

# Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update October 19 – 25, 2024



*The final Black-capped Chickadee captured this season. The signature look of indignant fury is very evident on this bird.*

A frosty chill lingered in the air all week as we rapidly approach the end of our field season. This week marked the end of our fall songbird migration monitoring, with our total captures since July 20 amounting to 2267 birds and 65 species! While species diversity and capture totals were lower than the last 2 years, it was a productive season nonetheless. Our final birds of fall migration were all fittingly Black-capped Chickadees, our feistiest and hardest species that we regularly band at the BBO.

Songbird monitoring has reached its conclusion, and it seems like our owl monitoring is reaching that point as well. Capture numbers for Saw-whet Owls have dropped off substantially, with most nights this week only reaching low single digits. We did have a

few busier nights at the tail end of the week, which allowed us to finish deploying the remainder of our nanotags on Saw-whet Owls! A final Long-eared Owl for nanotagging has still eluded us, hopefully one will be kind enough to turn up before the season ends!

Overnight temperatures have consistently dipped below freezing and we have begun the process of preparing the lab building for the coming winter. Our rainwater collection system has been disconnected, our songbird nets inventoried and packed away, and the materials for our winter education season prepared and updated. We are now at the point of the season where a big snowfall will have us shutting down the lab in a hurry, but hopefully the weather will allow us just a couple more weeks of owl banding!



*Chief Morale Officer Jewels enjoys the warmth of our wood stove on a particularly chilly day.*

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	1	4				5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>

130 net-hours

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

3.8 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. 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	24	4	0	0	0	28
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28</b>

NSWO Male 1 (9 captures)

40 playback hours

22.5 captures/100 playback hours

NSWO Male 2 (15 captures)

40 playback hours

37.5 captures/100 playback hours

NSWO Female (0 captures)

40 playback hours

0 captures/100 playback hours

Long-eared Owl (0 captures)

37.5 playback hours

0 captures/100 playback hours

Boreal Owl (3 captures)

38.5 playback hours

7.8 captures/100 playback hours