

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Weekly Update October 18 – 24, 2022



Evening Grosbeak – the 4th banded in BBO history!

This week marked the end of the songbird migration monitoring season, with the program closing down for the season on October 20th. The staff were delighted to catch the 4th Evening Grosbeak ever in BBO history before the nets were closed for the season. True to its name, it had a surprisingly painful bite. There was a Barred Owl and Northern Goshawk hanging around the nets, but the staff were not lucky enough to catch either of them. A total of 15 songbirds were captured in the final days of migration monitoring, including Black-capped Chickadee, Slate-colored Junco, and American Tree Sparrow.

Owl migration seems to be picking up. However, capture rates have been inconsistent, ranging from 1 to 10 captures per night. A total of 43 Northern Saw-whet Owls and 1 Long-eared Owl were captured.

The staff started the tasks for winterizing the lab. They drained the rainwater collection system and had the outhouse pumped out.

Staff, board members, and 6 volunteers cleaned out and demolished Nuthatch Nest – the bunkhouse that marked the last of the historical BBO buildings constructed in 1984 when the Beaverhill Bird Observatory was established.



Size comparison between male (left) and female (right) Northern Saw-whet Owls



Progression of the demolition of Nuthatch Nest – the last of the original BBO buildings

Table 1 Standard Net captures

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Black-capped Chickadee		4				4
Red-breasted Nuthatch		1				1
American Tree Sparrow	2					2
Slate-colored Junco	2					2
Evening Grosbeak	1					1
Totals	5	5	0	0	0	10
Net hours: 136.5	1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO					
Capture Rate: 7.32 captures/100 NH	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 captures

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Downy Woodpecker		1				1
American Tree Sparrow	4					4
Totals	4	1	0	0	0	5
Net hours: 28	1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO					
Capture Rate: 17.85 captures/100 NH	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 Captures in owl nets

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
Northern Saw-whet Owl	42	1				43
Long-eared Owl	1					1
Totals	43	1	0	0	0	44

- 1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO
NSWO Male
Lure Playback Hours: 42.25
Capture Rate: 81.77 captures/100 NH
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).

NSWO Female
Lure Playback Hours: 14
Capture Rate: 7.14 captures/100 NH

Boreal Owl
Playback Hours: 24
Capture Rate: 20.8 captures/100 NH

Long-Eared Owl
Playback Hours: 23
Capture Rate: 4.34 captures/100 NH