

# Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly update - October 26th to November 1st, 2024



Despite the low number of birds the forest still proves that it can be beautiful with a wonderful sunrise.

Aside from owls, the final tasks of the field season neared completion. The lab was prepared for winter and equipment was packed up to be taken home. In addition, we edited our BirdSmart presentations for the coming season and even began designing some new ones.

This marks the first week where we haven't opened songbird nets since the start of the field season. Though disappointing, songbird migration has concluded. All the birds left in the forest are our familiar residents like the feisty Downy Woodpeckers and feistier Black-capped Chickadees so banding would be unproductive regardless. Compounding the emptiness of the forest is our wetlands, where the thunderous Snow Goose flocks have mostly moved on leaving the natural area unsettlingly quiet.

The Northern Saw-whet Owl migration is slowing in parallel with the songbirds this week. In fact, for the first time in a while, we had a night with absolutely no owls. Regular frosts have been creeping across the forest this week forcing us to bundle up and make good use of our wood-burning stove. I have to say I'm quite jealous of those owls making their way to a warmer winter. On the bright side of all this, we caught ANOTHER Boreal Owl. With several sightings of Boreal Owls around the Edmonton area, this is shaping up to be an excellent year for this seldom-seen species. We might even get a third if we were lucky, but that's probably wishful thinking.



Our second Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*) was considerably larger than the first (including the pointy bits).

| <i>Species Code</i> | <i># of Captures</i> |          |             |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------|-------------|
|                     | Banded               | Repeat   | Grand Total |
| BOOW                | 1                    |          | 1           |
| NSWO                | 13                   | 2        | 15          |
| <b>Grand Total</b>  | <b>14</b>            | <b>2</b> | <b>16</b>   |

**NSWO Male 1** (6 captures)

48 playback hours

12.5 captures/100 playback hours

**NSWO Male 2** (7 captures)

48 playback hours

14.6 captures/100 playback hours

**NSWO Female** (1 captures)

48 playback hours

2.1 captures/100 playback hours

**Long-eared Owl** (0 captures)

44.5 playback hours

0 captures/100 playback hours

**Boreal Owl** (2 capture)

48 playback hours

4.2 captures/100 playback hours