Weekly Update April 16th to April 22nd 2017

This week, we were able to open nets for the first time! Unfortunately, we were only able to open on Thursday, as the weather continues to thwart us this year! This week temperatures around zero and rain and snow continued to prevent us opening nets, except on one day. While waiting staff finished checking that all our Tree Swallow boxes are in good repair for their arrival, and did two daily censuses to keep track of new arrivals.

The first and only day of banding this week caught five chickadees and sixteen Slate-coloured Juncos! There were two very interesting individuals. One was a Junco with an old healed broken leg, and was missing his toes on that leg. Because this injury was old and healed, and nothing was wrong with the other leg, this bird could still be banded on the uninjured leg. The staff usually see a couple birds with deformities including missing or broken legs, and these individuals seem to still do very well.

The very first bird caught this year was a recaptured Black-capped Chickadee. While this may not seem to be the most exciting, the individual that was caught was around the sixth last bird banded in the fall. This tells us that Chickadees really do hang around their territory all year!



Black-capped Chickadee banded last fall.

Migration overhead has been quiet, with cold North winds discouraging many birds from migrating further north. We have seen a number of flocks of Tundra Swans, however! These birds are distinctive while flying overhead due their large size, pure white colour, and the sound they make as they fly. Flocks of juncos and robins are still common near the lab, with a few Purple Finches still hanging around as well.

This Saturday was our Snow Goose Chase event! Around 200 kids got to participate in our banding demonstration in Petra's Park near the Tofield community hall. Ten fake birds were placed in a mist net in the park, and kids extracted, banded, and measured their birds. This helps them to learn more about what we do. At the Snow Goose Chase, Geoff Holroyd (BBO Chair) represented BBO at a booth in the community hall as well.

Thanks to our visitors and volunteers who came out this week. We appreciate your help. Amelie, Irene, and Jeremy came out to see us this week.

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Black-capped Chickadee	3	0	2	0	0	5
Dark-eyed Junco	16	0	0	0	0	16
Total	19	0	2	0	0	21

Net Hours 78 Capture Rate: 2.69

Capture Rate was 2.69 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).
- Banded at a location other than the BBO.
- 4 Caught in a mist-net but not banded (e.g. escaped net).