

## Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update October 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011



October was kicked off again this year with two nights of Steaks and Saw-whets (on September 30 and October 1). These events are always a great time, with delicious food, good company and, of course, some owls! The first night went well with a saw-whet in the nets at the first check, and three more through the night. We were weathered out of catching any owls on Saturday night, but thanks to everyone who came out for supper and to visit the new Burrowing Owl that Geoff Holroyd brought along. As of October 15<sup>th</sup>, we have caught 132 Northern Saw-whet Owls, as well as 3 Long-eared Owls, (since September 10<sup>th</sup>).

October also signalled the end of songbird Fall Migration Monitoring, with nets run for the last day on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Despite a low number of net hours due to cold mornings and damp weather, we caught a fair number of birds. Geoff was surprised to find a Black-

billed Magpie in the nets on the 1<sup>st</sup>, and I was equally surprised to catch one a few days later (hanging in net 8 a few metres from a Sharp-shinned Hawk, no less). It was a great chance to get up close and personal with this common bird that we rarely find in the nets, the iridescence of their plumage is really quite amazing.

The lab has continued to be busy with visitors as well! Thea and James came out to see the owling and get some more banding practice in, and Sandy and Lynn also came out to see the songbirds. The night of the 15<sup>th</sup> the lab was busy with a large group from the University of Alberta, thanks Chuck and Bryn for covering. Thanks as well to Lisa, Geoff and Jim and Barb Beck for covering other nights.

Sadly we also said some goodbyes this month also! Katie's last day at the lab was at the beginning of the month. Thanks for all your hard work and enthusiasm over the past few years, and especially for making the last two summers at the lab so great! Best of luck in Vancouver.



**Table 1. Results from Songbird Banding October 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011.**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Banded</b>	<b>Repeat<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Return<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Foreign<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Other<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
American Robin	3	0	0	0	0	3
American Tree Sparrow	51	1	0	0	7	59
Black-billed Magpie	2	0	0	0	0	2
Black-capped Chickadee	3	11	1	0	1	16
Brown Creeper	2	0	0	0	0	2
Downy Woodpecker	0	1	0	0	0	1
Myrtle Warbler	5	0	0	0	0	5
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	0	0	0	0	1
Slate-coloured Junco	25	3	0	0	1	29
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	0	0	0	0	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	1	0	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>121</b>

*Net Hours: 415.5 NH*

*Capture Rate: 29.12 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).

