

## Weekly Update September 10<sup>th</sup> to September 16<sup>th</sup> 2017

Migration is heating up at BBO! Geese continue as normal, with Greater White-fronted and Canada Geese moving overhead, with only a few Snow Geese moving so far. But this week we have started to experience sudden patches of cold rainy weather, and the birds are rushing south to beat the cold weather. Out of the blue, just before a rainy day, it hit... 146 birds in one morning!!! Over 100 were Myrtle Warblers, and 76 were caught in the last hour of banding! For the rest of the week Myrtle Warblers were seen all over, and there was a second busy day of 120 captures, again mostly Myrtle Warblers.



Myrtle Warbler with some leucistic feathers (missing pigmentation). Photo credit Sara Pearce Meijerink.

There were a few interesting captures and sightings this week along with the significant numbers caught. We caught a Gray Catbird, Blackpoll Warbler, and a Magnolia Warbler. Ruby-crowned Kinglets are starting to pick up in numbers in the natural area. These birds weigh about 6 grams and are one of the smallest birds we can band at BBO. On top of these cool birds that were caught, we even saw White-faced Ibis fly overhead!

Owl captures are also picking up a bit this week. Most nights saw captures of 3-7, but one evening Sara was surprised to catch 18 Northern Saw-whet Owls! Yahoo!!!! We have caught a couple of second year aged birds and lots of hatch year, which is common, and indicates that these owls had a pretty good breeding season. Unless there were a multitude of failed nests, there should always be more hatch year birds than adults in fall migration.

Kevin and Amanda joined Irene, our Field Mom, for a bit of shorebird viewing on a rainy day this week. They travelled to Miquelon Lake, where they saw Sanderlings, Dowitchers, and Black-bellied Plovers. There was even a juvenile American Golden Plover in the mix! Most shorebirds prefer mud flats where they can seek out insects in the wet mud.



Black-bellied Plover at Miquelon Lake. Photo credit to Irene Crosland.

On the lab front, we are starting to clean up some materials for the end of season. Kevin has scanned copies of much of the data, and painted some final signs for the Natural Area. Some materials such as paint, which are susceptible to freezing have been moved off-site. There is still lots of owl banding to go, but things are changing from the summer!

Thank you to our incredible volunteers who came out this week: Emily and Chris, Nat, Amelia, Geoff and Gemma, Erin and Garnett, Amanda, Irene, Julia and Natasha, Steve, Jeremy and Jon, Emily, Jessica and Dixie, Rose and Eli, Ronnie, Brittany, and Marie.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Banded</b>	<b>Repeat<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Return<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Foreign<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Other<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
Downy Woodpecker	0	1	0	0	0	1
Least Flycatcher	1	1	0	0	0	2
Black-capped Chickadee	2	15	0	0	0	17
House Wren	1	0	0	0	0	1
Swainson's Thrush	1	0	0	0	0	1
Warbling Vireo	1	0	0	0	0	1
Hermit Thrush	1	0	0	0	0	1
Audubon Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Wilson's Warbler	7	0	0	0	0	7
Blackpoll Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Magnolia Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Common Yellowthroat	1	0	0	0	0	1
Myrtle Warbler	222	4	0	0	2	228
Orange-crowned Warbler	28	2	0	0	0	30
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	8	0	0	0	0	8
Tennessee Warbler	4	0	0	0	0	4
Gray Catbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Slate-coloured Junco	3	0	0	0	0	3
White-throated Sparrow	3	0	0	0	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>314</b>

Birds Caught                    314  
 Net Hours                        308.75  
 Capture Rate:                  101.70

Capture Rate was 101.70 birds/100 Net Hours.

Owls

<b>Species</b>	<b>Banded</b>	<b>Repeat<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Return<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Foreign<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Other<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
Northern Saw-whet Owl	46	0	0	0	0	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>46</b>

Birds Caught                    46  
Net Hours                        163  
Capture Rate:                    28.22

Capture Rate was 28.22 birds/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).