

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update August 29 – September 4, 2025

BREAKING NEWS – Myrtle Madness has begun! During September at the BBO, Myrtle Warblers pour through the area in big numbers on their way south from the boreal forest. This week marked the start of that invasion: of the roughly 350 birds caught this week, over half were Myrtle Warblers! At points the trees were practically dripping with these yellow-reared cuties, and staff were delighted at the increased capture volume that resulted.



One of many Myrtle Warblers captured this week, this bird is an adult male. They're just too cute!



A handsome Blue Jay among the fall leaves. These birds are a rare capture at the BBO!

Myrtle Warblers were not our only noteworthy capture this week, we also got our first Palm Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Red-breasted Nuthatch of the season. Most exciting was a pair of Blue Jays, which we seldom catch at the BBO due to the size and intelligence! The high songbird captures paired beautifully with our weekend songbird banding events, thanks so much to everyone who came out!

This week also marked the official start of our owl monitoring season! 2 Saw-whet Owls have been caught to date, both of which were young birds. We are eagerly waiting for more of these cuties to start migrating!

A huge thank you to our volunteers this week: Camile, Gabby, and K! We couldn't run this station without help from people like you!



A handsome Blue Jay among the fall leaves. These birds are a rare capture at the BBO!

Table 1. Migration Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Redstart	16					16
Black-capped Chickadee	4	6	1			11
Blackpoll Warbler	12					12
Blue Jay	2					2
Clay-colored Sparrow	3				1	4
Common Yellowthroat	2					2
White-crowned Sparrow	1				1	2
Gray Catbird	1					1
Least Flycatcher	12	3			1	16
Lincoln's Sparrow	5				1	6
Magnolia Warbler	7					7
Mourning Warbler	3					3
Myrtle Warbler	171	8				179
Northern House Wren	3	1				4
Orange-crowned Warbler	12	1				13
Ovenbird	5	1				6
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1					1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	1				4
Swainson's Thrush	7					7
Swamp Sparrow	2					2
Tennessee Warbler	13					13
Traill's Flycatcher	10					10
Warbling Vireo	2		1			3
Western Palm Warbler	4					4
White-throated Sparrow	6	2				8
Wilson's Warbler	1					1
Yellow Warbler	9					9
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		1				1
American Redstart	16					16
TOTALS	317	24	2		4	347

655 net-hours

53.0 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. Owl Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Northern Saw-whet Owl	2	0	0	0	0	2
TOTALS	2	0	0	0	0	2

NSWO Male 1 (1 capture)

17 playback hours

5.9 captures/100 playback hours

NSWO Male 2 (0 captures)

17 playback hours

0 captures/100 playback hours

NSWO Female (0 captures)

17 playback hours

0 captures/100 playback hours

Long-eared Owl (1 capture)

17 playback hours

5.9 captures/100 playback hours

Boreal Owl (0 captures)

17 playback hours

0 captures/100 playback hours