

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Report Sept 22, 2020 – Sept 30, 2020

So passes another week at BBO. Passerine migration has been slowing down, and ducks and shorebirds have begun to thin out. On the morning of the 28th, Shane, our assistant biologist, logged our season's first American Tree Sparrow and the season's first Tundra Swans, both heralds that winter will soon be upon us and that passerine migration at least is close to an end.



The first confirmed male Saw-Whet Owl of the season, banded on September 30th

This week of owl migration has been rather slow, with nightly counts frequently in the single digits. This has been largely attributed to mild temperatures, which does little to encourage migration. This theory carries some weight as we have recaptured owls in the same area two weeks after their original banding, showing that there is very little movement of our saw-whet owls. However, the last night of the month ended on quite the exclamation point: on that one night, we captured ten Saw-Whet Owls, and one Great Horned Owl! This was a very welcome treat for our field team and serves as a signal that things may finally be moving.

Hopefully the coming days bring more owls with the increasingly colder nights.



Sara, our head biologist, posing with a Great Horned Owl: a rare catch!

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Northern Saw-whet Owl (M)	21	2		1		24
Northern Saw-whet Owl (F)	2					2
Long-Eared Owl						0
Great Horned Owl	1					1
TOTALS	24	2	0	1	0	27

NSWO (M) Playback Hours: 50

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

Capture rate: 48 birds/100 playback hours

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

NSWO (F) Playback Hours: 48.5

3 Banded at a location other than the BBO

Capture rate: 4.1 birds/100 playback hours

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

LEOW Playback Hours: 40

Capture rate: 2.5 birds/100 playback hours