

## Beaverhill Bird Observatory

### Weekly Update October 5<sup>th</sup> to October 11<sup>th</sup>



*The Northern Lights shimmer during a spectacular night of owl banding. In addition to the amazing light show staff caught 18 owls!*

While fall migration continues to be slow in terms of the number of birds we are catching, this week had lots of interesting sightings and movements through the natural area. Snow Geese, Greater White-fronted Geese, and Tundra Swans have been constantly streaming overhead and making quite the racket as they do. Other interesting sightings around the area include a group of 4 American White Pelicans, some Evening Grosbeaks, and a Winter Wren! Interesting captures in our nets were a Hairy Woodpecker and another Brown Creeper.

Owl migration monitoring was absolutely spectacular this week! We have reached the peak of Northern Saw-whet Owl migration and had many nights with captures in the double digits, with the busiest night capping out at 21 owls caught. We also caught 2 more Long-eared Owls this week which is always a treat. In addition to the high owl numbers, on October 11<sup>th</sup> staff were treated to an incredible display of the Northern Lights during banding! The brilliant ribbons of green were absolutely stunning and staff were ecstatic to see some purple as well!

Thank you to our awesome volunteers this week: Irene, Jana, Natasha, Brett, Alisa, Camille, Emma, Erin, Laura, and Tyson! Your help is greatly appreciated!

*Long-eared Owls have a perpetually surprised facial expression that never ceases to be amusing.*



Table 1. Standard Migration Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total
Black-capped Chickadee	6	16			2	24
Downy Woodpecker	3	6				9
Myrtle Warbler	5					5
American Tree Sparrow	9	1			1	11
Slate-colored Junco	3	1				4
White-throated Sparrow		1				1
Brown Creeper	1					1
Hairy Woodpecker		2				2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>57</b>

253 net-hours

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

22.5 captures/100 net-hours

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).

Table 2. Experimental Nets Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total
American Tree Sparrow	8	1				9
Black-capped Chickadee	2	1				3
Slate-colored Junco		1				1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>

23 net-hours

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

56.5 captures/100 net-hours

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).

Table 3. Owl Monitoring Banding Totals

Species	Banded	Repeat <sup>1</sup>	Return <sup>2</sup>	Foreign <sup>3</sup>	Other <sup>4</sup>	Total
Northern Saw-whet Owl	78	3	1			82
Long-eared Owl	2					2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>84</b>

107.5 playback hours

1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO

78.1 captures/100 playback hours

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).