

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Update, October 22 - October 28, 2018

This past week at the BBO was amazing! We are still catching lots of Saw-whet Owls and we even caught a Great Horned Owl in the Long-Eared Owl net at the beginning of the week. Staff were able to band the Great Horned Owl and release it shortly after. It was an amazing treat for everyone to see this owl. Over the course of the last week, we had numerous visitors out to the lab for owl banding as well including large homeschool groups and other clubs from the University of Alberta. Many of them got to see Saw-whet Owls and a few were lucky enough to even see a Long-eared Owl as well.



The Great Horned Owl!!!

Staff had a brief meeting with board members Helen and Geoff over the week about the potential of setting up more Northern Saw-whet Owl nets next year and using a female territorial call to lure male Saw-whet Owls to the net. The reason for this new idea is because there was a new study recently published using the female territorial call to catch male Saw-whet Owls which was successful. Therefore, BBO staff are very intrigued and thinking about big plans for next fall's owl monitoring program.



Sara and the Great Horned Owl!

Kevin picked up a Northern Saw-whet Owl and a Long-eared Owl from wildlife Rehab to be re-released at the BBO. Both owls were taken to rehab earlier this season because they had soft tissue damage in their wings. However, both owls recovered successfully, and Kevin released them at the BBO.

BBO has received brand new Alberta Parks official signs to put up throughout the natural area including trail maps and directional signage. Kevin coordinated with Geoff to pick up these signs from the Waskatchewan Provincial

Recreation Area which will be stored over winter and then, staff will put up all these brand-new signs next spring.

Other tasks staff have been up to included completing the remaining field tasks and began packing down the lab in preparation for the winter. Emily and Martijn (volunteer) represented the BBO at Wild Birds Unlimited and Sara worked hard on educational emails and creating new educational presentations. It has been a very busy week at the BBO, but all staff are still smiling!

Thank you to all our volunteers and board members for the continued support!

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Northern Saw-whet Owl	48	1				49
Long-eared Owl	4					4
Boreal Owl						
Great Horned Owl	1					1
Total	53	1	0	0	0	54

Net Hours: 326.6
Capture Rate: 16.53/100hrs

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).