2002 Annual Report

Richard Krikun, Editor
March, 2003

Beaverhill Bird Observatory
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Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
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Abstract

The Beaverhill Bird Observatory (BBO) had a very busy, but highly successful 2002 field season. The field station opened on May 1st and shut down on November 15th. Banding started on May 1st with monitoring the spring migration of songbirds. The Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program followed the spring migration program, starting on June 10th. Fall migration monitoring of songbirds began on August 1st and ended on October 10th. A combined total of 3001 birds were captured in mistnets during these three banding programs. The diversity of songbirds captured was quite high at 70 species. Raptor monitoring began on August 1st and ended on October 5th. Eleven drop-lid traps and two Swedish Goshawk traps were set daily. 12 raptors were captured from 6 species, an enormous increase from the single Black-billed Magpie captured in the raptor traps in 2001. The Northern Saw-whet Owl fall migration monitoring was a great success. Mistnets were set nightly from August 16th to November 15th. The reward for the effort was 145 Saw-whets and one Long-eared Owl captured in the nets. An independent study focusing on Tree Swallows had the BBO staff banding at the Swallow Grid. During this study 81 adults were captured and 184 nestlings were banded from nest boxes. Other activities during the field season included a nest search effort which found 86 nests from 11 species. 26 species of butterflies were identified during the annual Beaverhill Lake Butterfly Count. Interpretation events included the annual Crepe Spectacular and the Steak and Saw- whets event. The 2002 banding season was a great success because of the hard work put in by the staff, volunteers, and the BBO Board of Directors.

The banding lab in early spring

Acknowledgements

The Beaverhill Bird Observatory would like to thank the following funding agencies for their generous grants and support that helped make the 2002 field season possible: Canadian Wildlife Service (Environment Canada); Student Career Placement Program; Student Temporary Employment Program; Government of Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife; Shell Canada; Edmonton Community Foundation; and Alberta Ecotrust. Thanks also go to the BBO summer staff: Christine Boulton, Matt Hanneman, Sarah Trefry, and Richard Krikun, for their hard work to gathering data over the season..

As a non-profit organization, the BBO relies on volunteers to help with banding activities throughout the field season. Special thanks go to the many volunteers who helped out in 2002 season: Lisa Priestley, Warren Fleming, Janet Ng, Tyler Flockhart, Anita Hanneman, Jennifer Sipkens, Amy Trefry, Eckehart, Jim and Barb Beck, Rob Priestley, Juanita Mumby, Christy Horne, Hugo Sarrio, Carol Hashey, Locke Girvan, Genevieve Burdett, Jason Richl, Danny Ishida, Jeff Radke, Val Krikun, Ed Leigh, Nadia Cruickshank, Janos Kovacs, Jim and Bim Nichols, CJ Ralph, Stephanie Grossman, and the Soga Family (Hiroshi, Chibumi, and Yohei) from Japan. A large and very sincere thank-you is also extended to the BBO Board of Directors: Chuck Priestley, Bryn Spence, Margaret Takats, Geoff Holroyd, Elson Olorenshaw, Al DeGroot, and Jason Duxbury. Their hard work year round helps to ensure that the observatory operates smoothly, and contributed greatly to the success of 2002 .

A Canada Warbler posing pretty after being banded. (photo by Richard Krikun)

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A pair of male American Goldfinches (photo by Richard Krikun)

Message from the Chairman – Chuck Priestley

Thanks to the support from our funding agencies, the hard work of our field staff, the participation of our volunteers and the continued dedication of our volunteer board members, the year 2002 was extremely successful for the Beaverhill Bird Observatory (BBO). Programs that were continued this year included: songbird migration monitoring, Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS), tree swallow banding, fall raptor monitoring and interpretation. Standardized northern saw-whet owl fall migration monitoring was initiated this year.

Our field season kicked off on April 20th with the 10th annual Snow Goose Festival. The weather was fantastic all weekend so the walk-in tours to the lab were very popular. Birding highlights included a turkey vulture (first spotted by Jason and Sandra Duxbury), a northern goshawk, a western meadowlark, an American kestrel and a pair of northern harriers. In addition, a common grackle (my favorite blackbird) showed up at the lab for every walk-in tour on Saturday.

The BBO was glad to have our head-bander, Richard Krikun, back for another season and to welcome new staff members Christine Boulton, Matthew Hanneman and Sarah Trefry. Richard worked from May 1st to November 15th, Christine and Matthew worked from May 1st to August 31st and Sarah worked from August 1 to mid-September. Because we had a full complement of hard working field staff we were able to have full banding coverage this year during both migration periods and the summer. Hats off to the crew of 2002!

In addition to the core programs, the staff engaged in other work-related activities. Our new Pigeon cage was completed during the spring and a new weatherproof toilet paper dispenser was built for the 'throne' (a definite bonus on those wet mornings). Lisa and I went out to the BBO for Canada Day and with the staff, banded six young Red-tailed hawks at 4 nests. On July 24th the BBO participated in the annual butterfly count that Barb and Jim Beck organize.

The BBO's newest program, northern saw-whet owl fall migration monitoring, was initiated this fall. This new project has some pretty exciting potential because currently saw-whet migration is not being consistently monitored in Alberta and our interpretation and education programs could become more effective because the saw-whet is a species that fosters a lot of public appeal. Thanks to the hard work and dedication that Rich and our volunteers put in, our saw-whet project was very successful. In fact, the total number of owls caught far exceeded our expectations. The total number caught will not be mentioned here, you'll have to read on to find out... This new project increased public participation in BBO activities. We welcomed more than 70 visitors to the lab for our first annual Steaks and Saw-whets Barbecue. We also had a family who flew all the way from Japan to visit the BBO so that they could see saw-whet banding (they actually spent three of their seven days in Canada at the BBO)!

Being involved with the BBO for the past five years has been a very good experience for me. I have learned a lot, met some great people and had the opportunity to take research-related initiatives that I would not heave been able to without BBO support. I look forward to continuing my participation with the BBO in the future and hope to see you at the lab next year!

2002 Banding Season Summary

The 2002 field season was the 18th year that the Beaverhill Bird Observatory (BBO) has been monitoring migratory birds. Monitoring was conducted from May 1st to November 15th by the four staff members Christine Boulton, Matt Hanneman, Sarah Trefry, and the returning head bander Richard Krikun. Six monitoring programs occurred over the course of the banding season: spring migration monitoring; Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS), fall migration monitoring, Tree Swallow monitoring, raptor monitoring, and Northern Saw-whet Owl fall migration monitoring.

Banding totals for the 2002 spring migration monitoring, fall migration monitoring, and the MAPS program were consistent with the totals of 2001. A total of 3001 birds were captured in mist nets in 2002, a slight increase from the 2919 birds captured the year before. With 2517 birds captured in 2000 and 4035 captured in 1999,there is no obvious trend in bird numbers in the past four years. Species diversity was high in 2002 with 70 species captured in mist nets (Table 1). This is up from the 60 species captured in 2001, 64 in 2000, and 68 in 1999. The capture rate for 2002 was 39.2 birds per hundred net hours, the lowest capture rate in the last 4 years. The capture rate of birds per one hundred net hours was 48 in 2001, 42 in 2000, and 66 in 1999. The drop in the capture rate is evidence that there are fewer birds in the area during migration.

The swallow grid provided an excellent opportunity to catch adult Tree Swallows and to band the young before they leave the nests. Tyler Flockhart (BBO alumni) proposed to examine Tree Swallow nest success, adult return rates, and other aspects of breeding. The first step was to capture as many adults as possible and band all the young before they fledged from the nestbox. A total of 81 adults were captured and 184 young were banded.

Raptor monitoring was continued in 2002 with more success than in 2001. Twelve raptors from six species were captured, including a recapture of a Great-horned Owl that was banded by the BBO staff in 2000.

The Northern Saw-whet Owl fall migration banding had many people excited. The 2002 season was the first year that nightly monitoring took place. Not sure of what to expect, the BBO staff, board of directors, and all the volunteers for the project were shocked and pleased when they heard the news. 145 Saw-whets and one Long-eared Owl were captured in the nets. The results from the data are still to come.

Treasurers Report

Finances for the BBO were kept in order by the observatory's treasurer, Margaret Takats. The total income received for 2002 was $70,426.21 (from grants, memberships, talks and presentations, donations, and sales). Expenses totalled $69,461.33 (office expenses, supplies, repairs and maintenance, property taxes, insurance, WCB expenses,

travel expense, website, payroll, and the banding conference). The BBO had a net profit of $1,016.88 for 2002.

2002 Banding Season Reports

- *Spring Report*

Christine Boulton reported on the 2002 spring migration monitoring activities. This report includes the spring migration data (capture totals, species, and capture rate). Also included are bird sightings of interest, highlights of the annual Crepe Spectacular, and the methods and some results of catching adult Tree Swallows.

- *Summer Report*

Matt Hanneman reviewed the activities of the summer program. This report includes the results of the MAPS program (bird captures and species at each MAPS site). The summer program also concluded the swallow grid work, nest searches, nest banding, a butterfly count, and the success of a Bal-shatri trap.

- *Fall Report*

Richard Krikun reported on the fall portion of the BBO's field season. The data from the songbird migration monitoring includes capture totals, a large species list, and capture rate comparisons with previous years. The report includes the raptor monitoring and the methods and results of the Saw-whet Owl migration monitoring.

Publications

- *Willet*

The Willet is the Beaverhill Bird Observatory's newsletter. Three volumes were released during 2002. Volume 15 (1) was released in February and contained highlights from the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network Meeting held in Nova Scotia in October 2001, banding and census at Calling Lake, and the reports of a Saw-whet band recovery in Edmonton. Volume 15 (2) was released in May and contained the overview of the 2002 Bird Conservation and Monitoring Conference, information on the Baillie Birdathon, and a description of the walking tours from the Snow Goose Festival. Volume 15 (3) was released in October as a special issue. Four BBO Baillie Birdathon teams relate their stories in a fun competition to be the team that records the most species in 24 hours. Big thanks to Jason Duxbury for the great job editing the newsletter.

Table 1: Songbird captures during the 2002 BBO field season

Species Caught	Number Caught	Species Caught	Number Caught
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	Cape May Warbler	4
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	2	Magnolia Warbler	29
Yellow-shafted Flicker	4	Myrtle Warbler	241
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1
Downy Woodpecker	12	Black-and-white Warbler	11
Hairy Woodpecker	3	Black-throated Green Warbler	2
Western Wood-Pewee	4	Bay-breasted Warbler	2
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	3	Blackpoll Warbler	32
Alder Flycatcher	3	Western-palm Warbler	3
Least Flycatcher	720	Yellow Warbler	425
Traill's Flycatcher	53	Mourning Warbler	14
Eastern Pheobe	2	Connecticut Warbler	1
Blue-headed Vireo	11	Canada Warbler	8
Red-eyed Vireo	11	Wilson's Warbler	20
Philadelphia Vireo	6	Ovenbird	26
Warbling Vireo	30	Northern Waterthrush	16
Tree Swallow	3	Common Yellowthroat	13
Black-capped Chickadee	229	American Redstart	170
Brown Creeper	1	American-tree Sparrow	17
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	Chipping Sparrow	14
Red-breasted Nuthatch	14	Clay-colored Sparrow	199
House Wren	70	Fox Sparrow	5
Winter Wren	2	Savannah Sparrow	30
Golden-crowned Kinglet	2	Lincoln Sparrow	12
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	33	Song Sparrow	7
Veery	4	White-throated Sparrow	74
Gray-cheeked Thrush	2	White-crowned Sparrow	4
Swainson's Thrush	94	Slate-colored Junco	42
Hermit Thrush	29	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	5
American Robin	6	Brown-headed Cowbird	20
Gray Catbird	8	Red-winged Blackbird	1
Cedar Waxwing	2	Baltimore Oriole	13
Tennessee Warbler	109	Purple Finch	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	40	Pine Siskin	2
Nashville Warbler	1	American Goldfinch	15

Grand Total	**3001**

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Beaverhill Bird Observatory

We have audited the financial statements as at 31 December 2002 of the Beaverhill Bird Observatory for the year ended 31 December 2002. These statements are the responsibility of the Beaverhill Bird Observatory management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Beaverhill Bird Observatory as at 31 December 2002 and the results of its operations and changes in financial position for the year then ended.

Edmonton, Alberta
February 1, 2003

Petra Rowell

Alan Hingston

BEAVERHILL BIRD OBSERVATORY SOCIETY

Box 1418
Edmonton. Alberta
T5J 2N5

Balance Sheet

As of 13th Period 20

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Assets			
Current Assets			
Chequing Account		$942.11	
US cash		$7,674.29	
Investments		$0.00	
Accounts Receivable		$7,775.00	
Interest Receivable		$0.00	
Deposits Paid		$0.00	
Property & Equipment			
Buildings	$3,604.55		
Donation Boxes	$541.00		
Computer	$2,471.43		
Banding Equipment	$1,350.00		
Display Board	$527.00		
Refrigerator	$2,000.14		
Solar Panels	$846.38		
Total Property & Equipment		$11,340.50	
Total Assets			$27,731.90
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	$0.00		
Deposits on account	$0.00		
Total Current Liabilities		$0.00	
Payroll Liabilities			
Income Tax Deductions	$0.00		
CPP Payable	$0.00		
EI Payable	$0.00		
Workers' Compensation Payable	$0.00		
Vacation Payable	$0.00		
Total Payroll Liabilities		$0.00	
exchange		$0.00	
Total Liabilities			$0.00
Equity			
Retained Earnings		$25,715.02	
Current Year Earnings		$1,016.88	
Historical Balancing		$1,000.00	
Total Equity			$27,731.90
Total Liability & Equity			$27,731.90

BEAVERHILL BIRD OBSERVATORY SOCIETY

Box 1418
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T5J 2N5

Profit & Loss Statement

13th Period 2002

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	Selected Period	% of Sales	Year to Date	% of YTD Sales
Income				
GRANTS				
Alta Govt - Step	$0.00	NA	$3,169.00	4.5%
GOV. AB SP, REC. PKS WL	$0.00	NA	$3,500.00	5.0%
Canadian Govt. - SCPP	$0.00	NA	$4,720.00	6.7%
Environment Can.	$0.00	NA	$4,000.00	5.7%
Shell	$0.00	NA	$4,000.00	5.7%
Edmonton Community Foundation	$0.00	NA	$5,500.00	7.8%
Baillie Fund	$0.00	NA	$1,278.90	1.8%
ACA	$0.00	NA	$6,800.00	9.7%
Burrowing Owl Account US Funds	$0.00	NA	$32,521.00	46.2%
Total GRANTS	$0.00	NA	$65,488.90	93.0%
Memberships	$0.00	NA	$265.00	0.4%
TALKS AND PRESENTAIONS	$0.00	NA	$735.00	1.0%
Donations				
General donation	$0.00	NA	$2,609.89	3.7%
Lab Box	$0.00	NA	$216.03	0.3%
Donations - Owls	$0.00	NA	$268.73	0.4%
Total Donations	$0.00	NA	$3,094.65	4.4%
Sales				
Snowgoose Festival	$0.00	NA	$352.66	0.5%
Banding Conference	$0.00	NA	$490.00	0.7%
Total Sales	$0.00	NA	$842.66	1.2%
Total Income	$0.00	NA	$70,426.21	100.0%
Cost of Sales				
Gross Profit	$0.00	NA	$70,426.21	100.0%
Expenses				
Office Expense				
Mail Box Rental	$0.00	NA	$126.26	0.2%
Stationery	$0.00	NA	$27.62	0.0%
Postage	$0.00	NA	$179.43	0.3%
Maps, Photos	$0.00	NA	$1,398.94	2.0%
Newsletter	$0.00	NA	$129.70	0.2%
Telephone	$0.00	NA	$427.07	0.6%
Bank Charges	$0.00	NA	$137.41	0.2%
Bank Charges US Account	$0.00	NA	$96.60	0.1%
Misc. Office Expense	$0.00	NA	$1,791.35	2.5%
Expenses for US Account	$0.00	NA	$24,919.35	35.4%
Total Office Expense	$0.00	NA	$29,233.73	41.5%
Supplies	$0.00	NA	$877.00	1.2%
Food	$0.00	NA	$451.67	0.6%
Repairs & Mntce	$0.00	NA	$234.32	0.3%
Bands & Equipment	$0.00	NA	$2,886.49	4.1%
Nets & Poles	$0.00	NA	$205.38	0.3%
Dues & Subscriptions	$0.00	NA	$20.00	0.0%
Educational Presentations	$0.00	NA	$55.90	0.1%
Property Taxes	$0.00	NA	$166.60	0.2%
Insurance	$0.00	NA	$234.00	0.3%
WCB Expense	$0.00	NA	$115.00	0.2%
Travel Expense	$0.00	NA	($312.50)	(0.4%)

BEAVERHILL BIRD OBSERVATORY SOCIETY

Profit & Loss Statement

13th Period 2002

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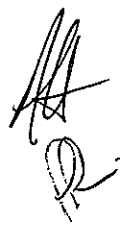
	Selected Period	% of Sales	Year to Date	% of YTD Sales
Mileage	$0.00	NA	$4,236.20	6.0%
web site	$0.00	NA	$273.57	0.4%
Payroll				
Wages	$0.00	NA	$25,120.00	35.7%
Wages US Currancy	$0.00	NA	$3,000.00	4.3%
Vacation Pay Expense	$0.00	NA	$1,004.80	1.4%
Employer Expenses	$0.00	NA	$1,729.17	2.5%
Banding Conf expense	$0.00	NA	($70.00)	(0.1%)
Total Expenses	$0.00	NA	$69,461.33	98.6%
Operating Profit	$0.00	NA	$964.88	1.4%
Other Income				
US Other Income funds	$0.00	NA	$52.00	0.1%
Total Other Income	$0.00	NA	$52.00	0.1%
Other Expenses				
Net Profit / (Loss)	$0.00	NA	$1,016.88	1.4%



Beaverhill Bird Observatory
2002 Spring Report

Christine Boulton

INTRODUCTION

The Beaverhill Bird Observatory was lucky enough to have three banders on staff for spring migration monitoring this year. The three fortunate individuals were Richard Krikun, the head bander, and Matthew Hanneman and Christine Boulton, the new recruits. Although the season started off a bit slow due to cold weather and windy conditions, banding picked up in mid-June and continued to keep us busy for the remainder of spring migration. Spring migration monitoring 2002 will be remembered as a time of learning, excitement, and lots of hard work and good fun.

SONGBIRD MIGRATION MONITORING

The spring migration monitoring program began on May 1st and ended on June 9th, running for a total of 39 days. The key component of monitoring migration was employing the use of mist nets which were used to capture primarily songbirds. Weather permitting, our 13 migration monitoring nets were opened each day one half hour before sunrise and were closed after a minimum of six hours. On occasion, the nets would be left up longer, for a maximum of 8 hours after sunrise, in order to make up lost net hours from bad-weather days. Banding was not permitted if the temperature was below 0°C or above 27°C, if the wind strength was over 3 on the Beaufort Scale, or if there was any significant precipitation.

During spring migration monitoring this year, there were 3120 possible net hours available for capturing birds. We were able to set up nets for a total of 2568.75 net hours, missing 551.25, or 17.7%, of the possible net hours due to bad weather conditions. Although this percentage is quite large, we managed to improve on the loss in net hours from last year. In 2001, the percentage of lost net hours due to bad weather was 45% (Krikun 2001). Total birds captured per 100 net hours was 37.0 for 2002, comparable to 35.8 birds captured per 100 net hours in spring 2001 (Krikun 2001). The net with the most birds captured per 100 net hours was net 9x, with 62.7 birds per 100 net hours, and the net with the least was net 2, with 21.1 birds per 100 net hours. In 2001, 9x also had the greatest number of birds and 2 had the least number of birds at 84.7 and 22 birds respectively per 100 net hours (Krikun 2001). See Table 1 for a breakdown of the total number of net hours and birds captured per net.

Table 1. Birds captured and net hours per net lane.

Net	Birds Captured	Net Hours	Birds Captured/100 Net Hours
2	44	208.25	21.1
2x	48	208.25	23.0
3	65	203.25	32.0
4	50	203.25	24.6
8	80	178.50	44.8
9	104	178.50	58.3
9x	112	178.50	62.7
12	94	179	52.5
40	101	208.25	48.5
41	73	208.25	35.1
43	51	208.25	24.5
43x	52	198.25	26.2
49	76	208.25	36.5
Total	950	2568.75	37.0

During spring migration monitoring we captured an impressive total of 950 birds consisting of 55 species. Of these, 740 birds were banded representing 54 species, 108 were repeat captures, 79 were recoveries, and an additional 23 birds were released unbanded or escaped from the nets. A few rarities

were captured such as a Gray-cheeked Thrush, two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, and a Veery. See Table 2 for a breakdown of number and type of capture per species.

Table 2. Number and type of capture per species.

Species	Banded	Recaptures	Recoveries	Released/Escapes	Total # Captured
Least Flycatcher	170	36	18	4	228
Clay-colored Sparrow	108	17	11	7	143
Yellow Warbler	59	21	33	2	115
Swainson's Thrush	77	2	1	2	82
White-throated Sparrow	56	1		3	60
Myrtle Warbler	35				35
House Wren	22	8	2		32
Slate-colored Junco	23	1		1	25
Black-capped Chickadee	5	10	6		21
American Redstart	13			1	14
Traill's Flycatcher	12				12
American Goldfinch	8		3	1	12
Ovenbird	9	2			11
Baltimore Oriole	5	6			11
Common Yellowthroat	9			1	10
Tennessee Warbler	9				9
Mourning Warbler	9				9
Lincoln Sparrow	9				9
Hermit Thrush	6	1	1		8
Orange-crowned Warbler	7				7
Blackpoll Warbler	7				7
Brown-headed Cowbird	5	1		1	7
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6				6
American Robin	5				5
Gray Catbird	5				5
Red-eyed Vireo	5				5
Chipping Sparrow	5				5
Warbling Vireo	2	1	2		5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4				4
Magnolia Warbler	4				4
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3				3
Western-wood Peewee	3				3
Black-and-white Warbler	3				3
Wilson's Warbler	3				3
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3				3
Tree Swallow	2		1		3
Philadelphia Vireo	2	1			3
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2				2
Eastern Phoebe	2				2
Song Sparrow	2				2
Fox Sparrow	2				2
Pine Siskin	2				2
Alder Flycatcher	1				1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1				1
Veery	1				1
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1				1
Blue-headed Vireo	1				1
Unknown Yellow-rumped Warbler	1				1
Palm Warbler	1				1
Canada Warbler	1				1
Northern Waterthrush	1				1

Savannah Sparrow	1				1
White-crowned Sparrow	1				1
Red-winged Blackbird	1				1
Hairy Woodpecker			1		1
Totals	**740**	**108**	**79**	**23**	**950**

The top five species captured this spring were: Least Flycatchers with 228 captures (24%), Clay-colored Sparrows with 143 captures (15%), Yellow Warblers with 115 captures (12%), Swainson's Thrushes with 82 captures (9%), and White-throated Sparrows with 60 captures (6%) (Figure 1).

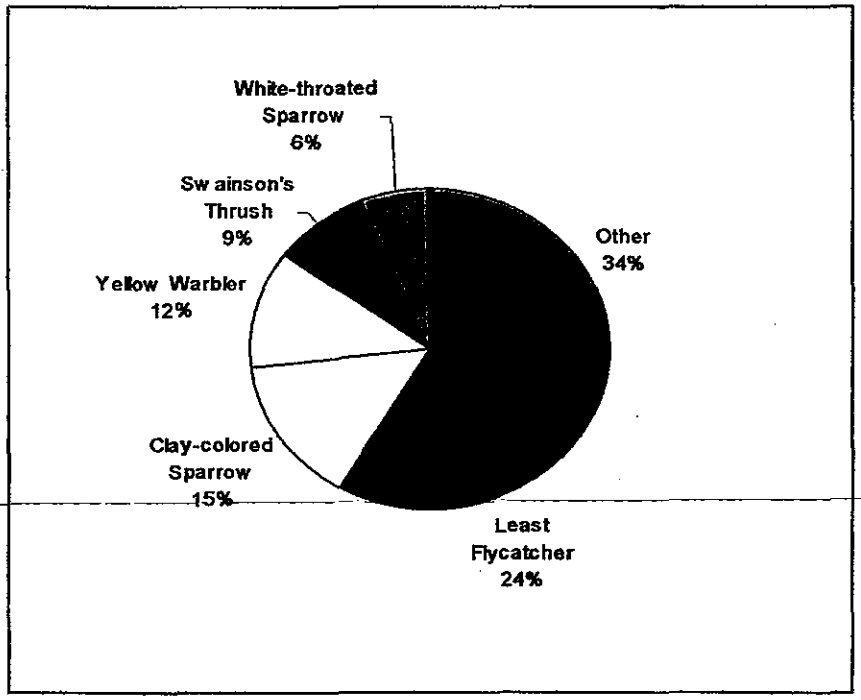


Figure 1: Percent of top 5 species captured.

The top five species banded this spring were: Least Flycatchers with 170 banded (23%), Clay-colored sparrows with 108 banded (15%), Swainson's Thrushes with 77 banded (10%), and Yellow Warblers and White-throated Sparrows each making up 8% of the birds banded with 59 and 56 birds banded, respectively (Figure 2).

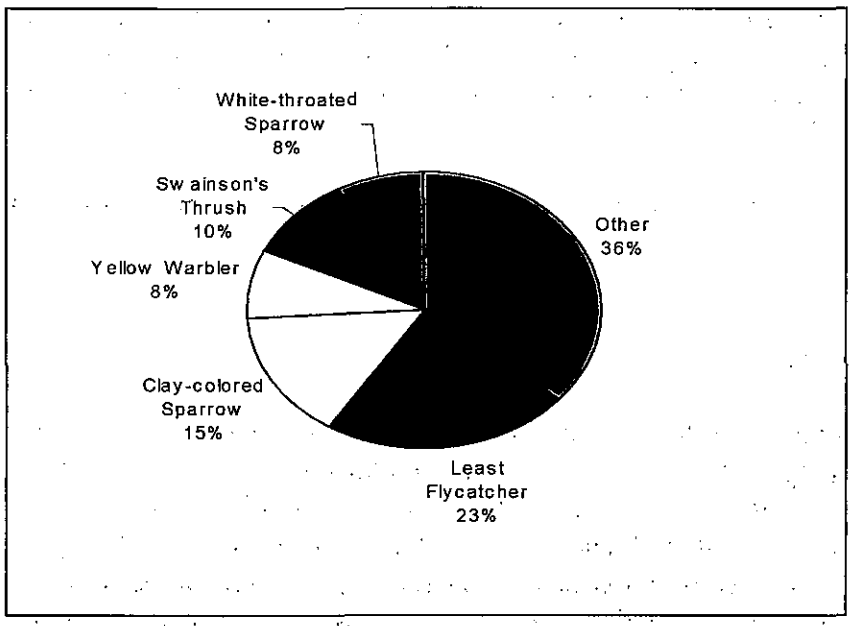


Figure 2: Percent of top 5 species banded.

Compared to last year, this year's results for top five species are similar, although there are some exceptions. While in 2001 Chipping Sparrows were in the top five species captured and banded, making up 18% of the birds banded and 14% of the birds captured, this year there were only 5 captured, accounting for 0.5% of the birds captured and 0.7% of the birds banded. One other anomaly was the number of Swainson's Thrushes captured this year. In spring 2001, Swainson's Thrushes made up 6% of the birds banded and 5% of the birds captured, smaller percentages than were found this year (Krikun 2001).

OTHER CAPTURE METHODS

There are a few other methods that we used this spring to capture and band birds. One of our main objectives this year was to try and capture as many Tree Swallows as possible. Since there is a "Swallow Grid" containing 49 nest boxes, it is not difficult to find the birds—however, it can prove very challenging to catch them! One method that we used to capture the Tree Swallows was the 'run and cover' method. Basically, we would run up to the nest boxes, plug the hole in the box, and hope to find a swallow(s) inside to band. Many times we would wait until we saw a bird go into the box, then we would run and plug the hole, hopefully before the bird escaped from the nest box. While this method has been used extensively in the past and works very well, we also tested out another method, proposed by Tyler Flockhart who worked at the BBO for two years. He found a paper (Needs Reference) in which the author used feathers to capture birds. Tree Swallows line their nests with feathers, and during the nest-making and incubating stages, there is especially fierce competition for feathers amongst the birds. The 'feather method' is fairly easy; a feather is thrown into the air (this works much better on windy days) and hopefully the feather is caught by a Tree Swallow. The swallow takes the feather to its nest box, and as it is placing the feather inside you can run up, plug the hole, and band the bird. This method seemed to work very well in the spring and we certainly had a lot of fun trying it out. In total, 38 adult Tree Swallows were captured this spring; 25 were banded and 13 were recaptures.

On one evening, an attempt was made to catch Long-eared Owls as two were finally heard calling late in the day. Net 49 was opened for approximately 45 minutes and the owl's call was played to try to lure the owls into the net. This method did not meet with success even though one owl came quite close to the net.

We also banded some juveniles this spring; three Common Raven young were banded before they fledged.

CENSUS and OTHER OBSERVATIONS

Migration monitoring would not be complete without census or other observations. Since mist netting only gives us a partial understanding of the birds migrating through the area, these other methods are essential to the day-to-day monitoring at the BBO. A census was run every morning on a predetermined route, preferably between 0800 and 0900 and approximately 45 minutes long. On days where no banding was possible due to weather restrictions, an attempt was made to run two censuses. Other observations are designed to supplement the banding and census data. Some birds uncommon or rare for the area that were seen or heard in the study area this spring were: Broad-winged Hawk, Spotted Towhee, Lazuli Bunting, Fox Sparrow (on three occasions), Golden Eagle, Veery.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

There were a few projects worked on this spring even though banding kept us quite busy. Matt and Rich worked on fixing up the pigeon coop as we were expecting pigeons very soon. The coop received a new door, shelter, and roosts courtesy of Matt and Rich. Rich also built a very snazzy toilet paper dispenser for the Throne; it is a very nice addition.

The annual Crepe Spectacular was hosted by the BBO on June 3 and was a big success. Janos Kovacs was the mastermind behind the excellent crepes and bacon, serving up enough good food for everyone who came by. We banded for the full six hours on this day, giving volunteers and bystanders alike a chance to see what we do here at the BBO. All in all it was a very successful day!

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are an essential component to the activities at the BBO; they give the staff an opportunity to teach others about the importance of our research and provide great company and assistance in the meantime. The following people volunteered at the BBO, shown with number of days spent volunteering in parentheses: Elson Olorenshaw (1), Jim Nichols (1), Bim Nichols (1), Al DeGroot (1), Warren Fleming (4), Conrad (1), Jocelyn (1), Tyler Flockhart (1), Anita Gutierrez (1), Stephanie Grossman (1), Chuck Priestley (4), Lisa Takats (2), Bryn Spence (2), Juanita Mumby (1), Hugo Sarria (1), Sarah Trefry (1), Carol Hashey (1), CJ Ralph (1), Janos Kovacs (1), Christina (1).

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Feather method Tree Swallow Paper

Beaverhill Bird Observatory
Summer Report 2002

Matthew Hanneman

Acknowledgements

We would first like to thank all the board of directors for making everything happen behind the scenes. The BBO could not operate without all the work they put into it. We especially want to thank Chuck and Lisa Priestley for their time and their climbing gear when banding raptor fledglings. Thanks also to Tyler Flockhart for assistance in the swallow grid monitoring. We also want to give thanks to all the volunteers that came out to help band during the summer.

Introduction

The Beaverhill Bird Observatory MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Suvivorship) program was very successful for the summer of 2002. Banding and point counts were completed at each MAPS station for all five rotations. This success was mainly thanks to good weather conditions and adequate staffing allowing plenty of opportunity to complete banding and point counts within each rotation period. Data collected from the MAPS program are used to help determine the species diversity and abundance of local breeding bird populations around the Beaverhill Lake Natural Area.

This summer was very hot and dry. Lister Lake and the water at the Weir was completely dried up and the shoreline of Beaverhill Lake receded extremely far in comparison to previous years leaving huge expanses of dry mud flats. Despite the dry conditions, the summer was enjoyable and the staff was kept busy with birding activities plus the MAPS program both inside and outside of the Beaverhill Lake Natural Area. As usual the staff at the BBO, including Richard Krikun, Christine Boulton, and myself, Matthew Hanneman, were a great, hard working, enthusiastic group who have become good friends which made the summer of 2002 that much more enjoyable.

The MAPS program consisted of five ten-day rotation periods between June 10 and July 31, 2002. Within each ten-day rotation period, six hours of banding, beginning at sunrise, occurred at each at three stations within the Natural Area designated as WEIR, PARK, and BLAB. Point counts were also completed at each station consisting of nine points per station. At each point, every bird was identified by sight or sound for ten minutes and recorded with their approximate distance from each point. Point counts were done in addition to banding to obtain a more accurate representation of species breeding in the area that are not captured in the mist nets.

Results

There were a combined total of 317 birds captured at all three stations during MAPS. Of these, 199 were banded, 112 were recaptures, and 6 were released or had escaped (Table 1). Each station had the maximum number of total possible net hours (300NH) for a grand total of 900 net hours. There were 35.2 birds caught per 100 net hours, which is slightly higher than MAPS 2001 (31.6 birds/100NH) (Krikun, 2001) and MAPS 2000 (28.3birds/100NH) (Flockheart, 2000). BLAB station had the highest number of birds caught at 135 for a total of 45 birds/100NH.

WEIR was next with 95 birds or 31.7 birds/100NH and finally PARK had the lowest amount caught at 87 or 29 birds/100NH (Table 2).

Table 1. Species and the number caught at all three MAPS stations (summer, 2002)

Species	Banded	Recaptures	Released/ Escaped	Total
Least flycatcher	119	65	0	184
Yellow warbler	15	21	0	36
Clay-colored sparrow	15	4	1	20
Black-capped chickadee	18	2	0	20
Brown-headed cowbird	8	2	3	13
House wren	4	8	1	13
Warbling vireo	6	3	0	9
Hermit thrush	3	2	0	5
Veery	2	1	0	3
Philidelphia vireo	0	2	0	2
Swainson's thrush	2	0	0	2
Downy woodpecker	2	0	0	2
Blue-headed vireo	2	0	0	2
American robin	0	1	0	1
Sharp-shinned hawk	1	0	0	1
Baltimore oriole	0	1	0	1
Myrtle warbler	1	0	0	1
Ruby-throated hummingbird	0	0	1	1
Red-eyed vireo	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	**199**	**112**	**6**	**317**

In terms of diversity, BLAB had the highest number of species at 16. Next was WEIR with 11 species and lastly was PARK with 8 species, which also correlates with the total number of birds caught per station (Table 2). The difference in diversity may have been a result of the surrounding habitat at each station. BLAB has a high variety of habitat types in the area, such as willow patches, aspen/poplar stands, and small grassland areas, which may result in more species that rely on these habitats. On the other hand, PARK is largely a single habitat of poplar and aspen.

Some interesting birds that were caught, due to being outside their normal breeding range or their general rarity, were 2 Veeries (one showing a brood patch) and 2 Philadelphia vireos. A Ruby-throated hummingbird was also caught but had to be released because we did not have the proper permit or the required band size to band it.

The Least flycatcher (LEFL) had the highest abundance, representing 58% of the species caught and 60% of the species banded. In terms of species caught, Yellow warblers (YWAR) were a distant second, representing 11.4% birds caught, while Black-capped chickadees (BCCH) and Clay-colored sparrows (CCSP) tied for third spot representing 6.3 % birds caught. In terms of species banded, BCCH got the second place title at 9% while YWAR and CCSP tied for third

with 7.5% of birds banded (Figure 1 and 2). Species abundance was similar to the past two years with these species consistently being the top 4 species caught in the mist nets. These species represented a substantial amount of the species abundance of resident birds with 82% of the total birds caught being one of these four species.

Table 2. Species and the number caught for each MAPS station (summer, 2002).

	Banded			Recaptures			Released/ Escaped			Total		
Species	*WEIR*	*PARK*	*BLAB*	*WEIR*	*PARK*	*BLAB*	*WEIR*	*PARK*	*BLAB*	*WEIR*	*PARK*	*BLAB*
Least flycatcher	39	40	40	22	12	31				61	52	71
Yellow warbler	3	7	5	6	8	7				9	15	12
Clay-colored sparrow	8	4	3		1	3		1		8	6	6
Black-capped chickadee	2	2	14			2				2	2	16
Brown-headed cowbird	2	4	2	2			2	1		6	5	2
House wren			4			8			1	0	0	13
Warbling vireo	2	2	2	1	2					3	4	2
Hermit thrush	1		2			2				1	0	4
Veery			2			1				0	0	3
Philidelphia vireo					2					0	2	0
Swaison's thrush		1	1							0	1	1
Downy woodpecker			2							0	0	2
Blue-headed vireo	2									2	0	0
American robin						1				0	0	1
Sharp-shinned hawk			1							0	0	1
Baltimore oriole						1				0	0	1
Myrtle warbler	1									1	0	0
Ruby-throated hummingbird							1			1	0	0
Red-eyed vireo	1									1	0	0
Total	**61**	**60**	**78**	**31**	**25**	**56**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**95**	**87**	**135**

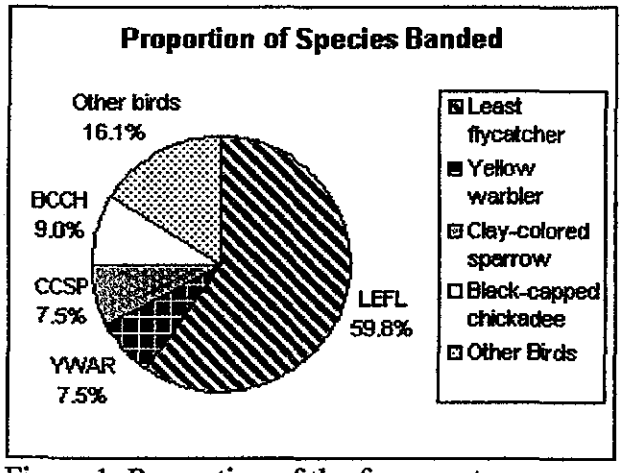


Figure 1. Proportion of the four most abundant species banded relative to the total

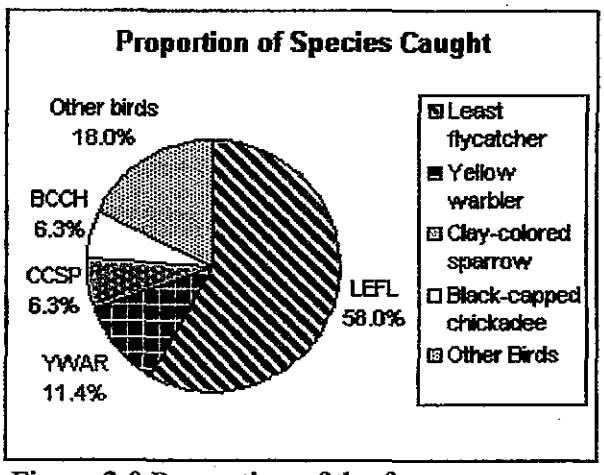


Figure 2.0 Proportion of the four most abundant species caught relative to the total

Obviously, mist netting alone could not be expected to sample all breeding bird species in the Natural Area due to limited habitat representation, such as tree canopy and wetland habitat. Therefore, point counts were conducted to help obtain a more extensive record of possible breeding birds. The species that were heard or seen during point counts are listed in Table 3. Some of the species had a low probability of being captured in the mist nets due to habitat bias but were recorded during point counts.

Table 3. List of species seen or heard during point counts (summer, 2002)

Alder flycatcher	Common yellowthroat	Red-winged blackbird
American avocet	Franklin's gull	Ring-billed gull
American crow	Hairy woodpecker	Ruby-throated hummingbird
American goldfinch	Hermit thrush	Savannah sparrow
American robin	House wren	Song sparrow
Baltimore oriole	Killdeer	Sprague's pipit
Black-capped chickadee	Least flycatcher	Swaison's thrush
Blue-headed vireo	Mallard	Tree swallow
Brown-headed cowbird	Marbled godwit	Veery
Canada goose	Mourning dove	Warbling vireo
Cedar Waxwing	Northern harrier	White-throated sparrow
Clay-colored sparrow	Ovenbird	Willet
Common raven	Philidelphia vireo	Yellow warbler
Common snipe	Red-eyed vireo	
Total Species Count		**41**

A significant part of the summer activities involved continuation of Tree swallow banding in the swallow grid from the spring. A large amount of effort was given to band as many nesting adults as possible which resulted in great success. There were a total of 81 swallows captured with 48 banded, 18 recovered, and 15 repeats. One of the repeats was very interesting because it had a color band as well as the regular band making it a foreign recovery and probably used in some other study. There were 25 adult swallows banded during the spring and 23 banded over the course of the summer. The BBO staff also appreciate the assistance and direction that Tyler Flockhart gave for the times he came during the summer.

In order to capture adults a variety of methods were used, some working better than others or better at different times. The feather method was used earlier in the spring while the adults were collecting nesting material. However, as the summer progressed this method became less successful so we resorted to the run and cover method, which involves pretty much what the name implies, waiting for an adult to enter the nest box to incubate or feed the young then run with lightning speed to cover the hole. One other method was used, but only once probably indicating its relative success. A mist net was set up in the swallow grid in hopes that concerned parents would fly into the net as they were swooping overhead. As it turns out, swallow vision is exceedingly keen, which enabled them to avoid the nets and only 6 adults were captured with this method.

Nest Searching and Nest-side Banding

The BBO staff proved to be very proficient nest searchers in the summer of 2002. Finding a nest requires a very keen eye and this spring and summer the BBO seemed to have three pairs of them. Not including the swallow nests recorded from the swallow grid, the BBO staff found a total of 46 nests from 10 different species within the natural area and 4 Red-tailed hawk nests outside the natural area (Table 4). All nests within the swallow grid were also recorded and monitored on a regular basis. There are a total of 49 nesting boxes within the swallow grid and 36 of these were occupied by a nesting pair, two of which later failed.

The highest number of nests found outside of the swallow grid, not surprisingly given their abundance in the mist nets, were Yellow warbler and Least flycatcher nests. A Baltimore oriole nest was also found right next to the lab but not until the young had almost fledged and were making their begging calls.

Table 4. The number of nests found and the species

Species	Nests found	Species	Nests found
Tree swallow	38 [a]	Clay-colored sparrow	2
Yellow warbler	16	Savannah sparrow	2
Least flycatcher	11	American goldfinch	2
House wren	7	Baltimore oriole	1
Red-tailed hawk	4 [b]	Common raven	1
American robin	2		
Total nests found:			**86**

[a] 34 of these nests were located within the swallow grid
[b] Red-tailed hawk nests were found outside of natural area

After recording a nest, it was monitored so that the young could be banded later if access permitted. Because the nests within the swallow grid were monitored regularly to record clutch size, hatch date, and development of young, we were able to accurately judge when the young could be banded before fledging. Our timing couldn't have been better. 174 swallow young were banded out of all 34 nests while managing to band the all young from every nest box before they fledged. Way to go team BBO! 11 more Tree swallow young were also banded from 2 other nest boxes within the natural area but outside of the grid.

Banding young from the other nests we found was also attempted, but unfortunately, our timing wasn't as spectacular and we missed many of the nests before they fledged. However, we were able to band young from 10 nests consisting of 3 House wren nests, a Yellow warbler nest, an American robin nest, and 4 Red-tailed hawk nests (Table 5). Many thanks to Charles Priestley and Lisa Takats for bringing out their climbing gear so we could have the opportunity to band the Red-tailed hawk young, a very rewarding experience.

Table 5. The number of young banded and the number of nests banded from for each species.

Species	Young banded	Number of nests
Tree swallow	185	36
House wren	16	3
Red-tailed hawk	6	4
Yellow warbler	4	1
Least flycatcher	3	1
American robin	2	1
Total	**216**	**46**

Other Birding Activities

The BBO staff could not to be satisfied with the bird related activities throughout our regular summer duties, so we searched for more opportunities outside the Natural Area. As mentioned before, on July 1st, six Red-tailed hawk young were banded from four nests close to the natural area. I cannot even come close to describing the real excitement of the event because, unfortunately, I was gone on days off. However, Christine and Rich got to tell me all about it and I can somewhat get a picture of what it must have been like to band those cute little Red-tails. The experience was a first for Christine and I'm sure she will never forget it. What better way to spend celebrating Canada day?

Then, on July 8th, Chuck and Lisa invited us out to band some young Northern saw-whet owls near Opal, Alberta. There were three young inside a saw-whet owl box ready to be banded. Christine and I were overwhelmed as both of us got to see and band a saw-whet for the first time. Thanks once again Chuck and Lisa. I also got to see my first common nighthawk that evening which was very exciting.

Earlier on in the summer, we were becoming anxious to band some birds of the raptor variety, so Rich Krikun and I spent a few hours building a Bal-shatri trap to attempt some roadside hawk banding. All of us then went out scouring the countryside for hawks on a few occasions, but with no success. Then, one fateful day, on July 10th Chuck Priestley and Bryn Spence invited Rich and I to search for hawks and then later follow the movements of a radio marked Northern saw-whet owl at night. On about the third attempt, a Bal-shatri trap was set in front of an unsuspecting Red-tailed hawk and without pause it swooped from it's perch and took the bait. Just a few minutes later we were banding it and we're all reeling off a huge adrenaline rush. This was my first time to see a Red-tailed hawk in the hand and was absolutely amazing. Not long after all this excitement, we were trying to record the movements of a Northern saw-whet owl with a telemetry unit. The next three hours were relatively uneventful as the radio marked owl never moved from its location during this time. Trying to decide whether something was wrong with the telemetry unit or not we went in search of it. After a short hike through the dark woods in the direction of the radio signal we began to hear the begging calls of 2 or 3 young saw-whet owls (assuming one of them to be the marked individual). Then we were halted by one of the young saw-whet owls, unconcerned, perched six feet away from us with a vole in its talons. This gave us a great look at a saw-whet in nature and an excellent way to end the night.

Christine and Rich also were able to attend a banding conference held at Last Mountain Lake, Saskatchewan from July 26th to the 28th, which I "reluctantly" had to miss because I was stranded in Cuba for a couple weeks on my honeymoon. Anyway, the conference taught them all they wanted to know and more about molts and molt limits and they came away from it better, more knowledgeable banders. Rich also got to band his first Eastern kingbird while he was there. As an added bonus, on the trip there they managed to see an upland sandpiper (Rich's first) and FIVE Loggerhead shrike.

More Happenings at the BBO

On July 24th Barb and Jim Beck graced us with their presence to give the local butterfly species some recognition with the butterfly count, which has become an annual event. Christine and Rich helped Barb and Jim with part of the survey, which allowed them to catch up on some of the species they had learned in Barb's 401 class. The species found on the count are listed in Table 6.

Table 6. Results from the Beaverhill Lake butterfly count.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Count
Pontia occidentalis	Western White	32
Pieris rapae	Cabbage White	22
Pieris sp.	White sp.	64
Colias philodice	Clouded Sulphur	25
Colias sp.	Sulphur sp.	124
Lycaena dione	Gray Copper	15
Lycaena hyllus	Bronze Copper	2
Plebejus saepiolus	Greenish Blue	4
Plebejus sp.	Blue sp.	10
Speyeria cybele pseudocarpenteri	Great Spangled Fritillary	37
Speyeria aphrodite	Aphrodite Fritillary	2
Speyeria hesperis lais	Northwestern Fritillary	3
Speyeria sp.	Fritillary sp.	52
Phyciodes cocyta	Northern Crescent	101
Phyciodes batesii	Tawny Crescent	1
Polygonia satyrus	Satyr Anglewing	1
Nymphalis antioa	Mourning Cloak	16
Limentis arthemis arthemis	White Admiral	3
Coenympha tulia inornata	Inornate Ringlet	47
Cercyonis pegala	Common Wood Nymph	92
Thymelicus lineola	European Skipper	48
Polites pekius	Peck's Skipper	19
Polites themistocles	Tawny-edged Skipper	16
Polites mystic	Long Dash	3
	Fold Wing Skipper sp.	14
	Adult species	20
24-Jul-02		**9:25 AM – 5:00 PM**

Other wildlife that occur in the Natural Area besides birds and butterflies that should also be recognized. For instance, on one occasion, while Rich and I were setting up mist nets in WEIR we came across a saw-whet owl box that had been put up in a previous year. We decided to check if it was occupied, so we tapped on the box ... nothing. Then slowly opening the door we noticed there was a nest that looked to be squirrel constructed. We then gently rustled the nest ... nothing. With disappointment, Rich started closing the door. At that moment a Northern flying squirrel leaped out right in front of us and glided to a nearby tree. Let's just say that it's a good thing that neither of us had heart troubles. After the fear subsided, excitement took over as we were able to watch it sitting on the tree just a few feet away.

Other wildlife seen around the natural area during the summer include our friendly snowshoe hare (i.e. shoeshoe hare), Striped skunk, White-tailed and Mule deer, Northern pocket gopher, garter snake, coyote, moose, porcupine, wood frog, Western meadow vole, and one dead long-tailed weasel.

Unfortunately, this year due to the drastically low water levels this summer, we could not manage to perform the regular RANA project or the Rail survey that were done in previous years when there was more water. Better luck next year.

Visitors and volunteers

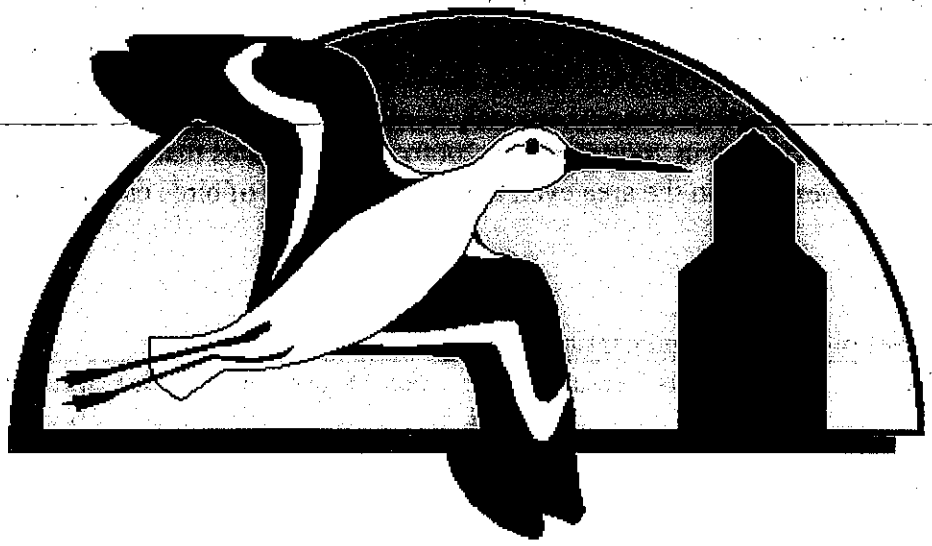
There were many visitors that came by the BBO that were able to keep us updated on the happenings of the outside world. Visitors arrived from all over the place to check us out or just have a peaceful walk while viewing the local wildlife. These visitors should be thanked for giving us an opportunity to promote the Natural Area while adding a little excitement to our day. There were also many volunteers who deserve our appreciation for all their help and enthusiasm during banding. All volunteers are listed below, in Table 7, with the number of days each volunteered.

Table 7. List of the volunteers and the number of days that each volunteered.

Volunteer	Days
Chritsy Horne	1
Nadia Cruickshank	1
Warren Flemming	4
Tyler Flockhart	3
Chuck Priestley	2
Lisa Priestley	2
Rob Preistley	1
Anita Hanneman	1
Val Krikun	1
Ed Leigh	1
Barb and Jim Beck	1

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Fall Report- 2002



Richard Krikun

Introduction

The fall migration program at the Beaverhill Bird Observatory easily became the busiest portion of the 2002 field season. Monitoring activities began on August 1st and ended on November 15th, one of the longest time periods that the BBO had ever operated. The three main projects that occurred this fall were: songbird migration monitoring, raptor migration monitoring, and a new intensive Northern Saw-whet migration monitoring project. These three projects kept the banders this season, Christine Boulton, Matt Hanneman, and myself, Richard Krikun, very busy and with little sleep. Fortunately the BBO added the endless energy and enthusiasm of Sarah Trefry for August as a fourth bander. Even then, the banding schedule was so busy, that there was little time for other activities.

Songbird Migration Monitoring

Songbird migration monitoring began on August 1st and ended on October 10th. Thirteen nets were set daily one half hour before sunrise for six hours. Nets were not opened if the weather conditions were poor (wind above 3 on the Beaufort Scale, temperature above 0°C or above 27°C, or if there was any precipitation). Banding occurred for 75.4% of the possible net hours (4173.75 out of a possible 5538 net hours). The outcome of this netting effort was 1734 birds captured in the nets. The capture rate was 41.2 birds per hundred net hours (Table 1). This number is down from the 56.9 birds per hundred net hours during the fall migration of 2001 (Krikun, 2001), and down from the 61.2 birds per hundred net hours captured in 2000 (Krikun, 2000). The capture rate during the past three fall migration periods has been slowly decreasing. In comparison, the number of birds captured in the nets has only fluctuated a little from 2094 in 2001 (Krikun, 2001) and 1734 in 2000 (Krikun, 2000). This indicates that the lower capture rate is do to fewer birds in the area even though the number of birds capture is relatively constant.

Table 1: Net productivity and capture rates

Net	Birds Captured	Net Hours	Birds Captured/100 net hours
2	48	333.25	14.4
2x	56	333.25	16.8
3	57	330.25	17.3
4	98	330.25	26.7
8	208	297.25	70
9	215	297.25	72.3
9x	338	297.25	113.7
12	192	299.75	64.1
40	192	332.75	57.7
41	63	332.75	18.9
43	58	332.75	17.4
43x	134	324.25	41.3
49	75	332.75	22.8
Total	1734	4173.75	41.5

Table 2: Species captured and banded

Species	Banded	Rep's	Retn's/Recv's	Other Captures	Total
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2				2
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				1	1
Yellow-shafted Flicker	2			2	4
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2				2
Downy Woodpecker	8	1	1		10
Hairy Woodpecker	1		1		2
Western Wood-Pewee	1				1
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1				1
Alder Flycatcher	2				2
Least Flycatcher	267	31	5	5	308
Traill's Flycatcher	41				41
Blue-headed Vireo	8				8
Red-eyed Vireo	5				5
Philadelphia Vireo	1				1
Warbling Vireo	12	4			16
Black-capped Chickadee	90	89	5	4	188
Red-breasted Nuthatch	8				8
White-breasted Nuthatch	1				1
Brown Creeper	1				1
House Wren	16	5	1	3	25
Winter Wren	2				2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1				1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	29				29
Swainson's Thrush	10				10
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1				1
Hermit Thrush	11	5			16
Gray Catbird	3				3
Cedar Waxwing	2				2
Tennessee Warbler	99	1			100
Orange-crowned Warbler	33				33
Nashville Warbler	1				1
Cape May Warbler	4				4
Magnolia Warbler	22	3			25
Myrtle Warbler	191	8		6	205
Black-and-white Warbler	7	1			8
Black-throated Green Warbler	2				2
Bay-breasted Warbler	2				2
Blackpoll Warbler	24	1			25
Western-palm Warbler	2				2
Yellow Warbler	222	44	4	3	274
Mourning Warbler	5				5
Connecticut Warbler	1				1
Canada Warbler	6	1			7
Wilson's Warbler	17				17
Ovenbird	13	1		1	15
Northern Waterthrush	13	1		1	15
Common Yellowthroat	3				3
American Redstart	140	14		2	156
American-tree Sparrow	16	1			17
Clay-colored Sparrow	26	5	2	3	36
Chipping Sparrow	9				9
Savannah Sparrow	29				29
White-throated Sparrow	14				14
White-crowned Sparrow	3				3

Table 2 continued

Fox Sparrow	3				3
Lincoln's Sparrow	3				3
Song Sparrow	5				5
Slate-colored Junco	16	1			17
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2				2
Baltimore Oriole	1				1
Purple Finch	1				1
American Goldfinch	1	1	1		3
Total	1464	217	21	32	1734

Of the 1734 birds captured during fall migration monitoring, 1464 were banded, 217 were repeat captures, 21 were recoveries, and 32 were either released unbanded or escaped (Table 2). Species diversity remains high with 62 species captured, and 61 species banded (Table 2). The only species not banded was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, which the BBO is not permitted to band.

The top five species captured were (Figure 1): Least Flycatchers with 308 individuals captured (17.8%), Yellow Warbler with 274 (15.8%) captured, Myrtle Warbler with 205 (11.8%) captured, Black-capped Chickadee with 188 (10.8%) captured, and American Redstart with 156 (9.0%) captured. These five species total 65.2% of all captured birds.

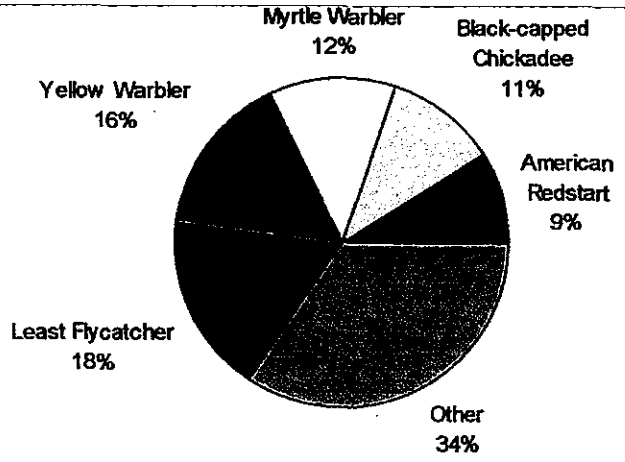


Figure 1: Percent of top 5 species captured

The top five species banded were (Figure 2): Least Flycatcher with 267 (18.2%) banded, Yellow Warbler with 222 (15.2%) banded, Myrtle Warbler with 191 (13.0%) banded, American Redstart with 140 (9.6%) banded, and Tennessee Warbler with 99 (6.8%) banded. In total, these five species represent 62.8% of all banded birds.

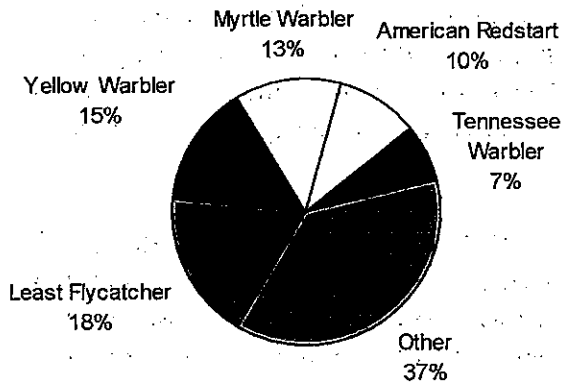


Figure 2: Percent of top 5 species banded

Raptor Migration Monitoring

The raptor monitoring program began on August 1st and ended on October 5th. The staff set thirteen traps (11 drop-lid and two Swedish Goshawk traps) around the Natural Area using pigeons for lure animals. The traps were set 24 hours a day, unless there was any precipitation. In total, the traps were set for 10885.25 hours. This effort did pay off, and 12 raptors from 6 species and two Black-billed Magpies were captured (Table 3). One of the Great-horned Owls that was captured was a recovery band. It was banded by myself on September 15th 2000.

Table 3: species captured in the raptor monitoring program

Species captured	Number captured
Northern Goshawk	1
Coopers Hawk	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2
Broad-winged Hawk	1
Red-tailed Hawk	3
Great-horned Owl	4
Black-billed Magpie	2
Total	14

Northern Saw-whet Owl Migration Monitoring

In previous years, Saw-whet migration monitoring at the BBO was sporadic, with nets set only once or twice a week. This year, the BBO focused on an intensive nightly monitoring of Saw-whet Owl migration. The goals of this project were to create a picture of the migration timing of Saw-whets at the BBO, to find more information on the age and sex classes passing through, and to determine the size of the migratory population of Saw-whets at the BBO. Monitoring began on August 16th and went nightly until November 15th. Banding did not occur if the wind was greater than 3 on the Beaufort scale, if the temperature fell below 20°C, or if there was rain or heavy snowfall. The protocol was

slightly changed during the monitoring period. It started with two nets set two hours after sunset for three hours. Then two more nets were added. Then we began to set the nets one hour after sunset for 4 hours after a Saw-whet was seen flying around the lab at early dusk. When the songbird monitoring ended on October 10th, the nets were opened for an extra two hours (totalling six hours) to test if there was any activity later in the evening. Two of nets were set in an "L" shaped array, with an audio lure playing were the two nets met. The other two nets were set in passive areas, away from the audio lure to increase net coverage of the area.

Nets were set for a total of 1071 net hours. During that time, 145 Saw-whet Owls and one Long-eared Owl were captured. Two of the Saw-whets captured were repeats banded by BBO staff. The capture rate of the Saw-whet owls was 13.5 owls per hundred net hours. Figure 3 displays the nightly captures of the Saw-whet Owls.

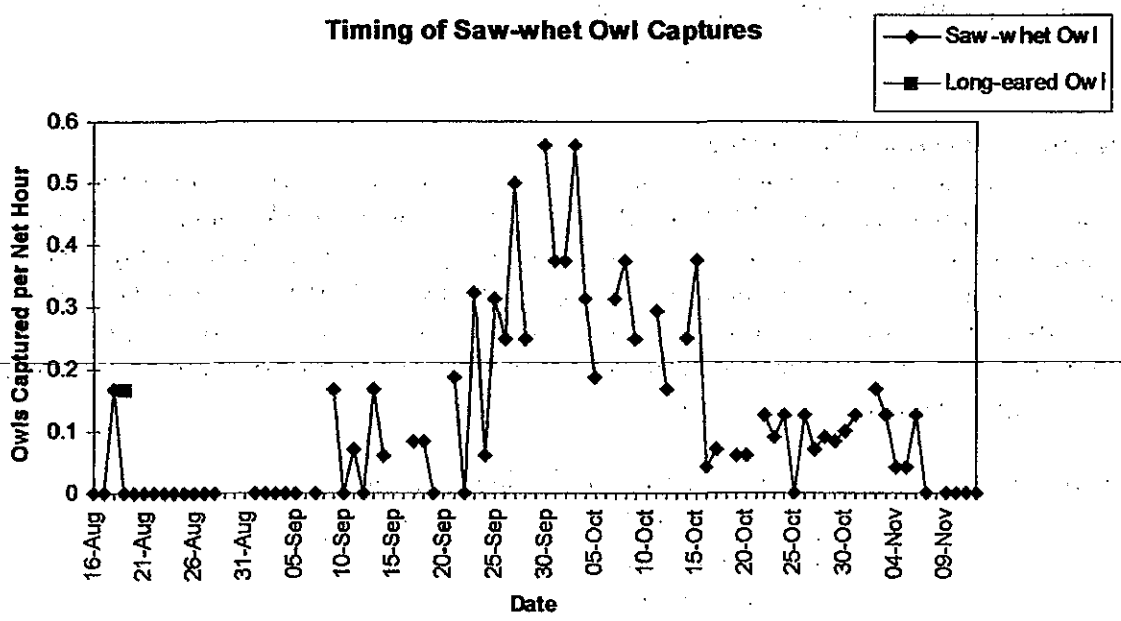


Figure 3: Timing of Saw-whet Owl migration at the BBO

Other Wildlife

Birds are not the only wildlife that is around the Natural Area. A number of mammals made their appearance both in and around the lab. These include many Snowshoe Hares leaping about. The nightly chorus of the coyotes was always pleasant to here. A Northern Pocket Gopher (or two) spent the summer digging holes in front of the lab. It would always disappear whenever a camera came to take its picture. At the Weir, a Northern Flying Squirrel was busy making nests in the nest boxes set up by the BBO. The first one was found during the MAPS program. Then another (or the same one) was found nesting in the second nest box at the Weir. A Little Brown Bat made its way into the stove one evening. On the subsequent rescue attempt, the bat ended up flying around the lab avoiding capture with a hand net. A very comical event. Finally, a Long-tailed Weasel found a home somewhere around the lab. It often would come into the lab for a brief visit. Fortunately, it did not disturb the bird netting too much, but did feast on the seeds left out

at the feeders. It was quite neat to witness it's moult from the brown summer coat to the winter white coat.

Other Activities

The banding activities kept the banders very busy this fall, leaving little time for any extra activities. However, some time was put aside for social and interpretative events. The annual Medieval party took place on August 3rd. Chuck, Lisa, Warren, Christine and myself dawned on our costumes and sat down to a phenomenal fondue cooked up by Lisa. August 29th was a great moment for the exposure of the BBO to the public. Hanneke Broymans, a writer for the Edmonton Journal, came to the lab to write an article on the BBO. The article came out on September 2nd with spectacular results. About 25 people came to the lab that day because of the article, and a few lucky visitors even saw a Goshawk being banded.

Steak and Saw-whets, the annual event to eat steaks and catch Saw-whets, was held on September 14th. Turn out was incredible (due to the Journal article and advertisements on the web site). Over 50 people came to the event, and were dazzled by the single Saw-whet captured that night. A second Steak and Saw-whets was held on October 5th. Turn out was quite lower, with nine people, but those who took the time witnessed the banding of 3 Saw-whets.

Quotes from the Narrative

The narrative is part of the daily paperwork of the BBO staff. The narrative contains details on the days activities, and many times amusing tales of what happened that day. The following are some entries in the narrative from the BBO staff this fall that gives an idea of what life is like at the BBO:

Sarah
"Tyler and Matt took turns acting like stealthy net hunters to capture the wyley pigeon escapee-despite testosterone spraying the decks, the pigeon remains a free flyer."

Matt
"So ah, where are all the birds eh? I don't think the birds understand the meaning of *fall migration.* You know, were you're supposed to migrate and stuff."

Christine
"Her article on the BBO will be in the paper on Monday (hope all of our hairdos look okay; that's a real big concern out here)."

Rich
"So all these people came……I talked their ears off. It gets boring talking to yourself all day. Plus I ran out of stories to tell myself."

Volunteers and Visitors

Volunteers are always encouraged to visit the BBO to learn more about birds, banding and conservation. Volunteer activities are a vital part of the BBO's operation.

Exposure of the BBO to the public has increased dramatically through work done by Chuck and Lisa Priestley over the past two years with interpretation programs with various groups, the article in the Edmonton Journal on September 2nd , the BBO website, and through word of mouth. An increase of public awareness and interest was shown by the number of visitors and volunteers this fall. In total, 24 people volunteered their time to the BBO this fall. The following were the volunteers this fall (with the number of days volunteered in parenthesis):

Warren Fleming (6), Christi Horne (1), Jim and Barb Beck (1), Tyler Flockhart (3), Anita Hanneman (4), Locke Girvan (1), Genevieve Burdett (1), Jason Richl (1), Janet Ng (8), Bryn Spence (3), Rob Priestley (1), Jennifer Sipkens (4), Amy Trefry (2), Danny Ishida (1), Jeff Radke (1), Juanita Mumby (1), Eckehart (2), Suzanne Benoit (1), Lisa Priestley (21), Chuck Priestley (24), and the Soga family (Hiroshi, Chibumi, and Yohei) from Japan who spent three days of their trip at the BBO to see a Saw-whet Owl.

Acknowledgements

The BBO staff would like to thank the following people who put in extra effort to make the Fall migration program a great success. First to the BBO Board of Directors who have always put in so much of their time to the banding station. Special thanks to the President of the BBO, Chuck Priestley, who seemed to make the BBO a priority over everything else he is doing. Thanks to our number one volunteer, Lisa Priestley, who put in as much time and energy into the BBO as Chuck. Thanks to the Trefry's for supplying both pigeons and fire wood. Thanks to Lois Atkins for also supplying pigeons. Thanks to the rest of the volunteers who came out over the course of the fall. Finally, big thanks to the staff at the BBO. We worked hard and had some great times over the summer.

the WILLET

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Volume 15, Number 1 February, 2002

March 1st, 2nd and 3rd

University of Alberta
Room 327, Earth Sciences Building

March 1: Doors at 7:00pm, speaker at 7:30pm
March 2: Doors at 8:00am, talks at 8:30am
March 3: Field trip, TBA times etc

Co-sponsored by: Department of Renewable Resources, U of A; Edmonton Natural History Club; Edmonton Bird Club

Costs: $5.00 for Friday, $5.00 for Saturday or $10.00 for Friday, Saturday and a BBO membership

Anyone wishing to speak or require information regarding making a presentation, please contact Chuck Priestley.

Migration Monitoring

Inside this Issue...

On the High Seas

Highlights taken from the minutes of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network Meeting
12-14 October 2001 on Bon Portage Island, Nova Scotia hosted by Atlantic Bird Observatory

Friday 12 October
After being ferried to the island in calm weather via fishing tugboat, participants were given a brief orientation, then got settled into either a large communal bunkhouse (no electricity), or a cottage (electricity), or set up tents. Following a communal dinner, the meeting began with brief station updates:

Along with the BBO's report provided by Lisa Takats and Chuck Priestly, station reports were provided by Stephen Flemming (*Gros Morne National Park*, NF), Heidi den Haan (*Delta Marsh Bird Observatory),* Eric Machell (*Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory,* Jul Wojnowski (*Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory),* Al Smith (*Last Mountain Bird Observatory),* and Phil Taylor (*Atlantic Bird Observatory).*

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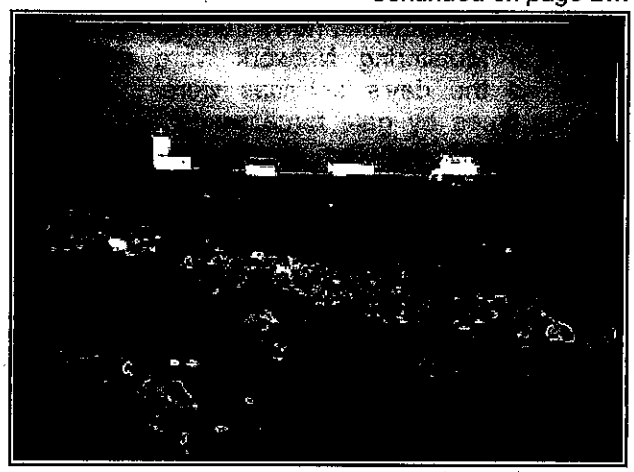
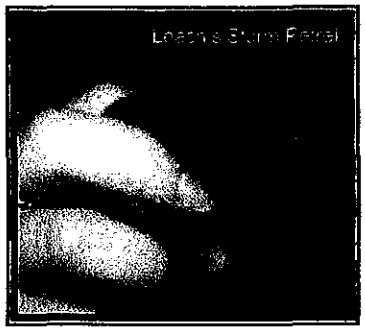


High Seas (*continued from page 1*)
Fog rolled in later that evening, and the participants were treated to the sight of thousands of petrels flying through the beam of the lighthouse (a few of which routinely smack into trees, tents, people, buildings). Bon Portage is home to North America's third largest colony of Leach's Storm Petrels.

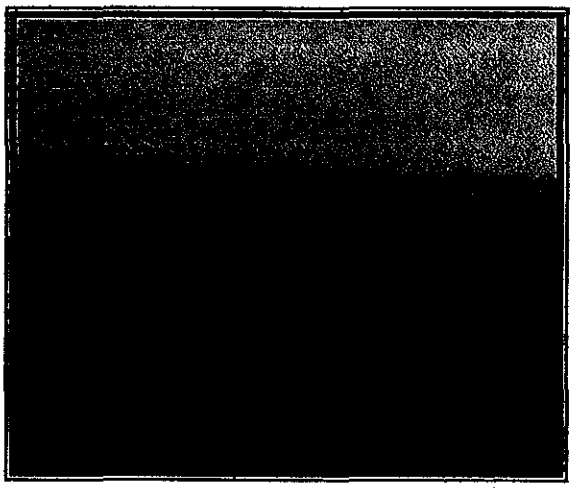


Saturday 13 October
Individual presentations were scheduled for Saturday morning. A sample of the talks included: Trina Fitzgerald's presentation on her experiments to determine whether vagrants are migrating in different directions from other species (they get large numbers of vagrants at ABO); Jon McCracken's overview of the quantitative habitat measures taken at Long Point Bird Observatory; Charles Francis' (Bird Studies Canada) analyses using LPBO banding data to see how bird age influences migration timing for a series of species that can be reliably aged as either After Second Year or Second Year; Heidi den Haan's report that a new program was turning up surprisingly good numbers of saw-whets during fall migration; and Debbie Badzinski's presentation on a summary of landbird population trend information (based on daily estimated totals) for 9 stations in the network up to 2000 (these results are graphically portrayed on the BSC website - http://www.bsc-eoc.org).

After the presentations a workshop was set up to discuss collaborative studies/research needs of the CMMN. Some of the discussed topics included: Develop a web-based system for training, testing, learning and archiving; encourage more university students to work with CMMN data; and develop a network-wide climate-change proposal.

Following dinner, and with high winds building as a result of "Tropical Storm Karen," the meeting resumed in the evening to finish off station updates from: Doug Collister (*Inglewood Bird Sanctuary* - Calgary Bird Banding Society); Bruce Rodrigues (*Thunder Cape Bird Observatory*); Bill Petrie (*Innis Point Bird Observatory*); Jim Smith (*Haldimand Bird Observatory's*); Lance Laviolette (*Brier Island Migration Station*); Tracy Dean (*St.Andrews Banding Station*); and Jon McCracken (*Long Point Bird Observatory*). Brian Dalzell mentioned that migration monitoring activities had been discontinued at *Grand Manan Island*, NB and were unlikely to resume.

Sunday 14 October
Sunday began with discussions on pertinent issues for the CMMN. However, issues such as Bander Training developments, news from the North American Banding Council, CMMN Funding and a U.S. Migration Monitoring Network were discussed in haste as the day's activities were interrupted at various times by gale force winds and high seas. The weather prompted the decision to try to get several people off the island in order for them to make their flights. Because of the storm, the meeting had to be concluded so that preparations for rapid departure could occur. Several outstanding items remained on the tabled agenda.



Some informal discussions about the next CMMN meeting did occur, and it was proposed that it be held in summer (e.g. July) 2003 in Alberta, hosted either by Inglewood Bird Sanctuary (Calgary) or by Beaverhill Bird Observatory Society (near Edmonton.

CALLING LAKE 2000 BANDING & CENSUSING PROJECT

By Petra Rowell, Beaverhill Bird Observatory Society sub-permitee

I admit it. I was a bit nervous about starting up my own banding project after a ten-year absence from the banding scene. A vision of twisted, knotted netting wrapped around defenceless, dangling birds wasn't an image I wanted to share with my family. However with the prospect of spending the next 40 years of weekends and holidays at a recently acquired recreational property at Calling Lake, it seemed prudent to set up some kind of monitoring program earlier, rather than later.

Walking around the area earlier in the spring, we were already impressed with birds visible on the lake including loons, pelicans, osprey, eagles and waterfowl that included good numbers of goldeneye, mergansers, and Green-winged Teal. But now it was time to pay a little more attention to the songbirds present in the forested areas back off the beach. For someone with a rusty ear, a banding program would quickly identify a number of species in the area. So, a little preparation...re-reading the BBO lab manual, several sections of Pyle.... equipment ordered...banding lanes prepared and we were ready for our first spring migration session.

Myrtle Warbler

Migration was well underway at Calling Lake by the weekend of April 29-30. Long-time Edmonton Bird Club member and cabin-owner at the lake, Av Mann reported movement of warblers had already started despite the ice covering most of the lake and the lack of insects or anything green. Yellow-rumped Warblers and American Redstarts were seen moving through the buffer strip (willow and young aspen) that separates the cabins from the east shore. American Tree Sparrows had been seen moving through a week earlier.

5:00 AM The morning of May 6, my first banding day. Everything ready...nets up without a tangle. My first bird – a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Small bird...numb hands...yet miraculously it rolls out of the net just like it should into the waiting bird bag. At the banding table, identification is straightforward – too small to be anything else...no red on crown...female. Band wraps around leg. Butt- ends even and flush...wing chord...weight...release. So far, so good!

Banding was slow throughout the rest of that particular weekend. Ice still covered much of the lake but it was beginning to thin. Trees still did not show any green. Regardless, watching the skies, it was apparent that many species were "pushing through" to the north including geese, cranes and small groups of mixed passerines. Large numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers and some Orange-crowned Warblers touched down to feed in young aspen and willow.

The ice was completely gone on May 14 but cold, windy weather limited banding activity. White-crowned and Chipping Sparrows and Yellow-rumped Warblers were moving through in good numbers. The tops of the aspen were starting to green.

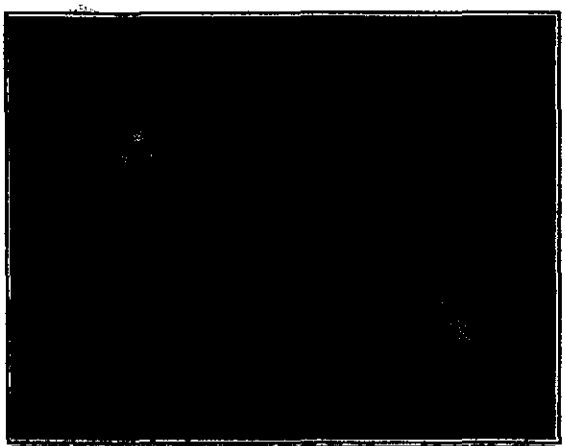
The weekend of May 21-22 was the high point of spring migration. Rain during the week helped the greening process and clouds of midges were present. Chipping Sparrows were the most prevalent species and contributed to a banding rate of 6.4 birds per net hour on May 21. On the census, sparrows were so numerous, leaves could be heard crackling as White-throated and Chipping Sparrows rooted through them. At one point, a Yellow, a Yellow-rumped, Blackpoll Warblers and a Redstart were all observed at the same time on the same clump of willow. On May 27, migration had decreased but was still evident with fewer sparrows and more warblers making up the composition of birds banded or observed on census.

Overall, our first spring effort was rewarding with 101 individuals of 18 species captured between two nets. Chipping Sparrows were the most numerous species. The number of thrushes banded (10) was surprising in that they were never heard singing in the area. Banding highlights included Swainson's and Gray-cheeked Thrush, six warbler species, and an Evening Grosbeak. Equally important were seven census counts that combined, identified 97 species. Highlights included a Cinnamon Teal (this species seems to be moving steadily north), Sharp-shinned Hawk, Black-bellied and Golden Plover, Barred Owl, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Black-backed and Pileated Woodpecker, and 11 warbler species. It was a good start to a census program that hopefully will continue to document the welfare of the bird populations of Calling Lake.

While the focus of the Beaverhill Bird Observatory has always been songbird research, there has been an increased interest in the study of owls at Beaverhill Lake, as well as in and around Edmonton. The following articles provide an insight into what owl research is being carried out by BBO staff and volunteers.

Owls, Owls and More Owls!

One Huge Step in Heavy Boots!
By Chuck Priestley



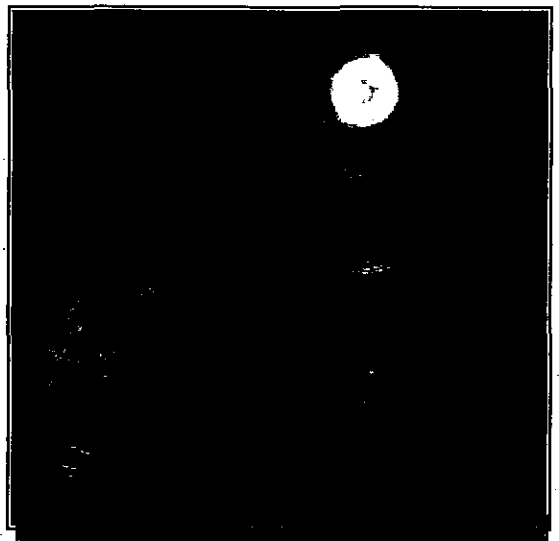
Sandi and Denver are happy to meet this Saw-whet! This is the one we originally banded in March.

Before last weekend when someone asked me about how the Saw-whet project was going this winter I would reply 'fairly slow'. My response this week however is quite different.

So far this season (which started in September) only one owl has been caught in Edmonton. By this time last year, participants of the project (Bryn Spence, Lisa Takats, Tyler Flockhart, Richard Krikun, Barb Beck, Jim Beck and I), had managed to catch 4 birds. Our low capture rate this year is quite disappointing because we have made some changes to our banding method which we had anticipated would help increase the number of birds caught, or at least, reduce the number of birds that were able to escape from nets.

Last year we caught, and banded, 6 Saw-whets in the city. In addition, 2 birds were caught in nets but were seen escaping and 4 feathers were found in nets without an owl in them (suggesting escape). To deal with this frustration we replaced the

songbird nets with Saw-whet nets with funding help from Alberta Ecotrust. Since we started using our new nets, we have not observed any owls escaping and have not found any feathers in nets without owls in them. However, our capture rate is low this year, which may be indicative of lower owl numbers rather than high escape rates.



Something tells me that Bryn likes owls.

On Sunday night we visited our Collingwood site. We usually feel quite optimistic about going to this site because, compared to others, we have had the most success there. Last year we caught three Saw-whets at Collingwood and this year our only owl was caught there. We were pleased when we heard a Saw-whet responding to our audio-lure. The bird was calling for forty-five minutes around our nets giving out both the typical 'toot, toot, toot' call and a couple of distress calls before we caught him. The captured owl was a male Saw-whet that we *originally* caught at Collingwood March 12, 2001... it was one of ours! To catch an owl is always exciting, to recapture a banded bird is a rare and cherished experience!

One objective of our project is to determine whether a specific sex class over-winters in our area. This recovery supports the theory that male Saw-whets over-winter in Edmonton and that breeding territory could possibly extend into winter territory for this sex class. Evidence to support the theory is our capture of the same individual at the same place at the beginning of the breeding season and then again in the middle of the following winter. Additionally, it may be that these owls occupy a specific territory during the energy demanding winter.

The recaptured owl supports the theory but it is only a single data point. We have many more nights to spend with our little friends in the woods (sounds good to us). All of our questions may not be answered, but we have indeed made a huge step in the right direction towards a better understanding of over-wintering strategies used by Northern Saw-whet Owls.

Hootin' Up A Storm
By Bryn Spence

This year has started a new season of calling surveys in the Edmonton Area. Richard Krikun and I have been running surveys since early October we have heard Saw Wet Owls (*Aegolius acadicus*), Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*), and even some Boreal (*Aegolius funereus*), Barred (*Strix varia*) and Long Eared Owls (*Asio otus*). We are trying to run two different areas for calling one on the west side of the city and the other on the south side. We usually get out around 8:30 or 9:00 and are out until 11 or so. We've been taking sometime off over Christmas but are planning to get back on to it in the near future, If anyone is interested please feel free to e-mail me, we are always looking for new people who would like to come out. My email address is bryn_spence@hotmail.com.

Saw-whet Owl Migration at Beaverhill Lake

Lisa Takats and Chuck Priestley

Introduction

The use of migration counts for monitoring bird populations has been used for years. The use of mist nets has become a standard procedure for collecting information on many species of birds. Recently, work has been conducted on migration monitoring for nocturnal owls. Mist nets are set up at night and call playback (playing calls of owls) is used to attract owls to the nets. Work is to be conducted August 15 through October 30. Banding will be done on a nightly basis (weather dependent). A standard recommended protocol will be used. The work depends on owls actually moving through the Beaverhill Lake Natural Area, which has never been determined. Other banding stations across Canada have piloted this program and have discovered populations of Saw-whet and Boreal Owls migrating through.

Preliminary Results from 2000 and 2001 seasons to come . . .

CONTACTS

Beaverhill Bird Observatory
P.O. Box 1418, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2N5 (membership $10) -
Chairperson- Lisa Takats (lisa.takats@gov.ab.ca)

Calgary Bird Banding Society
247 Parkside Cr. S.E., Calgary, Alberta, T2J 4J3 (membership $20)

Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory
P.O. Box 730, Slave Lake, Alberta, T0G 2A0

NEXT WILLET ISSUE

Material for the forthcoming newsletter should be sent to: Jason Duxbury, editor, The Willet, 1142 Saddleback Rd, Edmonton, Alberta, T6J 4Z4. Phone: 780-433-5790, Email: jduxbury@ualberta.ca. Next newsletter deadline: May 1, 2002. Articles can be on bird banding, birdwatching, wildlife viewing, etc.

the WILLET

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Volume 15, Number 2 May, 2002

It's that time of year again....

The Beaverhill Bird Observatory Crepe Spectacular!!

Sunday June 2, 2002

Janos Kovac has once again agreed to serve up his world famous crepes out at the banding lab.

For those unaware of what you have been missing all of these years, Janos serves up light an fluffy crepes stuffed with all kinds of great things like preserves, nuts and chocolate!

This is also a great chance to come out to the lab to meet this year's staff and to see bird banding in action.

The flow of crepes start early (around 8:00 am), and they go really fast! Get there early!

Inside this Issue...

A Conference to Remember

-Chuck Priestley, BBO Chairman

The Beaverhill Bird Observatory's 2002 Bird Conservation and Monitoring Conference was held on March 1st, 2nd and 3rd in Edmonton. This conference, as the title suggests, was devoted to topics related to both conservation and monitoring of bird populations. This event was a great success thanks to the speakers that gave presentations, the people who attended, and the Beaverhill Bird Observatory's board of directors who helped organize and run the event.

Friday Evening

The BBO was pleased to welcome our keynote speaker, Dr. Fiona Schmiegelow. Dr. Schmiegelow described the reasons why targeting bird populations, as a research group, can be an effective way to quantify changes to wildlife communities. It was a great privilege to receive a presentation from Dr. Schmiegelow because she is one of the University of Alberta's key researchers that is investigating wildlife response to anthropogenic changes in the Boreal forest.

...continued on page 2

Saturday

Saturday was divided into four parts, two keynote addresses, bird observatory reports and special topics in bird conservation and monitoring.

Kevin Hannah (Canadian Wildlife Service) started things off with a fantastic presentation that focussed on the history and present applications of banding (or ringing) birds. This was a great way to start the day because so many of the topics that were forthcoming were about banding projects.

It was wonderful to welcome six different bird observatories. Presentations from Heidi denHaan (Delta Marsh Bird Observatory - MB), Alan Smith (Last Mountain Bird Observatory - SK), El Peterson (Calgary Bird Banding Society - AB), Richard Krikun (Beaverhill Bird Observatory - AB), Janos Kovacs (Strathcona Bird Observatory - AB) and Sandra Kinsey (Mugaha Banding Station - BC) were greatly appreciated. It was nice to have such a wide geographic representation.

After the bird observatory reports, talks were given on other topics that included: data quality improvement through bander evaluation and certification, the Alberta bird atlas, lessons learned from kestrels and owls, Bird Studies Canada's new prairie programs, nomadism in Long-eared Owl populations, stable isotope tracking of wintering Burrowing Owls, Northern Saw-whet Owl migration monitoring, an aspen parkland study in central Alberta, banding for science, bluebird programs, plumage development in Long-eared Owls, links between monitoring and conservation and conservation to music. Thanks to Brenda Dale, Philip Penner, Al DeGroot, Lisa Takats, Stuart Houston, Jason Duxbury, Heidi denHaan, Glen Hvenegaard, Marten Stoffel, Elson Olorenshaw and Tyler Flockhart for giving presentations. Our second keynote address on Saturday was by Dr. Jim Butler (University of Alberta). Dr. Butler's presentation was a nice close to the lecture component of our conference because he tied together many of the ideas brought forth throughout the day.

It was a bit of a long day but everyone agreed it was very worthwhile. It was great to have such a wide variety of topics from such a diverse group of presenters. We had representation from universities, government, bird observatories, a nature observatory, the Federation of Alberta Naturalists, volunteers, Bird Studies Canada, and an owl research institute. Monitoring and conserving bird populations will only be successful if the different interest groups learn what each other's doing and they work together. This, I feel, was achieved at our conference.

Sunday – a day in the field

Bright and early on Sunday we met up with Al DeGroot, our field trip leader. Our trip started over at Janos Kovac's bird banding station, the Strathcona Banding Station. It was too cold to conduct any mist netting, however, we did get some good looks at redpolls and chickadees at Janos' feeders. The other highlight was watching an adult bald eagle fly directly overhead. Everyone got some really good looks! Thanks to Janos and Jim Faragini for leading the group around the banding station.

The rest of our outing was spent in the pursuit of raptors to band (especially snowy owls). We did manage to find and set up to trap a few owls; however, we were unsuccessful in enticing them to fly in close enough to be caught. We all agreed that Hardy Pletz was probably responsible for the disinterest of the owls for our pigeons. All the "Snowies" had the 'been there, done that' sort of look on their faces that day.

Thanks to Al for leading a very successful field trip! Everyone really enjoyed the day and even though we did not catch any "Snowies" everyone learned the methods used for catching the birds.

The co-sponsorship from the Edmonton Natural History Club, the Edmonton Bird Club, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development and the University of Alberta, helped to make this event so successful. In addition, we would like to thank all the aforementioned people who made presentations. Lastly, thank you to all those who attended the conference, we look forward to seeing you next year!

WHICH BBO TEAM SHOULD I SUPPORT FOR THE BAILLIE BIRDATHON.....?????

Elson Olorenshaw – Birdathon Co-ordinator

One more species for my count!

The annual Baillie Birdathon will be taking place this month. Four teams will be competing to see which team will see the most species in a 24 hour time period during a day in May.

The Baillie Birdathon is a national project run by Bird Studies Canada. Money from the birdathons goes towards bird research and conservation across Canada. The Beaverhill Bird Observatory retains 50% of the money raised for the Baillie Fund. This is an important fund raising event for the BBO. We use the funds to help hire staff out at the laboratory for the summer. The other 50% of the money raised is redistributed towards important bird research taking place across Canada. This year, the BBO will have three staff members working at the lab seven days a week, so all funding is important!

This is also an excuse to go watch birds and feel good about raising money at the same time!

We would like to encourage supporters to make pledges towards these teams. You may sponsor a team per species seen or by a flat rate. A good day of bird watching can result in 100 species. A really good day can lead to 130-150 species seen.

Here are the teams for 2002:

THE PRES – - Chuck, Lisa , Bryn & Juanita You want to hear about raptors? This team will find them!

chuckpriestley@hotmail.com

THE CHALLENGERS - Geoff, Gerry, Pat, Sarah & Amy - This team includes the some of the hardest working birders out there, we just hope that Geoff and Gerry can keep up. This team is very good at finding the local rarities and tells a good story afterward. (True or false, the story is always good.)

geoffrey.holroyd@ec.gc.ca

THE OLD-TIMERS - Jim & Elson – The old-timers have been around long enough to know where to find the tricky birds.

eolorenshaw@olivervillage.com

THE TRAVELLER - Jason – He has already completed his Birdathon in the Grand Canyon of Arizona. Retroactive, flat rate pledges are very welcome. So if you want to hear about the birds of the *Grand Canyon*... you know whom to sponsor!

jduxbury@ualberta.ca

Please pick one team and show your support by making a pledge (flat or per species seen). In return you will receive a tax-deductible receipt in appreciation of your support. Can we *count* on you?

You can send an email pledge to one of the above or mail it to:
BBO Box 1418
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 2N5

THANK YOU!

10th Annual Snow Goose Festival, April 20-21, 2002 Beaverhill Lake

- Lisa Takats, Bird Studies Canada

What a weekend!! The weather would co-operate the entire two days, making the walking tours popular. Chuck and I arrived Friday night at the natural area, and on our drive along Rowan's Route we observed a Short-eared Owl (species #1 for the weekend). As we unpacked at the lab, we heard the familiar calls of the Long-eared Owls and a Great Horned Owl calling in the distance. The night was alive with the sounds of geese and gulls, and using a big spotlight we saw the first Snow Geese fly over.

Incoming Snow Geese - *J. Duxbury*

On Saturday Chuck and I were leading a tour in the morning, and as we headed out from the lab a Northern Goshawk cruised through the trees. We had a small tour group, and they were all very keen and interested in natural history. Once again it was a dry winter and spring, and Kallel Pond (which usually has overflow water on the farm field in the spring) was again bone dry (although the Robins and Starlings seemed to like it). Lister Lake (south of Beaverhill Lake) was also very dry, but we had some great looks at an American Kestrel, Red-tailed Hawks, and were able to show people how to sex Northern Harriers (males have gray backs, females have brown backs). Snow Geese were continuously flying over, and some White-fronted Geese were kind enough to show us their white foreheads and then banked in the air to show off their speckled breasts.

We stopped along some drift fences and talked about the Researching Amphibian Numbers in Alberta (RANA) program, which has not been working in the natural area, due to the water receding so far away from the fences and traps. At the weir, things were quiet (probably due to the lack of water). However, we picked out Northern Pintails, Shovelors, Gadwall, and American Widgeon. A Killdeer called from its hiding place along the reeds, and the Tree Swallows made an appearance. The gulls flew lazily back and forth overhead, and some Lesser Yellowlegs flew over to land on the mudflats. We arrived at the lab to have some cookies and drinks, and Jim Nichols and Richard Krikun talked about the BBO and all it has to offer. Bim Nichols kept the coffee, tea, and cookies going steady throughout the day.

Common Grackle - *L. Takats*

With the afternoon free, I decided to drive some roads looking for birds. The Red-tailed Hawks were busy pairing up, and I observed two occasions of males with food items for the females. I stopped to photograph a Red-tail on a post, when all of a sudden a male came in and copulated with her!! It is definitely the breeding season for this species. A Rough-legged Hawk flew over in the distance, and a large flock of larkspurs made an appearance as I continued on my travels. To top off the drive, the Mountain Bluebirds were setting up at a nest box, as a Northern Shrike looked on from a fence line on the other side of the road.

The banquet was held on Saturday evening in Tofield, with over 250 people attending it. The crowd was fortunate to have Chuck Priestley (BBO Chairman) as the speaker for the evening. He overviewed the BBO, and their programs, and acknowledged all the volunteer naturalists that contribute their time and talents to monitoring and conservation of Alberta's wildlife. He ended the evening with a well received conservation message. Overall a great dinner and good company.

Chuck and I took over the running of the lab on Sunday, and we had some wonderful, cooperative birds at the feeders. An Oregon race Junco visited frequently throughout the day, and a flock of Purple Finches spent the whole day coming and going from the feeders. A Common Grackle seemed to appear on queue, as each tour group came into the lab, and showed its iridescent colors in the sun. We talked to visitors about the Beaverhill Bird Observatory, their programs, and their role in the larger Canadian Migration Monitoring Network. I also answered questions about Bird Studies Canada and their programs. There was literature for people to pick up, and a raffle for a Sibley Bird Guide. The tour groups were also not disappointed this year, as flocks of Snow Geese flew low over the lab throughout the entire day.

I can't forget to mention some of the other highlight birds observed during the walking tours, a Turkey Vulture and Western Meadowlark seen on a tour led by Jason and Sandra Duxbury!! So overall a fantastic weekend, and a great way to celebrate the start of spring.

Acknowledgements
A BIG thanks to Bryn Spence for coordinating the walking tours. Thanks to the following people to helped with walking tours to the bird observatory:

Elisabeth Beaubien	Andrew Forrest	Chuck Priestley
Josh Bilyk	Laura and Ryan Frost	Gill Priestley
Christine Boulton	Geoff Holroyd	Christine Rice
Wendy Calvert	Amanda Joynt	Lisa Takats
Lynne Dickson	Jennifer Karst	Amy Trefry
Craig Dockrill	Richard Krikun	Saska Vanhala
Jason and Sandra Duxbury	Trish Lang	Patsy Drummond-Wadsworth
Warren Fleming	Juanita Mumby	Craig Willard

The BBO would like to express their appreciation to volunteers Jim and Bim Nichols for helping with the lab operations on Saturday.

The 2002 Staff: Richard, Christine and Matt.

PS. Meet the 2002 field staff!

Richard Krikun, graduate of environmental conservation sciences (ENCS) at the University of Alberta returns for his third summer at the BBO. Richard has spent the last few winters working for the Canadian Wildlife Service.

Christine Boulton and Matt Hanneman are the two new faces at the BBO this year. Christine will be graduating from the ENCS program at the University of Alberta this spring. Last summer she was the Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory's program manager.

Matt is currently a student in environmental conservation sciences, with one semester left before he obtains his degree. Last summer, Matt worked in northern Alberta conducting waterfowl surveys. The big news is that Matt is getting married this summer!!

NEXT WILLET ISSUE

Material for the forthcoming newsletter should be sent to: Jason Duxbury, editor, The Willet, 1142 Saddleback Rd, Edmonton, Alberta, T6J 4Z4. Phone: 780-433-5790, Email: jduxbury@ualberta.ca. Next newsletter deadline: August 31, 2002. Articles can be on bird banding, birdwatching, wildlife viewing, etc.

the WILLET

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Volume 15, Number 3 October, 2002

Special Birdathon Issue

In the last issue of the Willet, it was announced that there would be four official Baillie Birdathon teams comprised of directors and members from the Beaverhill Bird Observatory. Within this issue, you will find out how each of the teams did and where their travels took them.

More than 500 people from across Canada (and from several countries around the world) participated in a Birdathon this past May. More than 7000 Canadians from coast to coast sponsored them!

Once again the hot bird spots around Edmonton were scoured for those rare birds to add to the lists. One difference this year was one Birdathon took place in the Grand Canyon in Arizona.

The BBO would like to take this opportunity to thank those who either participated in a Birdathon or who made a pledge to our hard working birders. Your support keeps the BBO in operation!

For those who would like to participate next spring, the Birdathon takes place near the end of May. We look forward to hearing from you next year!

For more information from the national headquarters, call Bird Studies Canada at 1-888-448-BIRD, or visit them online at:
http://www.bsc-eoc.org/organization/brdathon.html

Inside this Issue...

Edmonton's Night Owls

I am an Owler! I get some of the strangest looks from people when I tell them that. Many people don't even realize that we have a good population of owls in our river valleys. Even after I have explained what it is exactly that an Owler does people always ask how far they would have to drive to help. When they realize that we go to the outskirts of the city they are usually shocked.

Richard Krikun and I have been owling in the Edmonton river valley for the past few years as part of a project that Chuck and Lisa Priestley, Jim and Barb Beck and Tyler Flockhart initiated. We head out about 2 hours after dark and call for owls using a CD player. By using recorded owl calls we cause the owls in the area to respond to us and sometimes if we're really lucky they even come in to investigate. We usually head out to the west end about two hours after sunset and call for about two or three hours. We have detected several species over the years: Great Horned Owls, Saw-whet Owls, Barred Owls and Long Eared Owls just to name a few.

If this sounds like something you would like to do please give me a call at (780) 619-9261 or send an email to:

bryn@beaverhillbirds.com.

Bryn Spence
Vice Chair
Beaverhill Bird Observatory

THE PRES

Lisa and Chuck Priestley

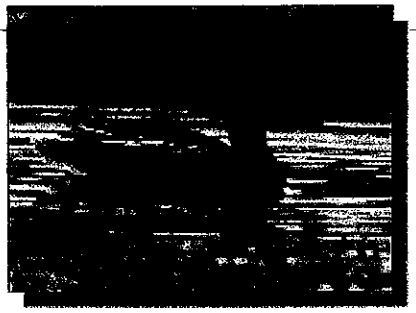
This year's Baillie Birdathon was one for unusual sightings. We decided to stick around Edmonton instead of travelling far and wide this year, as we were both busy with work and wedding plans!

We headed to the edge of the city and almost forgot to count the Rock Doves and a Black-billed Magpie; being that they are so common we tend to forget about these species. A beautiful adult Red-tailed Hawk was perched along a row of trees. It flew off just before we could drop a trap! While we were putting the trap away though, a Yellow Warbler called from the willows along the road, definitely a sign that spring was here.

We arrived at the first wetland, affectionately called Gill's Pond, after Chuck's mom. A Tree Swallow flew across the road and into a nest box along the fence line. We raised our binoculars to find a good variety of waterfowl species such as Northern Shovelor, Canvasback, Blue-winged Teal, Gadwall, and American Coot. The male Red-winged Blackbirds were advertising their bright red epaulettes, trying to attract females. What really was surprising was the large number of Wilson's Phalaropes that we saw throughout the birdathon. These ones were swimming in circles churning up aquatic insects to eat.

Blue-winged Teal

Cawes Lake just a short distance from the first pond, had great mudflats along the north side, and we were excited to see shorebirds feeding along the shallow waters. We added Long-billed Dowitcher, Western Sandpiper, Semi-palmated Plover, and large flocks of Stilt Sandpipers. Chuck was able to pick a Red-necked Phalarope out of a group of Wilson's. Other species recorded included Northern Pintail, Black Tern, Green-winged Teal, Redhead, Eared Grebe, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Chuck observed a rusty looking duck with blue specula fly over the road, "I'm sure that was a Cinnamon Teal," he said, but we could not count it until I saw it as well, those are the rules we set up.

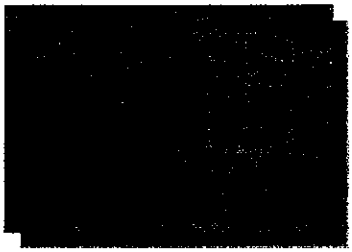


Cinnamon Teal

We drove to the south end of the lake, and as we were setting the spotting scope up, a Least Flycatcher announced its presence from the forest behind us. A Ruddy Duck was displaying his tail to a female, and we tracked down two Black-necked Stilts. The wind was strong making it difficult to hear much, but a Sora managed to call loud enough to be detected.

That mystery bird that I had not seen earlier was begging a second look, so we headed back to where Chuck had seen it fly across the road. And sure enough, a Cinnamon Teal flew up out of the marsh across the way and landed in a dugout. To add to that, as we scanned the dugout, we picked out a female Hooded Merganser.

We moved on to Hastings Lake, thinking we could find Great Blue Herons without a problem. Double-crested Cormorants were on nests, but not a single heron could be found. We saw Western Grebes, American White Pelicans, Common Terns, and Pectoral Sandpipers. Next we headed up to highway 21 and Wye Road where there had been a record of a Pacific Loon. Although the loon was not found, the lake did disappoint. We observed Horned Grebe, Spotted Sandpiper, Common Merganser, Brewer's Blackbird, Barrow's Goldeneye, and FINALLY we saw a Great Blue Heron!!



Whimbrel

We drove through Fort Saskatchewan and up towards Opal. A pond just north of the Fort had some more species we hadn't recorded yet, Marbled Godwit and a WHIMBREL (very exciting, as it was a lifer for both of us).

In the forests near Opal, we quietly listened for begging calls, and as we tracked them down we found ourselves under a Great Gray Owl nest, the female perched about 20 feet up in a spruce tree next to it. After snapping a few dozen photos we were about to head out when a Northern Goshawk swooped down at the owl!!! As we

made our way out we added Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-headed Vireo, and Pine Siskins to our list. A check on a second nest box revealed a Northern Saw-whet Owl female poking her head out. We ended that foray with a Tennessee Warbler near the truck.

As we arrived in Edmonton, we added Swainson's Hawk along the Whitemud freeway, one dark phase, and another regular phase. That would finish us for the day, but we vowed to add some more species the next morning, we were still missing some key species, and we were only at 82.

On Sunday we headed back to Cawes Lake to see if we could add a few more shorebirds. Chuck picked a Mourning Dove out perched in a tree. The lake was alive with birds again and with the light winds it was easy to hear a Common Snipe doing its breeding flight overhead. We added Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, California Gull, and two Northern Harriers that were flying over the cattails in search of food.

Belted Kingfisher

A short time later we were in town at Tim Horton's (no not for donuts), to look for the Peregrine Falcons that nest on the Clinical Sciences Building at the University of Alberta. The female was on the nest, but the male must have been out hunting.

It was 10:00 a.m. and we rushed over to Whitemud Creek for a walk through old mixed wood forest. A Belted Kingfisher was a surprise along the creek. Our walk was fruitful as we added White-winged Crossbill, Western Tanager, Blue Jay, American Tree Sparrow, Evening Grosbeak, and Purple Finch. We were at 98 species!!! Only two more to reach 100. Chuck suggested a trip up to Jim Butler's neighbourhood; perhaps we could add a Merlin or Junco. Well, we did add a Swainson's Thrush, and can you believe we were stuck at 99 species. No luck finding another one before the end of the 24 hours. Perhaps we could add that Short-eared Owl we saw the night before we started the Baillie . . . no?? Well, that's that, another Baillie Birdathon come and gone.

The 'Old-Timers'

Elson Olorenshaw and Jim Faragini

We think 93 species is a respectable total for a couple old guys that poop out quite quickly and we freely admit that we cheated a bit by picking up 20 at the feeders I have placed at my daughter's acreage. Our route this year took us out of Edmonton east on highway 16 to my daughter Barb's acreage, then Mundare Beach, Amisk Creek bridge (always see Cliff Swallows there) and on to Hastings Lake & of course stops at all sloughs & bushes enroute.

Mundare Beach proved to be surprisingly productive this year. There were a large number of American Avocets (at least 50) and large flocks of Black-bellied and Golden Plovers along with many different shorebirds. There seems to be a real invasion of American Avocets this year.

On Rowan's Route at Kallal meadow we normally count on seeing a colony of Bobolinks but over the years the numbers have been decreasing and have finally arrived at zero. We did manage to see one lonely Bobolink elsewhere. We believe that this species is one that is fast disappearing in our area. In the opposite vein - we saw a few meadowlarks. Perhaps spring snowstorms in the south drove some up this way.

At Hastings Lake we were pleasantly surprised to see a Common Loon but were disappointed to see only a small number of Western Grebes. This is a fascinating place to watch birds - the Great Blue Herons as usual are competing with the Double-crested Cormorants for nests in the trees on the island and the Red-necked Grebes have their nests on built up mounds along the shallow shore.

To sum up we are reasonably happy with 93 species but each year we plan (and fail) to break 100 so it is starting to sound like my golf score. NEXT YEAR WE WILL BREAK 100!!!!

The Challengers

Geoff Holroyd, Pat Crossley, Sarah Trefry, and Hugo Framis

Our 2002 Baillie Birdathon was a fun day of birding with no pressure to set records. Our substitute birder was avid Spanish ornithologist Hugo Framis imported for the event, well almost. Hugo had written looking for a practical volunteer opportunity in Canada. Helen and Phil Trefry seized the opportunity to get extra help for the Birdathon and for their peregrine breeding program, and imported Hugo, just in time for the Birdathon. Our goals for the day were 100 species, lots of life-birds for Hugo and lots of laughs by supper time.

We began at 5 am on our route to Helen and Phil's Upsandowns Farms where we stopped at a few ponds that added over 30 species on our list, including a Pied-billed Grebe by 6am. Rumours of a Rufous Hummingbird at the Trefry feeders held us for a few minutes but Phil promised to watch out for the rare hummer. So we headed north to Islet Lake Staging area for Great-crested Flycatcher - it seemed like a good idea after seeing them their last June, but it was a bust this year. Hugo did spot a Rose-breasted Grosbeak much to his and our delight. So we headed north with 81 species by 10am.

Then we did the obvious and headed to Elk Island National Park. At the annual stop at Tawayik Lake we enjoyed the Avocets nesting on the mud flats. Sharp watching though drooping eyelids failed to see a cinnamon teal. At Astotin Lake we were almost skunked for new species - spring migration was over and no loon in sight. Geoff's imitation did not fool the bittern, nor Hugo. We pulled away after lunch with 92 species at 12:30, way behind last years total at this time, but way ahead on Hugo's life list.

At Stonehouse road, we did hear Sprague's Pipits and Mountain Bluebirds much to our delight. At Mundare Beach the main migration was obviously over but two Snow Geese lingered, as well as a Black-bellied Plover, a Red Knot, a few Sanderling, one peep which Gerry Beyersbergen identified as a Semipalmated Sandpiper on the next day even though he was not there (but he is a great birder to be able to identify the shorebird a day later ☺). As we headed south a Swainson's Hawk allowed us to show Hugo how to tell it from Red-tails. The colony of Cliff Swallows at Amisk Creek left us at 108 species but no Bobolinks at the usual corner.

Determined to foray on to 110 species, we headed to Mom's Ice Cream in Tofield. Why you say, well ice cream is good for your eyesight! No new species until we saw a Ruby-throated Hummingbird at Upsandowns. We were one short of our revised goal. Little did we know that Gerry Beyersbergen had identified the Semipalm for us and we were really at 110 species. We achieved our goals, over 100 species, lots of lifers for Hugo, and lots of laughs.

PS: Mammals and Amphibians seen and heard: Wood Bison, Coyote, Richardson's Ground Squirrel, Red Squirrel, Moose with two calves, White-tailed and Mule Deer, Beaver, Muskrat, and Chorus Frog.

The Traveler

Jason Duxbury

I had the opportunity to do a hike down into the Grand Canyon, Arizona. I thought it would be a great place to see how many species I could find down there while conducting my 2002 birdathon.

A quiet empty parking lot greeted me when I arrived at around 6:00 am. The only sounds were from crows and Lesser Goldfinches that were flitting about the trees of the Grand Canyon Village.

At around 500 ft down into the canyon, I came across some bushes that had a great deal of commotion in and around their bases. As I approached, birds of many species irrupted to fly up to the protection of larger trees. One started to sing the *"Drink-your-tea-hee"* song that is familiar to those living in southern Alberta. This was the Spotted Towhee. However, the scrimmage under the bushes included Green-tailed Towhees and White-crowned Sparrows as well.

Then I heard the song I was hoping to hear: The extremely loud, downward spiraling song of the Canyon Wren. This song echoed throughout the chasm we were hiking down into. When it came out of a dark fissure it sat on a rock and triumphantly announced its successful food delivery to its nest. A new species to add to my life list!

Canyon Wren

Another 500 feet down the chasm and I was halted by a streak of blue flying across my line of sight. What seemed to be a large Mountain Bluebird by colouration, turned out to be larger and a great deal louder. The harsh chatter was coming from a Pinyon Jay.

Pinyon Jay

Walking away from the rants of the jay, another more pleasant song became audible. This song sounded similar to the "sweet sweet sweet" song of the Yellow Warbler, only the second half of the song accelerated quickly and trailed off. Knowing this song was too different to be a Yellow Warbler, I scanned the brush to find the song-maker. A switchback below me, singing at the very top of a tree was the source of the song; a Virginia Warbler! This species is only found in the southwest United States, so it was a treat to find a new species of warbler that I normally would not have a chance to see.

Fast forward (and down) to 3000 feet below the rim. As the grade evened off, I approached the green oasis of 40 metre high cottonwoods. Flittering among the branches of the huge cottonwoods were Ash-throated Flycatchers, a large member of the flycatcher family. Walking amongst the cacti in around the Ranger Station were Black-throated Sparrows, a stunning species of what are normally thought of drab, brown birds. In the bushes surrounding the cacti were Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Black-chinned Sparrows. A few more species added to my life list, and I was off again for the final walk out to Plateau Point.

Black-throated Sparrow

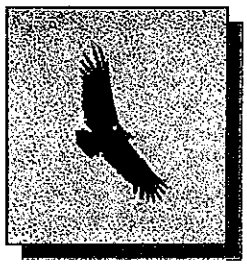
A kilometre and a half further along, I was at the viewpoint and I was not disappointed. Rumoured to be one of the best views of the Colorado River in the canyon, I could see the emerald-green river over 1500 feet below me. The river, which used to be a muddy red colour, was now green due to the lack of sediments that are being trapped by Glen Canyon Dam up river.

Flying around above the final drop to the river below were White-throated Swifts. Hopping about the rocks at the viewpoint was a Rock Wren and a Rock Squirrel, which gives you a sense of the terrain. As I turned to head back, a Turkey Vulture swooped passed.

After the vulture was out of sight and I was heading back towards the hike back up, the full 3000 feet of canyon became a harsh reality. A journey that would take over 3 hours to make, bird watching became a secondary activity while I climbed back out of the canyon. That is until a bird with a 10 ft wingspan came into view.

I was told that it was unlikely to see a California Condor, but there it was, riding the thermals of the canyon rim over 1500 above me. These highly endangered birds have been part of a release program in the canyon that was initiated to repopulate an area where they once inhabited. The release area is some distance away, however 4 condors decided to fly to this area that day. Unmistakably large, this condor soared with some ravens that were dwarfed by the large condor. An hour later, and closer

to the rim, I could see the yellow wing tags that each condor wears that are used by researchers for identifying the individual birds. What a thrill to see a bird of a species that was on the brink of extinction!



California Condor

Other than some Rufous-crowned Sparrows that kept running up the path in front of me, my bird watching was officially over until I reached the rim and had a big drink of water. I now had the time to record the species I had seen in the canyon that morning; 26 in total, but ten of those were lifers!

I still had the afternoon and evening to get more species. Back in Flagstaff, I was informed of a footpath that wound its way through the city. The path went through Ponderosa Pines and ended at a small slough at the base of a small rocky outcrop. These habitats would be different enough from where I had already been. I added species such as Pygmy Nuthatches, Lewis' Woodpecker and Lark Sparrows to name a few. In all, I found 56 species in approximately 12 hours. Not the highest total of species, but at least I was in Arizona counting them!

The Beaverhill Bird Observatory will be holding the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, November 13. The meeting will be held at 7:30 in room 802 in the General Services Building on the west side of campus of the University of Alberta.

All members are encouraged to attend and participate. The agenda will be as follows:

1. Business arising from previous AGM
2. Annual Financial Report
3. Station Reports
4. New Business including election of new directors

Refreshments and snacks will be served after the meeting. We hope to see you there!

NEXT WILLET ISSUE

Material for the forthcoming newsletter should be sent to: Jason Duxbury, editor, The Willet, 1142 Saddleback Rd, Edmonton, Alberta, T6J 4Z4. Phone: 780-433-5790, Email: jduxbury@ualberta.ca. Next newsletter deadline: January 31, 2003. Articles can be on bird banding, birdwatching, wildlife viewing, etc.

2002 Beaverhill Bird Observatory Sight Records

Legend
*Regularly Occurring Species
**Rarely Occurring Species
*****Status Unknown
PR- Previously Recorded

Species	First Record 2001	First Record 2002	Last Spring Record 2002	First Fall 2002	Last record 2002	Last Record 2001	
Loons							
• Common Loon	*****	Apr 29 (TF)	May 22 (RK,MH)	*****	*****	*****	
Grebes							
• Pied-billed Grebe	*****	*****			*****	*****	Breeding
• Horned Grebe	*****	*****			*****	*****	Breeding
• Red-necked Grebe	*****	*****			*****	*****	Breeding
• Eared Grebe	*****	May 4 (RK/MH/CB)			*****	*****	Breeding
• Western Grebe	*****	*****			*****	*****	Breeding
Pelicans							
• American White Pelican	May 9 (RK/TP)	May 3 (RK/MH/CB)			Sep 23 (RK)	*****	Breeding
Cormorants							
• Double-crested Cormorant	*****	*****			*****	*****	Breeding
Herons							
• American Bittern	July 3 (RK/TP)	*****			*****	*****	Breeding
• Great Blue Heron	May 10 (RK/TP)	Apr 20 (CP/LP)			Sep 28 (CP/LP)	*****	Transient
• Black-crowned Night-Heron	May 4 (RK/TP)	*****			Sep 16 (RK)	*****	Breeding
Ibis							
Vultures							
• Turkey Vulture	*****	Apr 20 (CP/LP)	Apr 29 (CP/MH)		*****	*****	
Waterfowl							
• Gr. White-fronted Goose	Apr 21 (BBO)	Apr 20 (CP/LP)	May 22 (MH/RK)	Aug 22 (CP/LP)	Oct 10 (RK)	Sep 30 (LT)	Transient-Spring and Fall Migrants
• Snow Goose	Apr 21 (BBO)	Apr 20 (CP/LP)	May 20 (CB/MH/RK)	Sep 18 (RK)	Oct 10 (RK)	Sep 29 (RK)	Transient-Spring and Fall Migrants
• Ross's Goose	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	Sep 30 (LT)	Transient-Spring and Fall Migrants
• Canada Goose	May 1 (RK/TP)	Apr 21 (BBO)			Oct 9 (RK)	Sep 30 (LT)	Breeding
• Trumpeter Swan							Transient-PR:1991,'92,'95,'97
• Tundra Swan	*****	Apr 21 (BBO)	May 6 (CB/RK)	Sep 21 (CP/LP)	Oct 10 (RK)	*****	Transient-Spring and Fall Migrants
• Gadwall	May 2 (CP)	Apr 28 (TF)			*****	*****	Breeding
• American Wigeon	May 13 (RK/TP)	May 3 (CB/MH/RK)			*****	*****	Breeding
• Mallard	May 2 (CP)	Apr 20 (CP/LP)			Oct 6 (LP/CP)	*****	Breeding
• Blue-winged Teal	May 4 (RK/TP)	May 3 (CB/MH/RK)			*****	*****	Breeding
• Cinnamon Teal	*****	May 3 (CB/MH/RK)	May 7 (CB/RK)				
• Northern Shoveler	May 2 (CP)	Apr 28 (TF)			*****	Aug 16 (MT)	Breeding
• Northern Pintail	May 2 (CP)	Apr 28 (TF)			*****	*****	Breeding
• Green-winged Teal	*****	Apr 28 (TF)			*****	*****	Breeding

• Canvasback	*****	*****			*****	*****	Breeding
• Redhead	May 6 (RK)	Apr 28 (TF)			*****	*****	Breeding
• Ring-necked Duck	May 8 (RK/TP)	May 6 (CB/RK)			*****	*****	Breeding
• Greater Scaup	*****	*****			*****	*****	
• Lesser Scaup	*****	May 12 (MH/RK)			*****	*****	
• Bufflehead	*****	May 3 (CB/MH/RK)			*****	*****	Breeding
• Common Goldeneye	*****	*****			*****	*****	Breeding
• Barrow's Goldeneye	*****	*****			*****	*****	
• Hooded Merganser	*****	*****			*****	*****	
• Common Merganser	*****	*****			*****	*****	
• Red-breasted Merganser	*****	May 11 (CP/LP)			*****	*****	
• Ruddy Duck	*****	May 7 (CB/RK)			*****	*****	Breeding
Hawks & Eagles							
• Bald Eagle	Apr 21 (BBO)	Apr 29 (TF)	May 3 (CB/MH/RK)	Sep 21 (CP/LP)	Oct 4 (RK)	*****	Transient
• Northern Harrier	Apr 21 (BBO)	Apr 28 (TF)			Oct 6 (CP/LP)	Sep 30 (LT)	Breeding
• Sharp-shinned Hawk	May 16 (RK/TP)	May 6 (CB/RK)			Oct 5 (CP/LP)	Sep 20 (RK/BS)	Breeding
• Cooper's Hawk	May 2 (CP/RK/TP)	*****			Aug 27 (MH)	Sep 23 (LT/CP)	Breeding
• Northern Goshawk	*****	Apr 20 (CP/LP)	*****	*****	Sep 29 (CP/LP)	Sep 2 (RK)	Transient- Winter
• Broad-winged Hawk	*****	Ma 4 (CB/MH/RK)	*****	*****	Aug 22 (CB/ST/LP)	*****	Transient
• Swainson's Hawk	*****	May 12 (MH/RK)			Aug 30 (ST/CB/MH)	*****	Breeding
• Red-tailed Hawk	Apr 21(BBO)	Apr 20 (CP/LP)			Sep 29 (CP/LP)	Sep 23 (LT/CP)	Breeding
• Rough-legged Hawk	Apr 21(BBO)	Apr 20 (CP/LP)	May 11 (MH/RK)	*****	*****	*****	Transient
Falcons							
• American Kestrel	*****	Apr 20 (CP/LP)			Sep 8 (ST)	*****	Transient
• Merlin	May 2 (CP/RK/TP)	*****			Sep 7 (ST/AT)	Aug 23 (RK/TP)	Breeding
• Peregrine Falcon	May 4 (RK/TP)	May 5 (RK/CB)	May 5 (RK/CB)		*****	*****	Transient
Grouse							
• Ring-necked Pheasant	*****	*****			*****	*****	
• Ruffed Grouse	May 1 (RK/TP)	Apr 29 (TF)			Oct 8 (RK)	Sep 25 (RK)	Breeding
•• Sharp-tailed Grouse	*****	*****			*****	*****	
Rails and Coots							
• Sora	May 8 (RK/TP)	May 19 (MH/CB)			*****	*****	Breeding
• American Coot	May 2 (CP/TP/RK)	Apr 28 (TF)			*****	*****	Breeding
Cranes							
• Sandhill Crane	May 2 (CP/RK/TP)	May 1 (CB/MH/RK)	May 16 (MH/CB)	Aug 27 (CB/ST)	Oct 5 (CP/LP)	Sep 27 (RK)	Transient- Spring and Fall Migrant
Plovers							
• Black-bellied Plover	May 9 (TF)	May 14 (CB/RK)	May 19 (CB/MH/WF)	*****	*****	*****	Transient-Spring and Fall Migrants
• American Golden-Plover	May 9 (TF)	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	Transient-Spring and Fall Migrants
• Semipalmated Plover	May 9 (TF)	May 14 (CB/RK)	May 19 (CB/MH/WF)	*****	*****	Aug 16 (RK/MT)	Transient-Spring and Fall Migrants
• Killdeer	Apr 21 (BBO)	Apr 21 (BBO)			Aug 27 (CB/ST)	Aug 16 (RK/MT)	Breeding
Stilts and Avocets							
•• Black-necked Stilt	*****	Apr 28 (TF)	Apr 29 (TF)	*****	*****	*****	Transient
• American Avocet	May 3 (RK/TP)	May 1 (CB/MH/RK)			July 23 (CB/RK)	*****	Breeding
Sandpipers							
• Greater Yellowlegs	*****	*****			*****	*****	Transient

• Lesser Yellowlegs	May 10 (RK/TP)	Apr 28 (TF)			Sep 14 (ST/MH)	Sep 18 (RK)	Transient
• Solitary Sandpiper	*****	*****			*****	*****	Transient
• Willet	May 2 (CP/RK/TP)	May 2 (CB/MH/RK)			July 30 (CB/MH)	Sep 17 (RK)	Breeding
• Spotted Sandpiper	May 9 (CP)	*****			*****		Breeding
• Hudsonian Godwit	*****	Apr 29 (TF)			*****		Transient
• Marbled Godwit	May 9 (RK/TP)	Apr 29 (TF)			July 30 (CB/MH)	Sep 9 (RK)	Breeding
• Sanderling	*****	*****			*****	*****	Transient
• Semipalmated Sandpiper	*****	May 14 (CB/RK)			*****	*****	Transient
•• Western Sandpiper	*****	May 18 (WF)			*****	*****	Transient
• Least Sandpiper	*****	*****			*****	*****	Transient
• White-rumped Sandpiper	*****	*****			*****	*****	Transient
• Baird's Sandpiper	*****	*****			*****	*****	Transient
• Pectoral Sandpiper	May 3 (RK/TP)	May 3 (CB/MH/RK)			*****	*****	Transient
•• Long-billed Curlew	*****	May 11 (CP/LP)			*****	*****	
• Dunlin	*****	*****			*****	*****	Transient
• Dowitcher Spp.	*****	May 6 (CB/RK)			Sep 21 (CP/LP)	*****	
• Common Snipe	May 7 (RK/TP)	Apr 28 (TF)			June 22 (CB/MH)	*****	Breeding
• Wilson's Phalarope	May 10 (RK/TP)	May 6 ((CB/RK)			*****	July 23 (RK)	Breeding
• Red-necked Phalarope	May 17(RK/TP)	May 14 (CB/RK)			*****	*****	Breeding
Gulls & Allies							
• Franklin's Gull	May 3 (RK/TP)	Apr 28 (TF)			Aug 15 (MH/ST)	Aug 16 (RK/MT)	Breeding
• Bonaparte's Gull	May 17 (RK/TP)	*****			Sep 29 (CP/LP)	*****	Transient
••• Mew Gull	*****	*****			*****	*****	
• Ring-billed Gull	Apr 21 (BBO)	Apr 28 (TF)			Sep 28 (CP/LP)	Sep 30 (LT)	Breeding
• California Gull	*****	MY 3 (CB/MH/RK)			*****	*****	Breeding
• Herring Gull	*****	*****			*****	*****	Transient
••• Glaucous Gull	*****				*****	*****	
• Common Tern	May 13 (RK/TP)	*****			*****	Aug 24 (RK/TP)	Breeding
• Forster's Tern	*****	*****			*****	*****	Breeding
• Black Tern	May 24 (RK/TP)	May 9 (CB/MH/RK)			June 13 (MH/RK)	*****	Breeding
Doves							
• Rock Dove	*****	*****			*****	*****	Breeding-Year round Resident
• Mourning Dove	*****	May 1 (CB/MH/RK)			*****	*****	Breeding ?
Cuckoos							
••• Black-billed Cuckoo		*****			*****		
Owls							
• Great Horned Owl	Apr 21 (BBO)	Apr 20 (CP/LP)			Oct 11 (CP/LP)	Sep 29 (RK)	Breeding-Year round Resident
•••• Northern Hawk Owl							
•• Long-eared Owl	May 3 (RK/TP)	Apr 20 (CP/LP)			Aug 19 (CB/MH)	Sep 30 (LT)	Breeding
• Short-eared Owl	Ma 15 (RK/TP/TF)	Apr 20 (CP/LP)			Oct 8 (RK)	Sep 13 (RK)	Breeding
• Northern Saw-whet Owl	May 4 (RK/TP)	*****	*****	Aug 18 (ST/RK)	Nov 12 (RK)	Sep 30 (LT)	Transient
Nightjars							
•• Common Nighthawk	May 25 (RK/TP)	*****			*****	*****	
Hummingbirds							
• Ruby-throated Hummingbird	May 23 (RK/TP)	May 28 (MH/CB)			Aug 25 (RK/MH/ST)	Aug 20 (RK)	Breeding

Woodpeckers							
• Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	*****	May 6 (CB/RK)			Sep 24 (RK)	Sep 20 (RK/ BS)	
• Downy Woodpecker	Apr 21 (BB0)	Apr 29 (TF)			Oct 10 (RK)	Sep 30 (LT)	Breeding
• Hairy Woodpecker	Apr 21 (BBO)	May 3 (CB/MH/RK)			Oct 4 (RK)	Sep 17 (RK)	Breeding-year round resident
• Northern Flicker	May 3 (RK/TP)	May 1 (CB/MH/RK)			Sep 9 (RK)	Sep 3 (RK/CP/LT)	Breeding-year round resident
•• Pileated Woodpecker	*****	*****			*****	*****	Breeding-year round resident
Flycatchers							
• Western Wood-Pewee	*****	June 5 (CB/MH)			Aug 15 (MH/ST)	Aug 12 (RK/TP)	Breeding
• Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	*****	June 2 (CB/CP/MH)	June 3 (CB/RK)	Aug 26 (CB/ST)	Aug 26 (CB/ST)	*****	Transient
• Traill's Flycatcher	May 27 (RK/TP)	May 20 (CB/MH/RK)			Aug 30 (MH/CB/ST)	Sep 4 (RK)	Breeding- Alder or Willow
• Alder Flycatcher	Ma 26 (RK/TP/CP)	June 1 (CB/RK)			Aug 7 (MH/RK)	Aug 4 (RK/TP)	Breeding
• Least Flycatcher	May 9 (RK/TP/CP)	May 13 (MH/RK)			Sep 12 (RK)	Sep 24 (RK)	Breeding
• Eastern Phoebe	May 1 (RK/TP)	May 3 (CB/MH/RK)			*****	*****	Breeding
• Say's Phoebe							
• Eastern Kingbird	May 7 (RK/TP)	May 19 (MH/CB/WF)			*****	*****	
Shrikes							
• Northern Shrike	*****	May 4 (CB/RK)	May 4 (CB/RK)	Sep 22 (LP)	Sep 22 (LP)	*****	Winter Transient
Vireos							
• Blue-headed Vireo	*****	May 28 (CB/MH)			Sep 3 (RK)	Sep 9 (RK)	Transient
• Warbling Vireo	May 19 (LT/CP)	May 29 (MH/RK)			Sep 6 (RK)	Sep 6 (RK)	Breeding
• Philadelphia Vireo	*****				Aug 29 (CB/MH)	*****	Transient
• Red-eyed Vireo	May 22 (RK/TP)	May 23 (CB/MH/RK)			Aug 29 (CB/MH)	Sep 11 (RK)	Breeding
Jays and Crows							
• Blue Jay	*****	May 9 (CB/MH/RK)			Sep 10 (RK)	Sep 29 (RK)	Summer transient-Winter resident
• Black-billed Magpie	Apr 21 (BBO)	May 20 (CB/MH/RK)			Oct 10 (RK)	Sep 30 (LT)	Breeding-year round resident
• American Crow	Apr 21 (BBO)	Apr 28 (TF)			Oct 7 (RK)	Sep 29 (RK)	Breeding
• Common Raven	Apr 21 (BBO)	Apr 28 (TF)			Oct 10 (RK)	Sep 24 (RK)	Breeding-year round resident
Larks							
• Horned Lark	*****	*****			*****	*****	
Swallows							
• Purple Martin	*****	*****			*****	*****	Breeding
• Tree Swallow	May 1 (RK/TP)	Apr 20 (CP/LP)			Aug 3 (CB/RK)	Aug 12 (RK/TP)	Breeding
• Barn Swallow	May 17 (RK/TP)	May 4 (CB/MH/RK)			Aug 12 (MH/ST)	*****	Breeding
Chickadees							
• Black-capped Chickadee	Apr 21 (BBO)	Apr 20 (CP/LP)			Oct 10 (RK)	Sep 30 (LT)	Breeding
Nuthatches							
• Red-breasted Nuthatch	May 8 (RK/TP)	May 10 (CB/MH/RK)			Sep 28 (CP/LP)	Sep 24 (RK)	Breeding ?
• White-breasted Nuthatch	*****	*****		Sep 16 (RK)	Oct 8 (RK)	Sep 10 (RK)	Breeding ?
Creepers							
• Brown Creeper	*****	*****		Sep 26 (RK)	Sep 26 (RK)	Sep 28 (RK)	Breeding ?
Wrens							
• House Wren	May 9 (RK/TP/TF)	May 18 (CB/MH/WF)			Sep 14 (ST/MH)	Aug 31 (RK/TP)	Breeding
• Marsh Wren	May 3 (RK/TP)	May 1 (CB/MH/RK)			*****	*****	Breeding
• Winter Wren	*****	*****	*****	Sep 2 (RK)	Sep 24 (RK)	*****	
Kinglets							

• Golden-crowned Kinglet	Ma 15 (TF/RK/TP)	May 13 (MH/RK)	May 13 (MH/RK)	Sep 25 (RK)	Oct 10 (RK)	Sep 24 (RK)	Transient
• Ruby-crowned Kinglet	May 2 (RK/TP/CP)	Apr 21 (BBO)	May 26 (CB/RK)	Sep 12 (RK)	Oct 3 (RK)	Sep 28 (RK)	Transient
Bluebirds & Thrushes							
• Mountain Bluebird	May 6 (RK/TP)	May 3 (CB/MH/RK)			*****		Breeding
• Veery	*****	May 24 (CB/RK)			*****	*****	Breeding
• Swainson's Thrush	May 11 (RK/TP)	May 6 (CB/RK)			Oct 4 (RK)	Sep 24 (RK)	Breeding
• Hermit Thrush	May 1 (RK/TP)	Apr 29 (TF)			Oct 8 (RK)	Sep 25 (RK)	Breeding
• American Robin	Apr 21 (BBO)	Apr 20 (CP/LP)			Sep 29 (CP/LP)	Sep 30 (LT)	Breeding
•• Gray-cheeked Thrush	*****	May 23 (MH/RK)			Sep 2 (RK)		
Mimic Thrushes							
• Gray Catbird	June 1(RK/TP)	May 28 (CB/MH)			*****	Sep 3 (CP/LT/RK)	Breeding ?
Pipits							
• Sprague's Pipit	Ma 13 (TH/RK/TP)	May 11 (MH/RK)			July 26 (RK)		
Waxwings							
• Cedar Waxwing	June 2 (RK/TP)	May 26 (CB/RK)			Sep 19 (RK)	Sep 29 (RK)	Breeding
• Bohemian Waxwing	*****	May 2 (CB/MH/RK)			*****	*****	Transient-winter resident
Warblers							
• Tennessee Warbler	May 22 (RK/TP)	May 23 (CB/MH/RK)	June 2 (CB/MH)	Aug 8 (CB/ST)	Sep 4 (RK)	Sep 18 (RK)	Transient
• Orange-crowned Warbler	May 4 (RK/TP)	May 8 (CB/MH/RK)	May 23 (CB/MH/RK)	Aug 28 (CB/MH)	Sep 29 (CP/LP)	Sep 30 (LT)	Transient
•• Nashville Warbler	May 13 (RK/TP)	*****		Sep 9 (RK)	Sep 9 (RK)	Sep 24 (RK)	Transient
• Yellow Warbler	May 13 (RK/TP)	May 13 (MH/RK)			Sep 6 (RK)	Sep 8 (RK)	Breeding
• Magnolia Warbler	May 22 (RK/TP)	May 28 (CB/MH)	June 3 (CB/RK)	Aug 15 (ST/CB)	Sep 11 (RK)	Sep 17 (RK/BS)	Transient
• Cape May Warbler	*****	*****		Aug 25 (MH/RK)	Sep 19 (RK)	Sep 11 (RK)	Transient
••• Black-throated Blue Warbler	*****	*****		*****	*****	Sep 18 (RK)	PR: ?
• Yellow-rumped Warbler	May 1 (RK/TP)	May 2 (CB/MH/RK)	June 1 (CB/RK)	Aug 1 (MH/RK)	Oct 5 (CP/LP)	Sep 30 (LT)	Transient
• Black-throated Green Warbler	*****	*****		Sep 4 (RK)	Sep 9 (RK)	Aug 22 (RK/TP)	Transient
• Palm Warbler	May 7 (RK/TP)	May 22 (MH/RK)	May 26 (CB/MH)	Sep 5 (RK)	Sep 21 (CP/LP)	Sep 24 (RK)	Transient
• Bay-breasted Warbler	*****	*****		Aug 21 (MH/ST)	Sep 1 (RK)	Sep 17 (RK)	Transient
• Blackpoll Warbler	May 19 (CP/LT)	May 22 (MH/RK)	June 3 (CB/RK)	Aug 19 (CB/ST)	Sep 11 (RK)	Sep 23 (CP/LT)	Transient
• Black-and-white Warbler	May 20 (CP/LT)	May 26 (CB/RK)	May 31 (MH/RK)	Aug 17 (CB/ST)	Aug 30 (CB/MH)	Sep 2 (RK)	Transient
• American Redstart	May 22 (RK/TP)	May 29 (MH/RK)	June 3 (CB/RK)	Aug 16 (MH/RK)	Sep 17 (RK)	Sep 15 (TF)	Transient
• Ovenbird	May 11 (RK/TP)	May 23 (CB/MH/RK)			Sep 11 (RK)	Sep 11 (RK)	Transient
• Northern Waterthrush	May 22 (RK/TP)	May 15 (CB/RK)	May 27 (CB/MH)	Aug 17 (CB/ST)	Sep 1 (RK)	Sep 13 (RK)	Transient
• Connecticut Warbler	June 1 (RK/TP)	*****		Aug 27 (CB/MH)	*****	*****	Transient
• Mourning Warbler	May 26 (RK/TP)	May 27 (CB/MH)	June 9 (CB/MH)	Aug 22 (CP/LP)	Aug 26 (MH/ST)	Sep 5 (RK)	Transient
• Common Yellowthroat	May 23 (RK/TP)	May 20 (CB/MH/RK)			Sep 9 (RK)	Sep 10 (RK)	Breeding
• Wilson's Warbler	*****	May 26 (CB/RK)	June 3 (CB/RK)	Aug (CB/ST)	Sep 16 (RK)	Sep 27 (RK)	Transient
• Canada Warbler	June 4 (RK/TP)	June 3 (CB/RK)		Aug 10 (MH/RK)	Aug 28 (MH/ST)	Aug 24 (RK/TP)	Transient
Tanagers							
•• Western Tanager	May 10 (RK)	*****	*****	*****	*****	Sep 10 (RK)	Transient
Buntings							
•• Lazuli Bunting	*****	May 27 (MH)					Transient
Tohees							
•• Spotted Tohee	*****	May 19 (MH)					

Native Sparrows							
• American Tree Sparrow	*****	Apr 28 (TF)	May 8 (MH/RK)	Sep 16 (RK)	Oct 10 (RK)	Sep 30	Transient
• Chipping Sparrow	May 7 (RK/TP)	May 9 (CB/MH/RK)	May 22 (MH/RK)	Aug 20 (CB/ST)	Sep 6 (RK)	*****	Breeding
• Clay-colored Sparrow	May 5 (RK/TP)	May 11 (MH/RK)			Sep 6 (RK)	Sep 11 (RK)	Breeding
• Vesper Sparrow	*****	May 2 (CB/MH/RK)			*****	*****	Breeding
• Savannah Sparrow	May 2 (RK/TP/CP)	May 6 (CB/RK)			Sep 11 (RK)	Sep 4 (RK)	Breeding
• Le Conte's Sparrow	May 8 (RK/TP)	May 18 (MH/CB/WF)			*****	Aug 7 (RK/TP)	Breeding
• Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	June 5 (RK/TP)	Jun 23 (CB/MH/WF)			Aug 25 (CB/ST)	Aug 2 (RK/TP)	Breeding
•• Fox Sparrow	*****	May 1 (CP/CB/MH)	May 7 (CB/RK)	Sep 17 (RK)	Sep 27 (RK)	*****	Transient
• Song Sparrow	May 2 (CP/RK/TP)	May 1 (CB/MH/RK)			Aug 23 (ST/RK)	Aug 16 (CP/LT)	Breeding
• Lincoln's Sparrow	May 3 (RK/TP)	May 6 (CB/RK)	May 26 (MH/CB)	Aug 24 (CB/ST)	Aug 31 (CB/MH)	Aug 10 (RK/TP)	Transient
• White-throated Sparrow	May 2 (RK/TP/CP)	May 6 (CB/RK)			Oct 1 (RK)	Sep 30 (LT)	Breeding
• White-crowned Sparrow	May 3 (RK/TP)	May 1 (CB/MH/RK)	May 15 (CB/RK)	Sep 6 (RK)	Sep 22 (CP/LP)	Sep 18 (RK)	Transient
• Dark-eyed Junco	May 3 (RK/TP)	Apr 20 (BBO)	May 15 (CB/RK)	Sep 11 (RK)	Oct 10 (RK)	Sep 30 (LT)	Transient
• Lapland Longspur	*****	Apr 20 (CP/LP)	*****	*****	Oct 5 (CP/LP)		
• Snow Bunting	*****	Apr 21(BBO)			*****	*****	Resident-Winter
Cardinals							
• Rose-breasted Grosbeak	May 13 (RK/TP)	May 15 (CB/RK)	May 28 (CB/MH)	Aug 10 (ST/MH)	Aug 20 (CB/RK)	Aug 21 (RK/TP)	Transient
Blackbirds and Allies							
• Red-winged Blackbird	May 2 (RK/CP/TP)	Apr 28 TF)			Aug 12 (CB/MH)	Aug 16 (MT)	Breeding
• Western Meadowlark	*****	May 11 (MH/RK)			*****	*****	Breeding
• Yellow-headed Blackbird	May 13 (RK/TP)	*****			*****	*****	Breeding
• Brewer's Blackbird	*****	*****			*****	*****	
• Common Grackle	*****	Apr 21 (BBO)					
• Brown-headed Cowbird	May 2 (RK/TP/CP)	May 7 (CB/RK)			July 31 (MH)	Aug 10 (RK/TP)	Breeding
• Baltimore Oriole	May 15 (RK/TP)	May 19 (CB/MH/WF)			Aug 27 (ST/CB)	Aug 17 (RK/TP)	Breeding
Finches							
• Purple Finch	May 1 (RK/TP)	Apr 21 (BBO)	May 23 (CB/MH)	Aug 26 (CB/RK)	Oct 10 (RK)	Sep 30	Transient
• Common Redpoll				Sep 29 (CP/LP)	Oct 5 (LP)	Sep 30 (LT)	
• Pine Siskin	May 10 (RK/TP)	May 2 (CB/MH/RK)	May 28 (CB/MH)		Sep 29 (CP/LP)		Transient
• American Goldfinch	May 14 (RK/TP)	May 19 (MH/CB/WF)			Oct 5 (CP/LP)	Sep 23 (LT/CP)	Breeding
• Evening Grosbeak	May 2 (CP/RK/TP)	*****			*****	*****	Transient

Contributors

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