



Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update September 20 - 26, 2023

This week we had the pleasure of hosting over 100 ticketed guests for our annual Supper and Saw-Whets events on Saturday and Sunday night. Saturday night it wasn't until late in the night that we captured two saw-whets but Sunday we captured 10 saw-whets, including our 100th owl for the season. Guests had the opportunity to spend time with three of our educational ambassador birds: Nina the burrowing owl, Tansi the great-horned owl, and Keith the red-tailed hawk. Our Sunday night event also featured a performance by award-winning singer-songwriter Mallory Chipman, whose music is strongly influenced by the vocalizations of our native Alberta bird species and the challenges they are facing. Many thanks to all the kitchen volunteers who helped make the event such a success!



Figure 1. Guests for the Supper and Saw-whets event listening to a musical performance by singer-songwriter Mallory Chipman.



Figure 2. Brown creeper with wing spread displaying some of the dark brown and buffy markings that make up the cryptic plumage of this species.

With regards to our owl monitoring, we have opened up our boreal owl nets and continue in our saw-whet Motus tagging efforts. Saw-whet captures have been high this week with nearly an owl captured for every net hour of the male saw-whet nets (90.9 captures/100 playback hours) and 16 owls captured in a single night. Our songbird monitoring highlights for this week include our first brown creeper of the season, two sharp-shinned hawks, a bay-breasted warbler, and a yellow-shafted flicker.

This week we thank the following volunteers for their contributions to the BBO's operations: Jenelle, Leonard, Gabby, Charlotte, Am, Caitlyn and, of course, Irene.

Table 1: Migration Monitoring banding totals for Standard Nets.

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Bay-breasted Warbler	1					1
Black-capped Chickadee	4	8				12
Brown Creeper	2					2
Downy Woodpecker		2				2
Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow	1					1
Hairy Woodpecker	1					1
Myrtle Warbler	32				2	34
Orange-crowned Warbler	1					1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1					1
Slate-coloured Junco	9	1				10
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2					2
White-breasted Nuthatch		2				2
TOTALS	54	13	0	0	2	69

441 net-hours

15.6 captures/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).

Table 2: Migration Monitoring banding totals for Experimental Nets.

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Black-capped Chickadee	6	3				9
Blackpoll Warbler	1					1
Common Yellowthroat	1					1
Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow	1					1
Hermit Thrush	1					1
House Wren	1				1	2
Myrtle Warbler	33	1				34
Orange-crowned Warbler	4					4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	15	1				16
Slate-coloured Junco	6	1				7
Western Palm Warbler	1					1
Yellow-shafted Flicker	1					1
TOTALS	71	6	0	0	1	78

127 net-hours

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

61.4 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	46					46
TOTALS	46	0	0	0	0	46

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

NSWO Male (35 captures)

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

38.5 playback hours

3 Banded at a location other than the BBO

90.9 captures/100 playback hours

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

NSWO Female (8 captures)

37.5 playback hours

21.3 captures/100 playback hours

Boreal Owl (3 NSWO captures)

28 playback hours

3 captures/100 playback hours

Long-eared Owl (0 captures)

34 playback hours

0 captures/100 playback hours