

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update Sept 1, 2020 – Sept 7, 2020

The start of the fall season brings exciting times for BBO. Demolition of our long-standing lab building began and was completed this week, reducing our lab to a patch of bare earth. While it was sad to see it go, we are excited by the possibilities its replacement brings and eagerly await its completion. So long, old lab. You have served us well these past thirty-six years.



Goodbye Old Lab Building! You have served us well.

In addition, we finally offer a warm welcome to Shane Abernethy, our new Assistant Biologist, who arrived from Ontario at the very end of August. Shane had previously been working remotely for us since July, and drove out from his home north of Toronto over a nine-day road trip. He is excited to finally get to work in the field.

While the lab was steadily dismantled, BBO field staff set up owl nets in preparation for the official start of owl migration monitoring. We opened our owl nets for the first time this

year on September 1st, and have been doing so every night since.

Our efforts on the first night were quickly rewarded: a young Northern Saw-Whet owl, still in its juvenal plumage, was caught and banded. It was likely from a local breeding pair, possibly a late brood in one of BBO's nest boxes.

While we lacked the staff to run our daytime passerine migration monitoring program, we continued our morning census. In the past week, we have encountered many signs that migration is well and truly underway, but none so vocal as the numerous flocks of Greater White-Fronted Geese! In addition, we have seen large numbers of Sandhill Crane and Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs passing through, as well as a sudden influx of Myrtle Warblers.

Owl banding will be opened to the public starting September 9th. You can book your visit today by visiting our website. We hope to see you there!



BBO's first owl of 2020, a Northern Saw-whet Owl in juvenal plumage

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1					1
TOTALS	1	0	0	0	0	1

Playback Hours: 31.5 hrs

Capture rate: 3.17 birds/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).