

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update September 5-11, 2025

Imagine this: summer's last hurrah shepherds an endless stretch of blazing, sunny days to you at the Beaverhill Bird Observatory, and you spend your days admiring the bright blue skies and marvelling at the thousands of Greater White-fronted, Canada, and Snow Geese that fill them. Slowly, you watch the yellowed aspen leaves drift to the ground, the forests' branches growing barer by the day. But wait, you see something new infiltrating the canopies. You look closer. They're Myrtle Warblers!

Migration banding this week has generated magnificent capture counts, a total of 845 birds, and has skyrocketed this fall's capture count of MYWAs from 195 to 625 (Table 1)! On September 10th, our busiest day this week, 175 birds were caught and 140 of them were Myrtles! Needless to say, it has been an excellent few days! Since banding events have begun again, many guests were fortunate enough to experience these busy days with us!



A lovely Myrtle Warbler, the subspecies of Yellow-rumped Warbler encountered at the BBO!



Mountain of Myrtles! This ONE check from September 10th yielded 120 birds!

Owl banding has followed a slower trajectory this week, only capturing two Northern Saw-whet Owls and one Long-eared Owl (Table 2). Hopefully in the coming weeks this tide will change!

Interesting captures from this week include the banding of a Connecticut Warbler on September 9th! Besides the massive numbers of Myrtle Warblers, Orange-crowned and Western Palm Warblers were also frequently caught this week!

In bittersweet news, Keith the Red-tailed Hawk has gone back to Helen and Phil Trefry's falconry for the season, but Tansi the Great



The second-most common capture at the BBO this week was the Orange-crowned Warbler!

Horned Owl has made a triumphant return to her position as our ambassador bird for the fall!

This week, we also said farewell to two long-term volunteers, Anna Heming and Aaron Gomperts. Their sharp banding skills will be greatly missed, and we wish them nothing but the best down in their home state of California!

Volunteers are a deeply-valued cornerstone of the BBO, and our gratitude goes out to this week's wonderful volunteers Pat, Kalia, Jordan, Gabby, Kelsey, Camille, K, Adara, and Mariana!

Table 1. Migration Monitoring Banding Totals

<i>Species Name</i>	<i>Banded</i>	<i>Repeat¹</i>	<i>Unbanded²</i>	<i>Grand Total</i>
American Redstart	2			2
American Robin	1			1
Bay-breasted Warbler	2			2
Black-and-white Warbler	1			1
Black-capped Chickadee	5	2		7
Blackpoll Warbler	8			8
Blue-headed Vireo	2			2
Clay-colored Sparrow	7			7
Common Yellowthroat	2			2
Connecticut Warbler	1			1
Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow	4			4
Gray Catbird	1			1
Least Flycatcher	5			5
Lincoln's Sparrow	7			7
Magnolia Warbler	7			7
Myrtle Warbler	540	17	3	560
Northern House Wren	5			5
Northern Waterthrush	1			1
Orange-crowned Warbler	60	5		65
Ovenbird	9			9
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	7			7
Ruffed Grouse			1	1
Savannah Sparrow	1			1
Slate-colored Junco	1			1
Song Sparrow	1			1
Swainson's Thrush	12			12
Tennessee Warbler	4			4
Warbling Vireo	1	1		2
Western Palm Warbler	14			14

White-throated Sparrow	5	1		6
Wilson's Warbler	2			2
Yellow Warbler	5			5
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		3	1	4
Yellow-shafted Flicker	1			1
Grand Total	724	29	5	758

1 - Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO.

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

653 net-hours

116.1 captures/100 net-hours

Table 2. Owl Banding Totals

<i>Species Name</i>	<i>Banded</i>	<i>Grand Total</i>
Long-eared Owl	1	1
Northern Saw-whet Owl	2	2
Grand Total	3	3

NSWO Male 1 (0 captures)

37.5 playback hours

0 captures/100 playback hours

NSWO Male 2 (3 captures)

39 playback hours

7.7 captures/100 playback hours

NSWO Female (0 captures)

38 playback hours

0 captures/100 playback hours

Long-eared Owl (0 captures)

39.5 playback hours

0 captures/100 playback hours

Boreal Owl (0 captures)

39.5 playback hours

0 captures/100 playback hours