

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update September 16 to October 9, 2012

Dedicated to Kutoyis the Burrowing Owl, passed away October 13

Well the songbird season wound up for 2012 with a great finale! During the 18 banding days, we had eight days with over 20 birds. A total of 310 birds were captured (Table 1). We all agree that some of our favorite captures were the Kinglets, a Brown Creepers, Palm Warblers, and White-breasted Nuthatches. We almost had another Sharp-shinned Hawk, but it was able to flutter out of the net before we could catch it. Still a diversity of birds moving through the Natural Area, with 25 species being captured in the last three weeks of the banding season. I was happy to band the last day and caught eight birds which represented eight species.



Amelie finished work in early October, but continues to volunteer her time at the lab. We had plenty of visitors, including the new Tofield Outdoor Club organized by a high school teacher in town. They were excited to see a feisty Hairy Woodpecker being banded! Unfortunately no luck catching the Blue Jay that has been hanging around.

The days are getting cool and the nights cooler, and the owls are moving through in good numbers now. We captured 102 owls in 21 nights of netting, including one banded owl on October 2nd. This second year female was previously banded at Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory (a straight line distance of 270 km) on September 22 of this year. So this little owl was moving an average of 27 km per night!

We also celebrated our annual Steaks and Saw-whets event, which attracted about 50 visitors per night on September 28 and 29. We were fortunate to have great weather and caught three owls on each night for guests to see. Kutoyis the Burrowing Owl made a guest appearance, and everyone enjoyed his funny chatters. We thank all the volunteers that helped out for the event. Stay tuned for the final update, as the Saw-whet Owl monitoring continues through mid-November. ***Cheers, Lisa Priestley***



Table 1. Fall Migration Monitoring Captures, September 16 to October 9, 2012

Species	Banded	Repeat¹	Return²	Foreign³	Other⁴	TOTAL
American Redstart	1	0	0	0	0	1
American Tree Sparrow	30	4	0	0	0	34
Bay-breasted Warbler	0	1	0	0	0	1
Black-capped Chickadee	8	25	0	0	4	37
Blackpoll Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Brown Creeper	5	0	0	0	0	5
Cape May Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Downy Woodpecker	1	2	2	0	0	5
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	0	0	0	0	2
Hairy Woodpecker	1	2	0	0	0	3
House Wren	2	0	0	0	1	3
Hermit Thrush	7	0	0	0	0	7
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Myrtle Warbler	74	1	0	0	6	81
Orange-crowned Warbler	7	0	0	0	0	7
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	12	0	0	0	1	13
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	0	0	0	1	1
Slate-colored Junco	72	8	0	0	7	87
Swainson's Thrush	1	0	0	0	0	1
Western Palm Warbler	5	0	0	0	1	6
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	2	0	0	0	3
Wilson's Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
White-crowned Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
White Throated Sparrow	4	0	0	0	2	6
Total	240	45	2		23	310

Net Hours: 1100.50 NH

Capture Rate: 28.17birds/ 100 NH

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).