

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update, October 29 – November 6, 2018



A Northern Saw-whet Owl

This was our final week at the lab catching owls. Unfortunately, due to winter weather conditions, we had to shut down the lab during the day on November 6th. Over the last 9 days the owl captures really dropped off and we had multiple weather days due to freezing rain and heavy snowfall. Thus, our capture rate was lower over the last week which makes sense, as the migration of Northern Saw-whet Owls tends to slow down around this time of year. We still caught 295 Northern Saw-whet Owls, 26 Long-eared Owls, and one Great-horned owl this banding

season which is fantastic! BBO staff would like to extend a thank you to our amazing owl interns this year, they were a great asset to our team (Stephanie, Jeremy, and Jonathon).

Over the last 9 days, Sara took a well-deserved vacation and Kevin was busy completing office tasks while Emily worked on the education program. Therefore, we required a few volunteers to help us run owl nets over a couple of nights this past week. Thank you to Geoff, Helen, Meghan, Alyssa and Emily Cicon for helping staff run owl nets on Oct.31st and Nov.1st. Also, a huge thank you to Geoff, Thea, and Andra who attended a funder dinner and represented the BBO. They made good connections with potential funders and learned a lot from the event. The new information they gained from attending this event will only help the BBO grow as an organization.

Even though the field season is officially over it was a great 6 months! Despite spring songbird migration not being very eventful, fall migration certainly was. We had 3 huge days of over 150 captures and caught 2048 individuals in total which is the highest number of captures



Emily and a Long-eared Owl

since 2001! Our new Long-eared Owl monitoring program was a huge success this fall and will most likely be continued next year. It was a fantastic field season all around and the BBO staff would like to thank all the visitors, volunteers, interns, and board members who all came out to BBO over the last 6 months! We hope to see everyone again next spring!

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Northern Saw-whet Owl	19	1				20
Long-eared Owl	2					2
Boreal Owl						0
Total	21	1	0	0	0	22

Net Hours: 248
Capture Rate: 8.87/100hrs

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).