

## Weekly Update August 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>

This week we are very much beginning to feel the effects of fall. A couple of days that began barely above zero and the trees dropping yellow leaves into the nets have us starting to think about Saw-whets and as much as we will miss summer, we are excited to see those owls! Along with the cool temperatures, increasing winds are forcing us to close early some days, but we are still getting high numbers and diversity of species. We were excited even to see Frank the Porcupine three times this week. We hope he might be hanging around more as fall starts to set in!

This Wednesday was the last day of work for one of the summer assistants, Emily. Emily has been a very hard worker throughout the season. She participated in Spring and Fall Migration, MAPS, and banded the majority of the 1000 Mountain Bluebird, Tree Swallow, and House Wren chicks living in our nestboxes. She kept the lab well maintained and was always friendly to guests. She researched and ran fun and educational games for kids during events and was all around fun to be around. As a publication for this summer she created an aging guide for House Wren chicks by studying two House Wren nests in our nestboxes from the day the chicks hatched until they were almost two weeks old. This will allow future interns and even others outside of the BBO to better determine at what age to correctly band House Wren chicks. She ended this summer with over 1000 birds banded and 49 species (she'll be back to round that number up to 50)! We wish you the best of luck in your future studies Emily!!!



Measuring a House Wren chick under a week old!

This week the crows have been flocking in the hundreds around the lab in early morning, sometimes making deafening noise, and we have begun to see flocks of geese beginning their migration. However, this also means that other species we like to see will be on their way out as well. Unfortunately we think we might be seeing the last of our hummingbirds this week. Though this is sad for us, it is good for them; they will migrate hundreds of kilometres to where they will be able to survive the warmer winters in the south.

