

VISITING THE MRBO NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL BANDING STATION

Season & Timing: The Northern Saw-whet Owl (NSWO) season starts in late October and runs until mid-November. Owl banding takes place after dark as that is when the owls are active. We run nets from about an hour after sunset for 3-4 hours ([find sunset times here](#)). We check the nets about every 45 minutes. We invite visitors for the peak hours of operation, when capturing an owl is most likely (though never guaranteed!)

We do not operate the banding station every night, only on nights when there are favorable weather and wind conditions. MRBO staff will post on social media the dates on which we will be open to the public. Also please feel free to email education@mrbo.org to inquire if we will be open on any particular night.

Please feel free to arrive and depart as your schedule allows during the open period. (For example, if posted visiting hours are 7:30-9:30, you can arrive at 7:30 or any time thereafter, and depart when you need to!)

Location: Our owl banding station is at the historic Lawless House and grounds in Arrow Rock, MO. The address is **39250 Hwy 41** (Google Maps sometimes recognizes this address as being in Nelson, MO 65347).

We band the owls in an outbuilding called the chicken coop. When you arrive look for a small white building that will be lit and marked by a sign. We will also have signs directing you into our driveway, but they can be very difficult to see in the dark. Our gravel driveway is located on the same side of the road as the large Arrow Rock State Historic Site Visitors Center sign; this sign points across Highway 41 to Visitor Center Drive. However, our driveway is located *on the sign's side of the highway*, about 20 ft west of the sign.

We do not have a phone at this location, so please be patient if it takes you a little while to find the driveway – be sure to look for that large Arrow Rock State Historic Site sign as noted above.

Parking: You are free to park along the side of the circular part of our gravel driveway or in the yard near the old shed (MRBO vehicles are typically parked in this area for reference).

Other Notes: It can get chilly in our enclosed, but not heated, outbuilding where banding takes place, so please dress accordingly! The floor is concrete so warm boots are especially recommended.

There is a small restroom in the main house.

We provide an “owl orientation” presentation about the history of NSWO banding in Missouri between net runs. Even if we do not catch any owls, there is always good conversation about birds and nature. (Please note, especially if you are coming from far away, that these are wild birds on migration, and we cannot guarantee a capture!)