

## Beaverhill Bird Observatory

### Weekly Update November 2 – 12, 2021

Unlike last year, the weather and capture rates have remained very cooperative, so we have opted to continue our owl monitoring program into November. It ended up being well worth it. This week marked a momentous occasion and a grand milestone in our Saw-Whet Owl monitoring program: on November 7<sup>th</sup>, we captured the 5000<sup>th</sup> owl in the program's lifetime! It took us 20 years to get to that point, but we've finally made it.

It's always hard to believe how many Saw-Whet owls are around, especially considering how difficult they are to find during the day. At the time of writing, our season to date total stands at 337 captures, the overwhelming

majority of which were new birds. This speaks well to the success of this year's breeding season, which is a much-needed uptick after last year's disappointing low.

We were also very pleased to welcome the students of Tofield School, who visited us this week for field trips spread across several days. For this special occasion, we brought out the feeder net and treated the excited students to a live banding demonstration. They saw us band a number of chickadees and a surprise woodpecker!

While we did log a milestone capture, it was a bittersweet one: it was the second last capture of the field season. One more owl visited our nets, and then they lay empty. It was with heavy hearts that we declared that November 12<sup>th</sup> would be the last night of the 2021 field season. Five nights of zero captures and an impending snowy forecast were enough of a hint to us. However, it means that we can now transition over to our winter education season and resume our BirdSmart presentations! We are very excited about returning back to classrooms this year and look forward to seeing students in person again.



*Lucky number 5000! This hatch year bird doesn't know what a milestone it represents.*



*And number five thousand and one, who also happened to be the final owl banded this season.*

<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>
Northern Saw-whet Owl	<b>14</b>					<b>14</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

Playback hours: 145

2 Banded at the BBO >90 days prior to recapture (e.g. in a previous year).

Captures/100 playback hours: 9.66

3 Banded at a location other than the BBO

4 Caught in a mist-net but not banded (e.g. escaped net).