

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update: September 26 to October 2, 2005

As the temperature falls at Beaverhill Lake, the migrants begin to slow down. But, then there are the interesting captures. The first Brown Creeper and Fox Sparrows of the year was captured, and a nice young male Sharp-shinned Hawk made an appearance. Also had a Myrtle Warbler with all white greater coverts, a white tail feather and white feathers in the head... perhaps a partial albino?? A particularly mean chickadee had a tuft of white feathers in its crown (maybe it was mad at being different).



Of course the American Tree Sparrows and Juncos are topping the list as the fall continues. Still hoping for the Winter Wren to make an appearance (my favourite bird), and I keep wishing the Nuthatches would go into the nets, they are around daily.

Table 1. Results from fall migration netting at BBO September 26 to October 2, 2005.

Species	Banded	Recapture	Other	TOTAL
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	0	0	1
Downy Woodpecker	0	1	0	1
Black-capped Chickadee	8	6	0	14
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	0	0	3
Brown Creeper	1	0	0	1
Hermit Thrush	4	0	0	4
American Robin	2	0	0	2
Myrtle Warbler	4	0	0	4
Tennessee Warbler	1	0	0	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	2	0	0	2
American Tree Sparrow	22	0	0	22
Fox Sparrow	1	0	1	2
Slate-colored Junco	9	2	0	11
TOTAL	58	9	1	68

Saw-whet Owl migration is now in full swing. We caught owls on 4 of 5 nights this past week, with 30 owls in the nets. A new record of 24 captures (22 banded) in a single night was made on October 3. I'm looking forward to seeing whether the trend for higher numbers continues this week, as we were worried there would be no owls this year due to the low number of captures to up till last night. We captured another animal in the nets, this Flying Squirrel decided it wanted to be banded and dropped into the net for a visit. Thanks to Martina Frey for taking this photo of Chuck with this impostor!!



The visitors and volunteers continue to come out despite the colder weather. Kerry Weston from New Zealand made a trip out from her temporary home in Jasper (photos below) to help with songbirds and owls. Alicia Kelly brought out Tim Van Dam, who took some great photos for us. We had volunteer Martina Frey and her friends Kim and Debbie Jensen from Strathmore out for the incredible owl night. I hope they don't think we get this many owls all the time!!

And Peter Stahl made another trip out for owls, taking this photo to the right earlier on in the day. Unfortunately this particular Moose seems to have made a home in the Natural Area, and decided to play with one of the songbird mist nets (the mist net and pole lost in the game).

Lisa Priestley, Beaverhill Bird Observatory

