

Weekly Update April 23rd to April 29th 2016

This week began with a not so great start; staff could not even access the lab due to snow and bad road conditions. What a dramatic difference from the 20 degree weather every day that we had last April! Later on in the week weather improved for us and we got a bit more banding in. It looks like lovely warm temperatures are just around the corner.

On Sunday the 23rd, Sara, Ray the Saw-whet, and I represented BBO at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton's Run for Wildlife event at the John Janzen Nature Center. Runners dressed up in cool costumes, ran to raise money for wildlife in the snow, and won cool prizes at the end. Wildlife rehab announced they will be re-branding as WildNorth, so we will call them that from now on. While at the event, the three of us briefly made it on CTV!

Back at BBO, we made up for a few days of no banding with some cool sightings. The first was an American Bittern... in a tree! It flushed as we went to do census, and it perched in a nearby tree long enough to get some photos. That same day, as we returned from census, we saw a quick moving creature shuffling on the ground near our bird feeders. We thought it was Frank the Porcupine, but it turned out to be a beaver! They must be dispersing at this time of year, because another individual was also seen on the main street of the Town of Tofield a few days later. On the raptor front, staff flushed a Northern Goshawk near the lab, and spied a Peregrine Falcon flying over the lakebed.



American Bittern near the BBO lab. Photo by Sara Pearce Meijerink.

This week we finished repairs to all of our TRES grids and we are ready for their arrival. The nest boxes are cleaned out in the fall to encourage TRES to nest again this year, but sometimes boxes fall into disrepair over the winter, or ferrets start stashing their dead mice in the boxes. Either way we usually need to do a spring fix/clean up too! We will meet all the summer interns next week and we will introduce them to these super cool birds.

At the end of the week, we finally opened nets again, and it looks like we will stay open now. We caught a couple new species for this year including Oregon Junco and White-breasted Nuthatch. Things ought to get a bit more exciting next week!!

Thank you to Jeremy, Steve, and Kate for coming out this week despite the weather!!!

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	Total
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	0	0	0	0	1
Oregon Junco	1	0	0	0	0	1
Slate-coloured Junco	22	1	0	0	0	23
Total	24	1	0	0	0	25

Birds Caught	25
Net Hours	71.5
Capture Rate:	34.97

Capture Rate was 34.97 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).