

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update - October 12 to October 18, 2024

As we approach the end of the songbird banding season, our capture rates are dwindling. Over the course of the week, 63 birds were captured in total, mostly consisting of American Tree Sparrows and Black-capped Chickadees. The species diversity is dropping off rapidly, indicating the tail-end of fall migration. Cold mornings are reducing net hours, further reducing total captures for the week.



American Tree Sparrow



Red-shafted Flicker

Despite the slow mornings, some exciting visitors showed up as well! A juvenile Northern Shrike that had been seen around the area for several days finally landed in a net, making an exciting addition to our species list for fall migration. A Red-shafted Flicker was also a highlight this week, adding some diversity to the species captured.

Owl migration is still moving steadily, with a slight decrease in capture rate. Overall, 26 birds were captured in our owl nets, including 25 Northern Saw-whet Owls and 1 Long-eared Owl. Owl banding events, hosted Thursday-Sunday nights, have continued to be successful, as we welcome visitors to observe and learn about owl banding at the BBO. 36 MOTUS tags have been deployed so far this season, with several of our owls being detected at our tower and others!



Northern Saw-whet Owl

STANDARD NET TOTALS:

<i>Species Code</i>	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Grand Total
ATSP	2	2		4
BCCH	1	13	1	15
DOWO		3		3
GCKI	6			6
HAWO	1		1	2
RSFL	1			1
SCJU	1			1
Grand Total	12	18	2	32

385.5 net-hours

8.3 captures/100 net-hours

1 - banded 90 or fewer days ago, at the BBO

2 - banded over 90 days ago, at the BBO

EXPERIMENTAL NET TOTALS

<i>Species Code</i>	Banded	Repeat ¹	Grand Total
ATSP	23	1	24
BCCH	2	1	3
DOWO		1	1
NSHR	1		1
SCJU	1		1
SOSP	1		1
Grand Total	28	3	31

96 net-hours

32.3 captures/100 net-hours

1 - banded 90 or fewer days ago, at the BBO

OWL NET TOTALS

Species Code	# of Captures			
	Repeat ¹	Banded	Grand Total	
LEOW			1	1
NSWO		2	23	25
Grand Total		2	24	26

1 - banded 90 or fewer days ago, at the BBO

NSWO Male (22 captures)

85 playback hours

25.9 captures/100 playback hours

NSWO Female (1 captures)

43 playback hours

2.3 captures/100 playback hours

Long-eared Owl (0 captures)

40 playback hours

0 captures/100 playback hours

Boreal Owl (3 captures)

41.5 playback hours

7.2 captures/100 playback hours