler	7					7
House Wren					1	1
American Tree Sparrow	1					1
White-crowned Sparrow	2					2
Western Palm Warbler	1					1
Slate-colored Junco	3	1				3
Pileated Woodpecker	1					1
Hermit Thrush	1					1
TOTALS	203	22	0	0	9	234

345.5 net-hours

67.7 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
Myrtle Warbler	41	1			1	
Black-capped Chickadee	10	9				
House Wren		1				
Orange-crowned Warbler	9					
American Redstart	1					
Common Yellowthroat	1					
Downy Woodpecker	1					
Yellow Warbler	1					
Slate-colored Junco	1					
Tennessee Warbler	1					
Wilson's Warbler	1					
Savannah Sparrow	1					
Common Yellowthroat	1					
TOTALS	69	11	0	0	1	81

38 net-hours

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

213.2 captures/100 net-hours

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	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Northern Saw-whet Owl	14	1		1		16
TOTALS	14	1	0	1	0	16

94.75 playback hours

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

16.9 captures/100 playback hours

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).