

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update October 24-30, 2025



Northern Saw-whet Owls may be inconsistent in their capture rates, but they are consistent in their adorableness. Just look at that face!

Our field season is just about wrapped up, with only one week of owl monitoring remaining before we depart the field station and prepare for another exciting winter of BirdSmart presentations. Owl captures dropped once again this week with only 22 captures, indicating that the migration of Saw-whet Owls through our area is slowly drawing to a close. Late fall migrants have given way to species that stay for the full winter, our first Bohemian Waxwings and Redpolls were sighted around the natural area this week to warn us of the coming cold!

As one might expect, tasks besides banding this week mostly involved getting the station ready for winter. Displays were packed up, surfaces cleaned, and rain barrels drained to ensure we can leave at a moment's notice should an early snowstorm hit. Hopefully there's at least a few more owls in our nets before that happens!

A huge thank you to our volunteers this week: Jay, Martine, and Meghan! We couldn't run this station without help from people like you!



Dax (Jon's parents' dog) celebrating Halloween early by dressing in her very best cow costume!

Table 1. Owl Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
Northern Saw-whet Owl	18	3	0	1	0	22
TOTALS	18	3	0	1	0	22

NSWO Male 1 (11 captures)
 36 playback hours
 30.5 captures/100 playback hours

NSWO Male 2 (6 captures)
 35 playback hours
 17.1 captures/100 playback hours

NSWO Female (3 captures)
 35 playback hours
 ____ captures/100 playback hours

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

Boreal Owl (2 captures)
 37 playback hours
 ____ captures/100 playback hours