

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update October 25 – 31, 2022



A Northern Saw-whet owl being banded and processed by Myrthe

This week marked the last owl banding event of the season. They saw their highest capture rate of the season with 18 Northern Saw-whet Owls and 3 Long-eared Owls in one night. However, the capture rates continue to be inconsistent, with 21 owls one night and then 3 owls the next night. A total of 38 Northern Saw-whet Owls and 4 Long-eared Owls were captured.

The staff worked on inventorying and taking down the songbird migration monitoring nets and the Saw-whet nets for the female audio lure program for the season, then continued cleaning up the site from the bunkhouse demolition.



A pair of Long-eared Owls captured together in the same net

They continued winterizing tasks like disconnecting the rainwater collection system and diverting the eavestroughs. The 3 wildlife trail cameras were serviced and reset for winter monitoring. They also stocked up on birdseed for the winter, thanks to the Wild Bird General Store for the continued donations.

Staff also launched a fundraiser in partnership with the Edmonton Oilers. Very exciting!



Halloween pumpkins carved by staff and Myrthe. Of course, they were bird themed!

On Halloween night, our Belgian volunteer learned how to carve her first-ever pumpkin and roast the seeds. She did great!

It was a good thing the staff started the winter shutdown tasks! They had a winter storm warning on November 1st and finished the winter shutdown as the season's first winter storm hit. There is the possibility of returning to the field for more owl banding, but the weather forecast does not look promising. Another year with zero Boreal Owl captures – what a shame.

Table 1 Capture rates in owl nets

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Northern Saw-whet Owl	37	1				38
Long-eared Owl	4					4
Totals	41	1	0	0	0	42

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

NSWO Male

2 Banded at the BBO >90 days prior to recapture (e.g. in a previous year).

Lure Playback Hours: 45

3 Banded at a location other than the BBO

Capture Rate: 82.2 captures/100 NH

4 Caught in a mist-net but not banded (e.g. escaped net).

NSWO Female

Lure Playback Hours: 0

Capture Rate: 0 captures/100 NH

Boreal Owl

Playback Hours: 20.5

Capture Rate: 4.88 captures/100 NH

Long-Eared Owl

Playback Hours: 20.5

Capture Rate: 4.34 captures/100 NH