

## Weekly Update April 23<sup>rd</sup> to April 29<sup>th</sup> 2016

This week has been very interesting. The next day after catching 45 birds at the end of last week, we caught 86 the next day, which could even be our biggest day for the year. The catch again consisted primarily of Slate-coloured Juncos. Then, the Juncos suddenly moved on, with a catch of only 4 birds the next day, and similar for the rest of the week. It seemed the weather was the perfect storm that hundreds of Juncos, so many that they looked like ants under the feeders, all decided to migrate through with only a day or two of stopover at BBO. What a strange time migration is. Other than that another cool capture was a Winter Wren, which is very rare to catch at BBO. They sing a beautiful extended bubbly song and are common in the boreal forest. We also caught our first Ruby-crowned Kinglets of the year this week, a favorite at BBO.



A male Slate-coloured Junco with a particularly black head. One of over 70 caught this week.

Overhead is still busy, with a lot of White-fronted Geese moving through lately. A return to much cooler temperatures has really put a damper on net catches, after the rush of Juncos, with everything hunkered down and staying alive. Weather was back to very cool all week, just warming up at the end.

Not to mention it was a raptor filled week as well! For a few days we noticed a small accipiter (a falcon), hanging around, and on Monday, we figured out what it was... we caught a Sharp-shinned Hawk in the mist nets! We also viewed a Long-eared pair around the Natural Area again, hereø hoping they are or will be nesting nearby!



Sharp-shinned Hawk. The orange-red eyes of this bird indicate an older bird.

BBO also got a good start on a couple of other projects this week. We checked trail cameras and are excited to see what they will show. We also got a major project done at the end of the week; cleaning out and repairing Tree Swallow boxes for their return. In the last few days they have been seen in increasing numbers, back much earlier than they were last year. Unfortunately last fall some of the neighbors cows got in a knocked down quite a few boxes by scratching against them, but all has been repaired.

Thanks volunteers: Irene and Bob, Jeremy the Pigeon Racer, Amelie, Amanda, Lawrence, Patrick, and Steve.

Thanks visitors: Marge, Betty, and Hill, the Dicksons and dog, Deanna and 3 kids, and Jeff Manchuk and 6 students.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Banded</b>	<b>Repeat<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Return<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Foreign<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Other<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
Black-capped Chickadee	2	3	1	0	0	6
American Robin	2	0	1	0	0	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	0	0	0	0	1
Song Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hermit Thrush	4	0	0	0	0	4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4	0	0	0	0	4
Winter Wren	1	0	0	0	0	1
Myrtle Warbler	6	0	0	0	0	6
White-throated Sparrow	4	0	0	0	0	4
Song Sparrow	1	0	0	0	1	2
Fox Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
American Tree Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Oregon Junco	1	0	0	0	0	1
Slate-coloured Junco	83	4	0	0	5	92
<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>126</b>

Birds Caught                    126  
Net Hours                         422.5  
Capture Rate:                    29.82

Capture Rate was 29.82 birds/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).