

## Weekly Update October 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>

This week was the end of fall songbird migration. Another year has come and gone before our eyes. 15 birds were captured this week and the last bird to be banded of the season was a new species for our fall migration list. A Winter Wren decided to grace us with its presence! That brought up our fall species count to 53 species of songbirds! It was lovely to have such a beautiful bird be our last banded for the 2017 fall season.

Owls have been busy this week. We caught 88 Northern Saw-Whet Owls and on October 8<sup>th</sup> we caught a second-year foreign recapture Northern Saw-Whet Owl!!! This owl was originally banded in Wisconsin last year and this year on migration, decided to stop by the BBO for a visit! We were all very excited to see him, as we knew immediately that it was someone else's owl. The bird band size on this owl was a size 4 band, and we only use 4-shorts with our owls. So that was a very exciting night for everyone!

A lot of second-year owls were also captured this week, which is different from previous years. Usually we mostly catch hatch-year owls, but after the large owl year we had in 2016, it makes sense that we would be catching a number of second-year birds this season.

Tundra Swans have been flying overhead in high numbers this week much to the staff's enjoyment. We've also spotted a number of Rough-Legged Hawks in the area so winter can't be far off now.

It was great to have Fred and Greg join us once more for a couple of days volunteering and bird banding this week. Alyshia has also joined the BBO this week and will be volunteering with us until the end of the month at least! We are happy to have her here!

Tons of visitors came out to enjoy owls this week including; Jeremy, Alyssa, Natasha and her family, Irene, Sheri, Kim, Jordan, Andrew, Julian and Mark. We also had Gerry help us with owl banding and our owl interns, Brittany and Marie, were extremely helpful and we couldn't have made it through the weekend without them! Some large groups that came out for owls include the University of Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society, the Tofield Library, and Nature Kids. We were happy everyone visited and enjoyed their evenings with us. Thank you everyone for your continuous support and enthusiasm with the BBO and its banding programs!



Sara with the last banded bird of fall migration, a Winter Wren!

<b>Species</b>	<b>Banded</b>	<b>Repeat<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Return<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Foreign<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Other<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
American Tree Sparrow	10					10
Black-capped Chickadee	2		1			3
Downy Woodpecker	1					1
Winter Wren	1					1
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15</b>

Birds Caught                    15  
Net Hours                         110.5  
Capture Rate:                    13.57466063

Capture Rate was 13.57 birds/100 Net Hours.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Banded</b>	<b>Repeat<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Return<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Foreign<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Other<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
Northern Saw-Whet Owl	88			1		89
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>89</b>

Birds Caught                    89  
Net Hours                         234.5  
Capture Rate                    37.95309

Capture Rate was 37.95 birds/100 Net Hours