

# Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update September 28 – October 4, 2024



*A Brown Creeper that was captured this week. These tiny songbirds get their name from their characteristic habit of creeping up and down tree trunks.*

With the forest canopy becoming increasingly bare and the number of songbirds dwindling, this week really hammered home the fact that we are transitioning into late fall out at the BBO! Songbird migration monitoring yielded only 59 captures this week, and not for a lack of net hours. Most of the species captured are either year-round residents or very late migrating species. The most common capture was the American Tree Sparrow, which is considered by bird banders to be a harbinger of winter. Another late migrant that was a new species for the year was a Brown Creeper, which is one of the smallest (and cutest) birds we catch!

Migration on Beaverhill Lake has been busy as well. Thousands of Snow Geese and Greater White-fronted Geese have been seen flying overhead to and from the lake each day, and Tundra Swans have been flying over quite frequently as well.

While songbird migration has slowed to a trickle, owl migration has been pushing through the natural area in intermittently high numbers. A total of 55 owls were caught this week (all Northern Saw-whet Owls), which included busy nights of up to 18 owls caught and slow nights of only 1 owl capture. This week also began with the second night of our annual Supper and Saw-whets event, which was a ton of fun for staff and visitors alike. Thanks so much to everybody who came out, and we hope you enjoyed the owls!

Thank you to our volunteers this week: Kendra, Jay, Jenn, Patrick, Nik, Jacqueline, Willow. Your help keeping things at the BBO running smoothly is greatly appreciated!



*Our ambassador Great Horned Owl Tansi looking majestic as always during Supper and Saw-whets.*

Table 1. Standard Migration Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total
Black-capped Chickadee		8				<b>8</b>
Brown Creeper	1					<b>1</b>
Downy Woodpecker	1	1				<b>2</b>
Hermit Thrush	1	2				<b>3</b>
Lincoln's Sparrow	1					<b>1</b>
Myrtle Warbler	1					<b>1</b>
Slate-colored Junco	1					<b>1</b>
White-breasted Nuthatch	1					<b>1</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>18</b>

473.5 net-hours

3.8 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 <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total
American Tree Sparrow	17					17
Black-capped Chickadee	9	3				12
White-crowned Sparrow	1					1
House Wren		1				1
Magnolia Warbler	1					1
Myrtle Warbler	1					1
Orange-crowned Warbler	1					1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4					4
Slate-colored Junco	1					1
Song Sparrow	1					1
White-throated Sparrow	1					1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>41</b>

99 net-hours

41.4 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 <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total
Northern Saw-whet Owl	48	4	1	1	1	55
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>55</b>

NSWO Male 1 (19 captures)

36.5 playback hours

52.1 captures/100 playback hours

NSWO Male 2 (28 captures)

39 playback hours

71.8 captures/100 playback hours

NSWO Female (6 captures)  
37 playback hours  
16.2 captures/100 playback hours

Long-eared Owl (0 captures)  
28 playback hours  
0 captures/100 playback hours

Boreal Owl (2 captures)  
22 playback hours  
9.1 captures/100 playback hours