

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Summary for October 16 to November 15, 2004

The season has drawn to a close and the winter birds are common around the Natural Area. The first Snowy Owl was seen in mid-November, Northern Shrikes, Redpolls, and Snow Buntings are seen daily.

I found it interesting to watch the bird feeders during the day. In the morning the chickadees were coming in for seeds, eating them with an urgency. Later in the afternoon, the chickadees would take a seed and fly off in various directions, I believe a caching behavior. As the sun set, the snowshoe hares and voles visiting the area, feeding on the seeds below the feeder. I believe this was the reason a Great Gray Owl hung around one afternoon in the spruce tree overtop the feeder. Of course, I had to attempt to capture the owl, and used our new Verball trap to trap it. What an incredible owl.

Saw-whet Owl migration concluded on November 15, with a total of 309 saw-whets captured this season, and an amazing three Boreal Owls. What an exciting fall it was!!! We're closed for the season, but look forward to seeing everyone at our bird conference in the early spring and of course seeing you at the lab in May.

Cheers,

Lisa Priestley

