

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update August 23-29, 2026



A Veery is a type of thrush, distinguished from similar species by its reddish coloration and minimal chest spotting.

It's undeniably fall here at the BBO! The mornings have gotten chillier, the air crisp, and steady streams of aspen and balsam leaves are making their way from the treetops to the ground. Or, more often, ending up caught in our nets!

The overall volume of birds was low this week despite fairly high net hours. The intense rainfall this summer unfortunately caused many birds' nests to fail, so we suspect there is a bit of a delay in migration due to birds re-nesting on their breeding grounds. Only time will tell if this is the case, or if it's simply going to be a lower capture year.

Despite the low captures, species diversity was fantastic this week! We caught 12 different species

of warblers, as well as some other exciting captures in the form of a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and a Veery! Birds from the boreal forest are continuing to move south, and many of our iconic local breeding species are becoming scarce. Even though the field season feels like it just started, somehow we're already nearing the start of owl banding! Where did the summer go?!

This week was also the start of our fall songbird banding events! We hosted 6 people for a workshop on ageing and sexing songbirds on the 29th, and it was a ton of fun and a great learning experience for all involved! Regular songbird banding events are beginning as well, hopefully just in time for the biggest migration rushes of the year!

Thank you to our volunteers this week: Savannah, Bannor, Gabby, Jordyn and Shayda! Your help is greatly appreciated!



Wilson's Warblers are adorable, and one of several migrating warblers captured this week.

Table 1. Migration Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Redstart	1					1
Bay-breasted Warbler	1					1
Black-capped Chickadee	1	2				3
Blackpoll Warbler	1					1
Clay-colored Sparrow	3					3
Common Yellowthroat	1					1
Eastern Warbling-Vireo	1					1
Gray Catbird	3					3
Least Flycatcher	12	3			1	16
Lincoln's Sparrow	1					1
Magnolia Warbler	3					3
Mourning Warbler	1					1
Northern House Wren	6	1				7
Northern Waterthrush	2					2
Orange-crowned Warbler	1					1
Ovenbird	6					6
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3					3
Song Sparrow	3					3
Swainson's Thrush	2					2
Tennessee Warbler	4	1			2	7
Traill's Flycatcher	2					2
Veery	1					1
Wilson's Warbler	2	1				3
Yellow Warbler	16	2				18
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1					1
TOTALS	78	10	0	0	3	91

554 net-hours

16.4 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).