

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update, October 1- October 7, 2018



Stephanie! (Songbird Intern)

This was the last full week for Fall Migration, as the last day is on October 10th. Lots of the songbirds have already left the natural area, as we only caught 24 songbirds over the last week. The Songbird Intern, Stephanie, was able to come out for two mornings of banding and was able to practice her extraction technique and band a few songbirds. Owl banding has slowly begun to pick-up over the last few nights with staff catching 20 Northern Saw-whet Owls in a single night. We also have continued to catch at least one Long-eared Owl a night.

Greg Ottway from Rocky Mountain House who is one of our amazing volunteers stayed with the BBO staff out at the lab over the last week and helped staff complete many field tasks. These tasks included helping Kevin disconnect our kitchen sink and hand washing station outside to prevent the water from freezing inside the pipes. Kevin and Greg also cleaned out the Northern Saw-whet owl nest boxes throughout the natural area and placed cleaning shavings inside. Greg and Lawrence (another awesome volunteer) spent an afternoon removing wasp nests from the House Wren boxes within the Natural Area. Greg and BBO staff also had a chance to do some birding at the Weir. The sightings included seeing tons of Tundra Swans and American Coots out on the water. Sara and Greg also saw an amazing flyover of more than 7600 Snow Geese.



American Tree Sparrow

The BBO staff hosted two different groups for owl banding this past weekend. On Friday night we had the Tofield Library and friends out for banding. They enjoyed the owls thoroughly which included catching 10 Northern Saw-whets and 2 Long-eared Owls. The second group out on Saturday was the University of Alberta's Zoology Club. While they were out visiting we



Northern Saw-whet Owl

caught 20 Northern Saw-whet Owls and 1 Long-eared Owl. Both groups had a fabulous time and were able to see lots of owls.

Additionally, over the last week, staff were very busy promoting BBO in the Aviva contest. BBO was trying to gain as many votes as possible in hopes of winning \$100,000 to go towards replacing the banding lab. Unfortunately, we did not finish in the top ten, but more than 400 people voted for the BBO in this contest which was amazing to see so many people got behind

supporting our desire to replace the lab.

We had numerous other visitors and volunteers out this past week to the Beaverhill Bird Observatory. These people included Al, John, Geoff, Marie, Alyssa, and Emily Cicon. We appreciate all the hard work our volunteers and Board Members do for the BBO.

| Species | Banded | Repeat ¹ | Return ² | Foreign ³ | Other ⁴ | Total |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| American Tree Sparrow | 2 | | | | | 2 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 1 | 5 | | | 3 | 9 |
| Brown Creeper | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Myrtle Warbler | 4 | | | | 2 | 6 |
| Slate-colored Junco | 1 | | | | | 1 |
| Western Palm Warbler | 2 | | | | 1 | 3 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| Total | 12 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 24 |

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|----------------------------|--|--|
| | | 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). |
| Net Hours: 143.75 | | 3 Banded at a location other than the BBO |
| Capture Rate: 16.70/100hrs | | 4 Caught in a mist-net but not banded (e.g. escaped net). |

| Species | Banded | Repeat ¹ | Return ² | Foreign ³ | Other ⁴ | Total |
|-----------------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| Northern Saw-whet Owl | 73 | 3 | | | | 76 |
| Long-eared Owl | 5 | | | | | 5 |
| Total | 78 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 81 |

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| | | 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). |
| Net Hours: 210 | | 3 Banded at a location other than the BBO |
| Capture Rate: 38.57 | | 4 Caught in a mist-net but not banded (e.g. escaped net). |