

## FOLLOWING OUR SAW-WHETS Update #2 – 10 November 2023

By Geoff Holroyd, Chair, BBO

We are now approaching the middle of November. All 48 nanotags were deployed by the first week of November. One tag has been retained to use with a new receiver that we will use to search for owls with tags over the next two years, and hopefully on other MOTUS project.

Some of 'our' owls have moved further south. We now have 4 that reached Montana. One was in northeastern Montana while the other three were south of Missoula. One of those moved into Idaho and was joined there by a fifth owl. And a sixth owl flew to Washington state. There is a cluster of MOTUS towers south of Missoula where a couple of owls are being picked up repeatedly.

Speaking of repeatedly, 4-8 owls are still hanging around the BBO tower, or at least within 15 km. We assumed the owls were migration past BBO in the autumn, but that assumption is wrong for about 16% of the owls so far. Four of these owls have been hanging around for almost a month while the other 4 were detected for 1 to 2 weeks. We will be interested to see how many remain for the winter or are they hanging around because of the record setting warm weather. October was the warmest on record; no need to migrate?

And none have been detected to the east as predicted by bird band recoveries

Movements of  
Saw-whet Owls from  
Beaverhill Bird  
Observatory  
until  
10 November 2023



We can hardly wait for the 'rest of the story'. Watch for the next update when our owls have more to tell us.

Thank you again for sponsoring nanotag(s) and allowing this project to be initiated. Your contribution to BBO is the key to our many programs. THANKS.