

I continue to band at least one accipiter a year during the fall banding season: two Cooper's Hawks in 2012, one in 2013, and a Sharp-shinned Hawk in 2014.

**McGill Bird Observatory** 454-0739

Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC

**Marcel A. Gahbauer, Executive Director**

marcel@migrationresearch.org

**Barbara Frei, Director**

mbo@migrationresearch.org

**Simon Duval, Bander-in-Charge**

simon@migrationresearch.org

McGill Bird Observatory (MBO) in Montreal is a full member of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network and the only station in Quebec to conduct standardized spring and fall migration banding programs. MBO is operated by the Migration Research Foundation (MRF), a non-profit organization dedicated to the study of wildlife movements, especially as they relate to population monitoring and conservation.

In 2014, MBO operated its tenth full Fall Migration Monitoring Program (FMMP), covering the usual 13-week period from 1 Aug through 30 Oct. A one-hour census trail was walked daily, and nets were open for five hours beginning at sunrise, except when limited by inclement weather; three days were lost and 33 days of banding were partly shortened due to rain and/or high winds. As a result of the generally favorable conditions, the banding effort of 6387.5 net hours was near average, although a bit below last year's number. Typically, all 16 nets were operated daily this fall. All nets are 12-m Manomet passerine nets, on standard 3-m poles. This fall, bander-in-charge duties were primarily handled by Simon Duval and Gay Gruner.

The total of 3814 individuals banded during FMMP 2014 was barely just below the long-term average of 3874 for the season, but well above the average of 3279 when excluding the two years with totals inflated by exceptional counts of Yellow-rumped Warblers. Repeats (844) were above average while returns (59) were a little bit below. The 77 species

banded is within our average range, while the number of species observed (150) is above the nine-year fall mean of 144.

White-throated Sparrow took the first place this fall with 484 individuals banded, while Ruby-crowned Kinglet came in second with 327 individuals banded and Magnolia Warbler closed the top three with 279 individuals banded. This fall we banded our first ever Broad-winged Hawk, bringing our MBO total to 115 species. A cumulative list of all species banded at MBO is updated after every season at [www.migrationresearch.org/mbo/banded.html](http://www.migrationresearch.org/mbo/banded.html)

As usual, our peak period extended roughly from mid-Sep to mid-Oct, and our ninth week (26 Sep – 2 Oct) was by far the busiest, with 454 individuals banded. During this period, we also reached a significant milestone, banding the 50,000<sup>th</sup> bird in MBO's history. This fall was all about diversity; on a record 38 days the daily estimated total was at least 50 species, including four days with more than 60. No new species were observed for the site so the all-time checklist for MBO still stands at 209 species.

Although not included in our Fall Migration Monitoring Program totals, we also operated our Northern Saw-whet Owl program for the seventh time, during which we banded 157 Northern Saw-whet Owls, plus four foreign recoveries. Only one other owl species was banded—an Eastern Screech-Owl on 11 Oct. Nicolas Bernier was the main bander for this program, with assistance from Simon Duval.

As always, other research activities and education programs were integrated with the banding program. We provided ongoing training to more than 60 volunteers this fall and collected a few hundred more photos to augment the ever-growing MBO Photo ID Library

([www.migrationresearch.org/mbo/idlibrary.html](http://www.migrationresearch.org/mbo/idlibrary.html)).

