Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update October 11-17, 2026

As we creep into the final month of the field season, we have found ourselves frequently at the mercy of the elements (a common theme this year). Wind, precipitation, and sub-zero temperatures winnowed down our songbird net hours and we only caught two species the entire week (Table 1)! This is not a tale of doom and gloom, however, as one of these species was a Pileated Woodpecker! The other species was the ever-adorable American Tree Sparrow.

Owl banding, on the other hand, was much more lucrative, with 28 Northern Saw-whet Owls captured (Table 2)! Banding events are quickly finishing, with our final one taking place on October 18th. We're so grateful for all those who attended, and we look forward to seeing you all again next year!

The BBO crew spent the rest of our week doing officework, clearing downed trees, chopping wood to heat the station, and repairing squirrel-chewed nets. We were also welcomed into the home of Bob and Irene Crosland, beloved long-time volunteers, for a splendid Thanksgiving dinner.

Our volunteers are incredibly valuable in helping us do everything we do! Thank you to this week's volunteers Quinn, Gabby, Stefanie, Erica, Bannor, Jordyn and Kalia, Adara, and Matt.



It is always such a delight to see a handsome male Pileated Woodpecker, especially in a mist net!



One of the Northern Saw-whet Owls we caught this week!

Species Name	Banded	Unbanded[1]	Grand Total
American Tree Sparrow	11	1	12
Pileated Woodpecker	1		1
Grand Total	**12**	**1**	**13**

Table 1. Songbird banding totals for this week.
[1]Caught but not banded (e.g. escaped)

Total net hours: 249.0
5.2 captures/100 net-hours

Species Name	Banded	Grand Total
Northern Saw-whet Owl	28	28
Grand Total	**28**	**28**

Table 2. Owl banding totals for this week.

NSWO Male 1 (9 captures)
35 playback hours
25.7 captures/100 playback hours

NSWO Male 2 (13 captures)
35 playback hours
37.1 captures/100 playback hours

NSWO Female (3 captures)
34 playback hours
8.8 captures/100 playback hours

Long-eared Owl (1 capture)
35 playback hours
2.9 captures/100 playback hours

Boreal Owl (2 captures)
35 playback hours
5.7 captures/100 playback hours