

Weekly Update October 22nd to November 1st 2017

A few flocks of geese continue to fly by overhead this week, but most of our birds are out of here for the winter. Even our owls are petering out! After several days of no captures at the end of this week, and -15 temperatures and snow in the forecast, we have called it quits and shut down the lab this week. Thank you everyone for your support. We will be back again early next spring! Not to mention, expect to hear other updates from us throughout the winter... more to come!

This week marked the takedown of our solar system a few days before the shutdown of the lab. That means raptor banding with Al! Al took Meghan and awesome volunteer Alyshia out to capture some Rough-legged Hawks. We found one juvenile that was particularly silly! He was so determined to catch the mouse in the Bal-chatri trap, that he allowed Al the raptor bander to approach within 2 meters three times before finally getting caught in the trap. After that he was quickly fitted with a band and released. Good luck little guy!



Alyshia with the juvenile Rough-legged Hawk

As things slow down for our banding effort, they begin to pick up for our education program! Meghan gave two presentations at Strathcona High School (where she attended high school!) on Halloween Day. The high school students learned “owl” about bird diversity, conservation, and research, including human impacts on birds such as the impacts of climate change. Unfortunately, climate change has a variety of primarily negative impacts on bird populations. When these extra stressors are added on top of multitudes of other problems faced by birds, many species experience rapid declines. Expect to hear more about our education program and the impacts of climate change on birds this winter!! Hope you had a spooooky Halloween!



Ricki the Saw-whet Owl and the Class Skeleton

Staff held a small volunteer/intern party on Halloween night as well. With the weather turning bad that night, we had only 5 participants, but ample candy was had by all. Ray the Saw-whet joined us for the evening. What a great send-off for the season!

Thank you to our volunteers, visitors, and interns who came out this week. Many hands make light work. Alyshia was out for around two weeks, thank you Alyshia! Thanks also to Donna and Ted, Haeli, Hazel, and Irene, Steve + friends, U of A Outdoors Club members and executives, Hannah + friends, Jeremy, Julia, Janet, Logan, Myla-Rae, Brittany and Marie, and Shelly + friends. See you next year!

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Northern Saw-whet						
Owl	28	0	0	0	0	28
Total	28	0	0	0	0	28

Birds Caught 28
Net Hours 327
Capture Rate: 8.56

Capture Rate was 8.56 birds/100 Net Hours.

- 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).