

# Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update October 5 – 11, 2023

Things were quite slow during songbird banding out at the BBO this week. We've reached the tail end of songbird migration, with the majority of birds captured this week being non-migratory species that are resident in the area year round. There were a few stragglers still migrating through, most notably a surprisingly late Wilson's Warbler still making its way south. Get a move on little buddy! Despite the low capture volume we did hit an exciting milestone this week: we caught our 3000<sup>th</sup> bird of fall migration! The Song Sparrow in question was no doubt delighted to be the honourable recipient of this title.



This handsome Song Sparrow was the 3000<sup>th</sup> bird captured during fall migration 2023!



It's impossible not to love Saw-whet Owls. Look how cute they are!

Out on Beaverhill Lake, large numbers of Snow Geese continue to congregate and make a racket all throughout the night. From a distance, entire areas of the lake can appear white due to the massive number of geese! Flocks of Tundra Swans are a regular sighting, while a few shorebirds are still hanging around the open water.

While things have been slow on songbird migration, owl migration has been pushing through in full force. On our busiest night we caught 17 Northern Saw-whet Owls as well as a Long-eared Owl! Motus tags have been strategically deployed throughout the week, with the aim of getting nanotags on varying ages of bird. We caught 2 foreign Saw-whet Owls this week as well, which are another exciting piece of the puzzle for learning about the migration of these birds. One was originally banded near Bragg Creek, Alberta; while the other was banded near Prince Albert, Saskatchewan!

Thank you to our volunteers this week: Laura, Kirsten, Priscilla, Mate, Jenelle, Madi, Peter, Jo-Anne, Charlotte, and Christie. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Table 1. Standard Migration Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total
American Robin	1					1
Black-capped Chickadee	2	10	1			13
Brown Creeper	2					2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2					2
Hairy Woodpecker	1	1				2
Slate-coloured Junco	2					2
White-breasted Nuthatch		1				1
Wilson's Warbler	1					1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>

319.25 net-hours

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

7.5 captures/100 net-hours

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).

Table 2. Experimental Nets Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total
American Tree Sparrow	4					4
Black-capped Chickadee	2	1				3
Slate-coloured Junco	2					2
Song Sparrow	1					1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>10</b>

102 net-hours

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

9.8 captures/100 net-hours

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).

Table 3. Owl Monitoring Banding Totals

<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>57</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>60</b>
Long-eared Owl	<b>2</b>					<b>2</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>62</b>

NSWO Male (40 captures)

47 playback hours

85.1 captures/100 playback hours

NSWO Female (7 captures)

47 playback hours

14.9 captures/100 playback hours

Long-eared Owl (3 captures)

42 playback hours

7.1 captures/100 playback hours

Boreal Owl (11 captures)

46.5 playback hours

23.6 captures/100 playback hours