

Weekly Update October 15th to 21st 2017

This week was a quieter week at the BBO. Songbird banding is done with so we packed up the mist nets for the season. We are still running double census this week, but it's been much slower which is expected. Highlights on census include a Golden-crowned Kinglet and a Brown Creeper near the feeders, plus a couple Rough-legged Hawks and Bald Eagles seen over the lakebed and in the farm fields next door.

Meghan gave a presentation to a grade 5/6 class at the James Gibbon's School this week about birds, conservation and climate change. All the kids really enjoyed the talk and loved getting a chance to say hi and pet Rickie, our education Northern Saw-Whet Owl.

We caught 65 Northern Saw-Whet Owls in our nets this week and one Northern Flying Squirrel. As exciting as you might think it is to see a flying squirrel in a net, what actually happens is they hit the net, break our shelf lines, and start chewing big holes in the nets, which we have to repair later. So we were not happy with his visit but thankfully we able to release him unharmed and back into the forest! Live well little guy and avoid our nets next time!

A bunch of people came out to visit during owls this week. We were extremely happy to host Ashlea on her 11th birthday with her family and friends!!! She had a Saw-Whet Owl perched on her arm for release and the owl was so happy to see her, it hanged out for half an hour! So happy birthday Ashlea! We also had Emily with a friend and her family came out which was a lot of fun. It was great to host the University of Alberta Outdoors Club and the University of Alberta Augustana Campus Wildlife Club for owls. Everyone seemed to have a great time and it was fantastic to have so many interested in the work we do. Irene, Alyshia, Darren, Jeremey, Julia, Natasha, Steve and a family of 8 also came out this week and it was fantastic to have all the extra help and new visitors at the lab. So thank you everyone for coming out and supporting the BBO! We love having you join us!



A Northern Flying Squirrel enjoying the seeds in our bird feeders

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Northern Saw-Whet Owl	65					65
Total	65	0	0	0	0	65

Birds Caught 65
 Net Hours 210.5
 Capture Rate 30.87885986

Capture Rate was 30.88 birds/100 Net Hours



Two Northern Saw-Whet Owls from this week! Showing you the differences in their facial expressions!

Photo Credit: Natasha Annich