

BEAVERHILL BIRD OBSERVATORY UPDATE OCT 27-NOV 14, 2007

THE SAW-WHET OWL MIGRATION season is officially over. Unofficially we may try to get out a bit more, but this will be the final update for 2007. The snow began falling on November 3 which seemed to signify that the end of the season was near, but most of it melted within a few days. By this time last year we were not able to get into the lab due to the snowfall.

The owls continued to come through in fair numbers. We caught 23 this last round, which brings our total to 183 for the 2007 fall season. Coverage was also good, with 14 of 19 nights covered. Of the five nights missed, four were due to weather, mostly strong winds. Winds snapped many of the trees around the Natural Area.



We had two more banded owls show up in our nets. One of Hardy Pletz's owls made the foray over to us, he banded the owl on October 16 and we captured it on October 28 (12 days and 1.7 grams heavier). The other saw-whet was an adult female originally banded May 5, 2005 near Opal (north of Fort Saskatchewan), and recaptured November 3 at the BBO. The bird was three years old at banding, so now is 5 years old!! The oldest wild saw-whet owl recorded was 10 years 4 months, according to the banding office website, so this owl has a few more years to go to match that.

Other species observed included the last of the Canada Geese, a few roosting Ravens, and the resident Coyotes howling. There was also a very confused Ruffed Grouse drumming throughout the night on November 2. It was disappointing not to catch a Boreal Owl, but they are rare, and I guess I will have to wait until next year. If you didn't make it out this season, we hope to see you in 2008, when the lab opens May 1. There are a few changes to the lab, as the old deck was replaced and enclosed as the new banding place, and a new deck is

being built onto the front. Volunteer help from Blaine McGowan (above left), Richard Krikun, Angella Powell, Jim and Barb Beck, and Katie Calon (with Isaac, Dan, Shad, and Annie), and Buttons the sidekick.

Cheers, *Lisa Priestley*

Number of Northern Saw-whet Owls captured at Beaverhill Lake 2002-2007 (Sept 1- Nov 14).

Year	Number of Nights	Number of Net Hours	Number of Owls Captured	Number of Owls/ 100 Net Hours
2002	54	887.00	141	15.9
2003	52	791.00	149	18.8
2004	55	900.00	291	32.3
2005	39	632.00	135	21.4
2006	37	575.50	149	26.0
2007	49	675.50	183	27.1
Total	--	--	1048	--