

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update – October 4-10, 2026



BBO Biologist Xavier and Pileated Woodpecker

This week at the BBO was a gentle decline into end of season banding. The most abundant songbird caught in our nets was the American Tree Sparrow, a true signal that fall is here. In total we caught 53 birds of eleven species in our songbird nets, an impressive diversity for October.

The most exciting catch was a Pileated Woodpecker- the first one caught since 2023! It was a feisty, large addition to our season's species count.

Owl banding is holding steady, with 35 Northern Saw-whet Owls caught this week. Although this is slow for our statistical peak of the season, it's still higher captures than last year. Hopefully the rest of October sees more productive owl nets. Events are still running from Thursday-Sunday. Our events this week were slightly thwarted by the wind and icy rain, but most everyone got to see a wild owl!



Northern Saw-whet Owl

Tansi the Great-horned Owl was working an important job this week during windier days, providing a close-up owl experience for visitors between net checks!

Migration Monitoring banding totals:

<i>Species Name (Autofills)</i>	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Unbanded ³	Grand Total
American Tree Sparrow	35	1		1	37
Black-capped Chickadee	1	3	1		5
Brown Creeper	1				1
Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow	1				1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2				2
Lincoln's Sparrow	2				2
Pileated Woodpecker	1				1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1				1
Ruffed Grouse				1	1
Slate-colored Junco	1				1
Song Sparrow	1				1
Grand Total	46	4	1	2	53

328.00 net-hours

22.27 captures/100 net-hours

1 - banded less than 90 days ago, at the BBO

2 - banded more than 90 days ago, at the BBO

3 - caught but not banded (e.g. escaped)

Owl banding totals:

	Banded	Repeat ¹	Grand Total
Northern Saw-whet Owl	34	1	35
Grand Total	34	1	35

135 net-hours

1 - banded less than 90 days ago, at the BBO

NSWO Male (24 captures)

60 playback hours

40 captures/100 playback hours

NSWO Female (2 captures)

30 playback hours

6.7 captures/100 playback hours

Long-eared Owl (0 captures)

31.5 playback hours

0 captures/100 playback hours

Boreal Owl (1 capture)

31.5 playback hours

3.2 captures/100 playback hours