

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update: October 3 to 9, 2005



Thanksgiving weekend, and I have much to be thankful for. Wishes do come true at the Beaverhill Bird Observatory. After much hoping and praying, I came walking around the corner to net number 43 and found a White-breasted Nuthatch!! Yes, I was quite happy, and even had a camera to document the beautiful bird. We have also captured our first Golden-crowned Kinglets of the season.



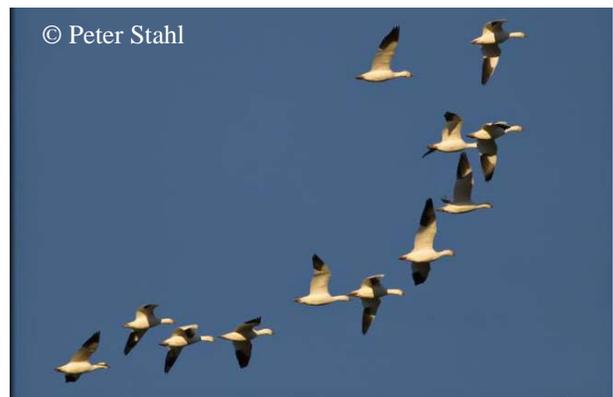
Table 1. Results from fall songbird migration netting at BBO October 3 to 9, 2005.

Species	Banded	Recapture	Other	TOTAL
Black-capped Chickadee	0	2	0	2
Brown Creeper	1	0	0	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	0	0	3
Hermit Thrush	1	0	0	1
American Robin	1	0	0	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	0	0	1
American Tree Sparrow	5	0	0	5
Slate-colored Junco	4	0	0	4
Oregon Junco	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	17	2	0	19



Saw-whets are now in full migration. We have captured 34 owls this past week bringing our total to 85. We had a pretty steady stream of owls after that crazy 24 owl night, with an average of about 7 owls per night. The weather continues to cooperate, and temperatures are remaining around 0°C.

The Snow Geese and Swans are now a common sighting in and around the Natural Area, indicating that we are well into fall migration. If you are interested in seeing the geese, we have found that the move from the remnant lake to the fields in the early morning, and then return in the late evening. There are a number of fields just 1 mile south of the Natural Area (east of Amisk Creek bridge) that the birds are visiting during the day. The Swans are quite abundant on Lister Lake and can be seen on occasion at Amisk Creek. Eagles are now commonly observed hunting over the fields of ducks and along the lakeshore edges, as well as just soaring over on their migration south.



Again, visitors and volunteers were on site to help with and observe the work. Thanks to Gerry and Robyn Beyersbergen, Cory Olsen, Peter Stahl, Tracey Lanson, Kelly Horton, Martina Frey, Kim Jensen, and Chuck Priestley as well as the 14 people from the University of Alberta Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society!!

Lisa Priestley, Beaverhill Bird Observatory