Beaverhill Bird Observatory
Weekly Update September 7-13, 2024

This Black-capped Chickadee, when viewed from the front, forms a nearly perfect circle. Amazing.

This week's weather was cold, rainy, and windy. The limited net hours made for exceptionally low captures this week, despite a high volume of birds being sighted around the nets and the natural area. We did capture a few new species for the fall season: a handful of White-crowned Sparrows, a Hermit Thrush, and a Swamp Sparrow were the new tallies. Noteworthy sightings around the lab included the first Golden-crowned Kinglet of the season, as well as a steady overhead stream of Greater White-fronted Geese and Sandhill Cranes. Fall migration really is in full force!

Owl banding also began to pick up this week, with a total of 9 Saw-whet Owls being caught. For the 2024 owl banding season we also added a second set of nets using the call of a male Saw-whet Owl as the audio lure. We hope this will increase our capture numbers and help us get an even better understanding of these owls! As well, we managed to deploy 4 more Motus nanotags this week. Owl nanotag sponsorships are still available, if you want to sponsor a tag you can do so here!

Between rounds of banding, staff have been taking the time to get caught up on data submission and report writing. Reports for our summer research projects are being edited and finalized, and papers from our student interns are in the final stages of proofing as well. If you'd like to read about the results of this summer research, check out the "Student Interns" page on our website!

Northern Saw-whet Owls may only be the second smallest species of owl in Alberta, but they are the #1 cutest!

Thank you to our volunteers this week: Sam, Gabby, Elise, Patrick, Nik, Julia, Irene, Willow, and Kylli. Your help keeping things at the BBO running smoothly is greatly appreciated!

Table 1. Standard Migration Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat[1]	Return[2]	Foreign[3]	Other[4]	Total
Black-capped Chickadee	2	7				**9**
Downy Woodpecker		1				**1**
Hermit Thrush	1					**1**
House Wren		4				**4**
Magnolia Warbler	1					**1**
Myrtle Warbler	13					**13**
Orange-crowned Warbler	1					**1**
Ovenbird	1					**1**
Swainson's Thrush	2					**2**
Wilson's Warbler	1					**1**
Western Palm Warbler	2					**2**
White-throated Sparrow	2					**2**
TOTALS	**26**	**12**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**38**

331.5 net-hours

11.5 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. Experimental Nets Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat[1]	Return[2]	Foreign[3]	Other[4]	Total
American Redstart	2					2
Black-capped Chickadee		3				3
Clay-colored Sparrow	2					2
Common Yellowthroat	2					2
White-crowned Sparrow	4	1				5
House Wren	1	1				2
LeConte's Sparrow	3					3
Least Flycatcher	1					1
Lincoln's Sparrow	2					2
Magnolia Warbler	1					1
Myrtle Warbler	43	2				45
Orange-crowned Warbler	10					10
Ovenbird	1					1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2					2
Swamp Sparrow	1					1
Swainson's Thrush	1					1
Tennessee Warbler	1					1
Traill's Flycatcher	1					1
Warbling Vireo			1			1
Wilson's Warbler	2					2
Western Palm Warbler	3					3
White-throated Sparrow	1					1
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1					1
Yellow Warbler	9					9
TOTALS	94	7	1	0	0	102

80.5 net-hours

126.7 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 3. Owl Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat[1]	Return[2]	Foreign[3]	Other[4]	Total
Northern Saw-whet Owl	7	2				9
TOTALS	7	2	0	0	0	9

NSWO Male 1 (6 captures)
30 playback hours
20 captures/100 playback hours

NSWO Male 2 (1 captures)
25.5 playback hours
3.9 captures/100 playback hours

NSWO Female (1 captures)
24 playback hours
4.2 captures/100 playback hours

Long-eared Owl (1 captures)
23.5 playback hours
4.3 captures/100 playback hours