

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update October 11-17, 2022

This week at the BBO owl captures have picked up even more! The busiest evening thus far in the season was on the 16th, where we caught 15 Northern Saw-whet Owls in a single night! Long-eared Owl captures have continued to improve over last year's total with 6 caught this week as well. While the nights have sometimes been chilly, thank you to all the wonderful visitors who joined us for owl banding this week!

While owl monitoring has been getting busier, songbird captures have slowed down to a trickle. High winds and cold temperatures frequently delayed us opening the nets, and when the nets have been open very few birds have been so kind as to fly into them. Large flocks of Snow Geese and Tundra Swans are continuing to fly overhead, signaling that the end of fall songbird migration monitoring will soon be upon us.



A Long-eared Owl stares indignantly after being banded



This Northern Saw-whet Owl was also not impressed by the banding process

In sadder news, this week was also assistant biologist Shane Abernethy's last day working at the BBO before moving back home to Ontario. Many of you likely know Shane as the star and creator of BBO's BirdBytes videos, he has been an integral part of the BBO for the last few years and we will miss his humour and hard work. Thanks for everything Shane and best of luck in all your future endeavours!



The BBO staff enjoying Thanksgiving dinner together before Shane's departure

Table 1. Standard Migration Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		2				2
American Tree Sparrow	6					6
Black-capped Chickadee	2	7				9
Brown Creeper	2					2
Downy Woodpecker	1	4				5
Hairy Woodpecker		1				1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1					1
TOTALS	12	14	0	0	0	26

332.5 net-hours

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

7.8 captures/100 net-hours

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).

Table 2. Experimental Nets Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Tree Sparrow	3					3
TOTALS	3	0	0	0	0	3

19.5 net-hours

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

15.4 captures/100 net-hours

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).

Table 3. Owl Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Northern Saw-whet Owl	57					57
Long-eared Owl	6					6
TOTALS	63	0	0	0	0	63

NSWO Male

46 playback hours

89.1 captures/100 playback hours

NSWO Female

44.5 playback hours

15.7 captures/100 playback hours

Long-eared Owl

35 playback hours

14.3 captures/100 playback hours

Boreal Owl

35 playback hours

28.6 captures/100 playback hours