

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update September 28th to October 4th



A mist net full of leaves – I wish the foliage would leaf us alone!

As the air chills and the leaves fall, migration monitoring for songbirds has slowed to only a trickle of our very latest migrating species. Cold and breezy mornings have become the norm out at the BBO lately, which has frequently resulted in our nets opening late and closing early (and often getting filled with leaves throughout the day). Despite the setbacks, we had some fun captures this week including a Swamp Sparrow and a Brown Creeper! While we are no longer hosting events for songbird banding, our Assistant Biologist Shane ran a livestream on the morning of October 4th which allowed viewers to enjoy the songbird banding action from the comforts of their own homes. If you missed out on watching the stream live – worry not! A full recording on the livestream is available on the BBO's YouTube channel – check it out along with our other videos [here](#)!

While songbirds have slowed down considerably, owl migration has picked up in full swing! We caught a total of 63 Saw-whet Owls this week as well as another Long-eared Owl, so while the evenings have been cold they have certainly been exciting as well. We have continued to host visitors for owl banding this week, which has been a treat for staff and guests alike thanks to owls and weather being generally cooperative. While tickets for owl banding are sold out for this year, consider becoming a lifetime member of the BBO to get advance notice on next year's ticket sales! If you are interested in becoming a member, check out [our website](#) for information on how to do so.



Thank you to everyone who volunteered with us this week: Megan, Hazel, Michiko, Brent, Emily, Camile, Meghan Jacklin, Irene, Lucia, Molly, and Tyson! If you want to volunteer with the BBO and get hands-on experience in conservation, check out [the 'Volunteer' page](#) on our website!

It wouldn't be a weekly update without an adorable owl photo, would it?



Brown Creepers get their name from their characteristic habit of creeping up tree trunks.

Table 1. Standard Migration Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Black-capped Chickadee	1	22				23
Downy Woodpecker	3	1				4
Myrtle Warbler	5				1	6
American Tree Sparrow	5					5
Slate-colored Junco	11	6			2	19
Swamp Sparrow	1					1
White-throated Sparrow	1					1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1					1
Brown Creeper	1					1
TOTALS	29	29	0	0	3	61

303 net-hours

20.1 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).

Table 2. Experimental Nets Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Tree Sparrow	6					6
Downy Woodpecker	1					1
TOTALS	7	0	0	0	0	7

23.5 net-hours

29.8 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).

Table 3. Owl Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Northern Saw-whet Owl	62	1				63
Long-eared Owl	1					1
TOTALS	63	1	0	0	0	64

120.75 playback hours

53.0 captures/100 playback 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).