

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly update - August 30th to September 5th, 2026



Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*)

As August gives way to September, fall continues to set in. The chill has been demolishing the mosquitoes that plagued us for much of the summer. The larger dragonflies, however, are doing exceptionally well; as a result, several of our Purple Martins have decided to delay their migration and are still filling the air with their bubbly calls. This has been the wettest year in the history of the BBO, and we were reminded of this when we continued to get significant rainfalls into September.

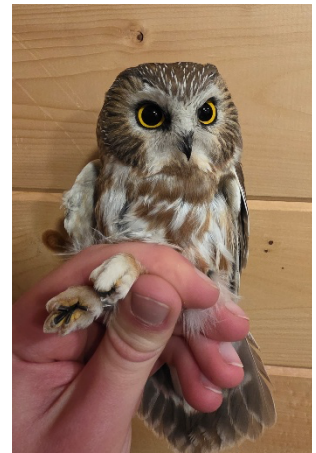
In an ordinary year, large Myrtle Warbler flocks would start migrating through the area this time of year, but no such movement was observed this week, with only a single individual being caught. As a result, we caught significantly fewer birds compared previous years. Between August 30th and September 5th this year we caught 71 birds, in the same time frame last year we caught

346 birds. Bird diversity doesn't have as stark a difference, however, with 21 species caught versus 28 last year. One bird that didn't follow the trend of lower numbers was the Ovenbird, which we caught more often than usual. In addition, we caught our first Orange-crowned Warblers of the fall this week; they are among the latest migrating of the warblers, so this timing is no surprise. Songbird banding events also started this week! There weren't as many wild birds to keep the visitors entertained as usual; fortunately, our educational ambassador Tansi is great at entertaining crowds.



Tansi the Great Horned Owl

Another regular part of BBO operations began this week: Owl Banding! The start of the season is quite promising, as we caught two Northern Saw-whet Owls on the first night and continued to alternate between nights of no captures and a few captures.



Northern Saw-whet Owl
(*Aegolius acadicus*)

Finally, we bid farewell to our excellent long-term Aaron Gomperts who travelled here from his home in California for the second time; a testament to the greatness of the BBO!

Table 1. Fall Migration Monitoring banding totals

Species Name	Banded	Repeat	Return	Other	Grand Total
American Redstart	4				4
Black-capped Chickadee		4	1		5
Blackpoll Warbler	5				5
Clay-coloured Sparrow	1				1
Common Yellowthroat	4				4
Eastern Warbling Vireo	1				1
Least Flycatcher	13				13
Mourning Warbler	1				1
Myrtle Warbler	1				1
Northern House Wren	5			1	6
Northern Waterthrush	1				1
Orange-crowned Warbler	3				3
Ovenbird	10			1	11
Red-eyed Vireo	2				2
Song Sparrow	2				2
Swainson's Thrush	2				2
Tennessee Warbler	1				1
Unidentified Warbling Vireo	4				4
Wilson's Warbler	1				1
Yellow Warbler	3				3
Grand Total	64	4	1	2	71

498.0 net-hours

14.3 captures/100 net-hours

Repeat - banded 90 or fewer days ago, at the BBO
 Return - banded over 90 days ago, at the BBO
 Other - caught but not banded (e.g. escaped)

Species Name	Banded
Northern Saw-whet Owl	4
Grand Total	4

NSWO Male (4 captures)

50.0 playback hours

18.2 captures/100 playback hours

NSWO Female (0 captures)

26.0 playback hours

0 captures/100 playback hours

Long-eared Owl (0 captures)

22.0 playback hours

0 captures/100 playback hours