

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update Sept 15 – 30, 2010

September 16th was a great day for Orange-crowned Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, I also caught two Gray-cheeked Thrushes that day, and finally, FINALLY a Sharp-shinned Hawk! After watching a few escape from the nets this year, it was great to get my hands on one, despite the fact that she was good with her feet and left her mark!



A group from the Smokey Lake Junior Forest Warden club came out on September 19th. They came out in the spring of 2009 in a terrible snow storm to see the songbird banding, and Ashley and I couldn't do any better than a demo with our stuffed Evening Grosbeak we have at the lab. Thankfully this time they came out, I caught 7 birds so they could witness the *actual* banding process. Approximately 8 adults and 14 children were out for the day, and enjoyed the birds, hot chocolate, and a demo of Annie's tricks.

On September 21st I caught the 700th bird of Fall Migration Monitoring, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, which was also the third nuthatch caught that day!



Jim and Barb Beck were out to cover two nights of Saw-whet monitoring, and Jim brought along his chainsaw... Many thanks Jim for your hard-work in sawing up a big pile of wood! It'll keep me warm out here for a long time to come yet.

I captured one banded Hairy Woodpecker, turned out to be a second year bird that I had banded last year on September 23rd. Nice to see her again!

Another fun catch for me was the Blue Jay, a species that isn't around all summer but moves through the Natural Area in the fall. I had been hearing a few around, and

enjoyed getting to catch and band one. They are just so blue! A Ruffed Grouse also flushed right by my feet and flew into a net during one net check, and bit startling as usual.

Visitors during this two week period included Anna Daku and new baby Micah with their dog Finn, welcome to the world Micah and hope you enjoyed your day of banding, boy they are starting them young now-a-days!

The Tofield Junior Forest Warden club was also out, they stayed overnight, catching owls with Lisa and then getting up with me to catch songbirds in the morning. I was lucky to catch the first Golden-crowned Kinglet of the year to share with them. *Katie*



Table 1. Results from Fall Migration Monitoring September 15-30, 2010.

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Redstart	1	0	0	0	0	1
American Tree Sparrow	2	0	0	0	0	2
Black-capped Chickadee	5	9	0	0	1	15
Blue Jay	1	0	0	0	0	1
Downy Woodpecker	0	1	0	0	0	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	0	0	0	0	1
Gray-cheeked Thrush	3	0	0	0	0	3
Hairy Woodpecker	0	0	1	0	0	1
Hermit Thrush	2	0	0	0	0	2
Lincoln's Sparrow	2	0	0	0	0	2
Myrtle Warbler	28	0	0	0	1	29
Orange-crowned Warbler	23	0	0	0	3	26
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	0	0	0	0	5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6	0	0	0	1	7
Ruffed Grouse	0	0	0	0	1	1
Slate-colored Junco	11	1	0	0	1	13
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	0	0	0	0	1
Swainson's Thrush	2	0	0	0	0	2
White-crowned Sparrow	3	1	0	0	0	4
Wilson's Warbler	3	0	0	0	0	3
Western Palm Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
White-throated Sparrow	8	0	0	0	3	11
Total	108	12	1	0	11	132

Net Hours: 560.50 NH

Capture Rate: 23.55 birds/ 100 NH

- 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).

And now I take over writing about the Saw-whet Owl banding. We started running the nets on the night of September 10th but didn't catch our first Saw-whets until the 13th. By September 30th we had captured 37 Saw-whets and banded 36 (one was an owl that decided to visit the nets a second time three days after he was banded). We have also been fortunate to catch three Long-eared Owls this year, more than any other year since we started the Saw-whet program. We believe there was a nest in the Natural Area that we couldn't track down, as they were all young owls. One Long-eared in particular, still had pin feathers in the wing. We've had a lot of visitors coming to see the owl banding, and we are getting prepped for Steaks and Saw-whets this coming weekend. *Lisa*

