

**NSWO Valley Falls S.P. Banding Station Founder/Bander - Joey Herron**

The thirteenth year of banding Northern Saw-whet Owls (NSWO) at Valley Falls State Park yielded the third lowest total since banding began in 2005 with only 8 owls captured.

Banding began on 10/14/2017 and ended on 11/022/2017. The eight owls captured in 2017 were 68% below the 10-year average. This is the first year a bird previously banded by another station (foreign recapture) was not caught. The station operated on fourteen nights with the nets being opened for forty-eight and three-quarter hours. Four of the nights yielded owls with peak captures of 3 NSWO's captured on the night of November 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. All 8 were captured between November 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

The station had 80 visitors from eight states. Fortunately, on three of the nights with visitors, owls were captured, with a single owl captured one night after everyone had left.

Of the 8 captures, 2 were adults, 6 were hatch year birds. Females again lead the way in captures in 2017 with 5, with 1 male and 2 unknowns.

After thirteen years of banding a total of 367 NSWOs have been captured, including 30 foreign recaptures and one return. The breakdown shows a heavy advantage for females, 75% to 8% for males. The unknown category completes the last 17%. The adult, hatch year ratio is almost even with 52% adult to 48% hatch year individuals. The station has hosted over fourteen hundred visitors from twelve states and the District of Columbia.

Again, I would like to thank Valley Falls State Park superintendent, Brett Harshbarger for the use of the park facilities and allowing visitors to experience the fall migration. Without Brett's support, this operation would not be possible.

**13-year Totals**

Females	Males	Unknown	Hatch Year	After Hatch Year	Second Year
284	27	56	183	117	67

**Banding Summary for 2017**

<u>Date</u>	<u>NSWO caught</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>NSWO caught</u>
10/14/17	0	11/4/17	<b>1</b>
10/17/17	0	11/8/17	<b>3</b>
10/20/17	0	11/9/17	0
10/26/17	0	11/10/17	<b>3</b>
10/31/17	0	11/11/17	<b>1</b>
11/3/17	0	11/20/17	0
		11/22/17	0
			<b><u>Total 8</u></b>

<u>Age</u>	
After hatch year (AHY)--2	
Second year (SY)-----0	25% (adults)
Hatch year (HY)-----6	75%

<u>Sex</u>	
Female: 5-----	62.5%
Male: 1-----	12.5%
Unknown: 2----	25%