



Beaverhill Bird Observatory
Annual Report 2016

By
Kevin Methuen, Editor

March 2017

A special thanks to the following organizations for funding our projects in 2016: Alberta Conservation Association, Edmonton Community Foundation, Alberta Liquor and Gaming Commission, TD Friends of the Environment, the Wildbird General Store, and Nature Canada's Charles Labatiuk Nature Endowment Fund.

Thank you to individuals who made our work possible by providing cash donations and in-kind support.

Note from BBO Chair, Geoff Holroyd

This year is one for the record books: Young Ornithologist Workshop, Saw-whet Owl migration, MAPS sites, extension education programs, full funding, interns, successful on-site events and many other projects.

Led by Helen Trefry, we hosted our first Young Ornithologist Workshop for 8 high school students for one week. The students experienced a field camp situation learning about birds, bats, butterflies and life. All the students gave the workshop full marks.

Led by Kevin Methuen our head biologist, we moved two MAPS stations, which had low bird capture rates, to more productive habitats along the edge of Lister Lake. Forest succession had left our nets well below the forest canopy resulting in less than 10 birds per six-hour netting sessions. Capture rates at the new sites are much higher and we will be able to learn far more about bird populations.

Led by Meghan Jacklin, we netted a record 566 Northern Saw-whet Owls, 8 Boreal Owls and 9 Long-eared Owls. Recoveries from Colorado and Vancouver show that Saw-whets have a complex migration pattern.

Led by Emily Cicon and Meghan, our education program expanded dramatically. Early in 2016 they presented to over 500 students about bird conservation with the help of Ray, our imprint saw-whet owl. During the winter of 2016-2017, they presented to several thousand students, and the presentations continue.

Led by Laurie Hunt, BBO hosted 10 interns this year on a wide variety of topics that included breeding biology of House Wrens and Tree Swallows, grassland and forest birds, butterflies, owls, and amphibians. Many thanks to the mentors who provided guidance to the interns.

Led by Thea Carpenter, our membership and recording secretary, our membership profile grew to over 200 members from only 35 two years ago. If you are not a life member, please consider joining BBO for only \$10. Let's add another 100 members to BBO's supporters in 2017.

Our public events, Big Birding Breakfast and Steaks and Saw-whets were led by Helen Trefry, chef Janos Kovaks, Geoff Holroyd and chef Thea Carpenter with many volunteers. Over 200 people were shown bird banding while enjoying delicious meals including a dose

of Vitamin N (nature). Jason Duxbury coordinated registrations through our PayPal account.

Led by Darren McGregor and Kevin Methuen, our website, <http://www.beaverhillbirds.com/> was revamped and updated. Enjoy reading about the many projects and accomplishments of BBO on this growing website.

Led by Rose Scott our new treasurer, with the help of Elzbieta (Liz) Tymon and past treasurer Debra King, our finances remained in good order. Other board members participated in the organization events that keeps all these activities moving smoothly.

We thank our funders without whom we could not accomplish to many activities: Alberta Conservation Association, TD Friends of the Environment, Edmonton Community Foundation, Nature Canada – Charles Labatiuk /Nature Endowment Fund, Bird Studies' Great Canadian Birdathon, Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission's Casino, and personal donations.

Many others contributed to the BBO's programs and their names can be found in the project reports inside this report. Thank you to all who have participated in and supported the BBO in 2016, including before, and into the future. If you want to get involved, please contact me at chair@beaverhillbirds.com

Note from BBO Head Biologist, Kevin Methuen

Thank you to the staff, board of directors, volunteers, and funders for a tremendous year at the observatory! We did a lot for the birds in 2016, but two things stood out for me. Revitalizing our MAPS program by moving two of our three stations paid off, as we caught and banded the highest number of breeding birds in BBO history. Organizing and hosting the inaugural Geoff Holroyd Young Ornithologist Workshop was a very rewarding experience for me, and the rest of our organization. Working with youth and introducing others to birding brings out the child-like qualities that come with starting a new hobby. I cannot wait to set nets in the spring and start another year of monitoring! Thank you Geoff Holroyd for providing final edits on this report.

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List of Executive and Contact Information

First Name	Last Name	Position	Year Joined the Board
Geoff	Holroyd	Chair	1988 (1984)
	Vacant	Vice-Chair	
Rose	Scott	Treasurer	2016
Thea	Carpenter	Recording/Membership Secretary	2013
Helen	Trefry	Director at Large	2014
Julia	Put (Jackson)	Director at Large	2014
Christine	Boulton	Director at Large	2006
Jason	Duxbury	Director at Large	2013
Jeff	Manchak	Director at Large	2015
Laurie	Hunt	Director at Large	2015
Darren	McGregor	Web Designer	2005
Steve	Andersen	Director at Large	2016
Emily	Upham- Mills	Director at Large	2016
Caitlin	Mader	Director at Large	2016
Jonathan	DeMoor	Director at Large	2016
	STAFF		
Kevin	Methuen	Staff	
Emily	Cicon	Staff	
Meghan	Jacklin	Staff	

Contact Information:

Geoff Holroyd - chair@beaverhillbirds.com

Kevin Methuen - biologist@beaverhillbirds.com



Beaverhill Bird Observatory Society

Financial Statements

December 31, 2016

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Society

Statement of Operations

For the year ended December 31, 2016

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Revenues		
Grants	\$ 41,725	\$ 27,964
Donations	14,399	8,325
Presentations and talks	6,668	850
Events	4,260	5,996
Memberships	1,335	460
Miscellaneous	474	628
Casino	-	550
	<u>68,861</u>	<u>44,773</u>
Expenditures		
Salaries	98,674	76,313
Travel	11,488	10,545
Depreciation	8,192	-
Small equipment	3,305	3,328
Supplies	2,078	3,201
Office expenses	1,864	3,042
Young Ornithologists' Workshop	1,762	-
Events	1,324	1,191
Repairs and maintenance	1,224	672
Conference fees	675	-
Insurance	540	-
Bank charges	439	358
Property taxes	188	216
	<u>131,752</u>	<u>98,865</u>
Excess of expenditures over revenues	<u>(62,892)</u>	<u>(54,092)</u>
Unrestricted net assets, January 1	132,888	186,980
Unrestricted net assets, December 31	<u>69,996</u>	<u>132,888</u>

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Society

Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31, 2016

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Assets		
<i>Current assets:</i>		
Cash	\$ 25,074	\$ 6,018
Restricted cash - casino	42,541	65,334
GICs	35,000	35,363
Restricted GIC - casino	31,000	-
Accounts receivable	7,235	6,810
Prepaid expenses	270	2,606
Goods and services tax receivable	650	282
	<u>141,770</u>	<u>116,413</u>
Property and equipment	22,993	31,186
	<u>164,764</u>	<u>147,599</u>
Liabilities and net assets		
<i>Current liabilities:</i>		
Accounts payable	7,546	14,711
Deferred grant income	14,275	-
Current portion of deferred casino income	41,684	-
	<u>63,504</u>	<u>14,711</u>
Deferred casino income	31,263	-
	<u>94,767</u>	<u>14,711</u>
<i>Net assets:</i>		
Unrestricted net assets	69,996	132,888
	<u>164,764</u>	<u>147,599</u>

Spring Report

Migration Monitoring

Spring migration monitoring was conducted from April 1st to June 20th, which was approximately five weeks longer than usual. BBO staff operated thirteen mist nets through these dates, achieving an overall capture rate of 24.7 birds per 100 net-hours. A total of 849 birds were captured, of which 663 were newly banded. Species diversity was exceptional, with 53 species captured (Table 1).

Table 1. Numbers of captures, mist-netting effort, capture rates, and number of species caught during spring migration monitoring at the Beaverhill Bird Observatory since 2001.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total Captures	629	950	754	532	276	242	408	382
Birds Banded	472	740	546	424	196	169	318	288
Net hours (NH)	1756	2569	2219	1809	1570	1615	1813	1828
Capture Rate (birds/100 NH)	35.8	37.0	34.0	29.4	17.6	15.0	22.5	20.9
Species	39	55	44	38	32	31	44	38

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total Captures	500	497	412	459	324	841	810	849
Birds Banded	351	333	241	307	211	561	641	663
Net hours (NH)	1608	2016	1884	1997	1884	2615	2859	3432
Capture Rate (birds/100 NH)	31.1	24.7	21.9	23.0	17.2	32.2	28.3	24.7
Species	39	38	40	39	36	43	45	54

There were several exciting captures this spring. BBO staff caught a Red-tailed Hawk, three Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, a Black-billed Magpie, two Sharp-shinned Hawks, two Connecticut Warblers, two Swamp Sparrows, an Oregon Junco, and a Winter Wren! On April 23rd 86 birds were caught, 70 of which were Slate-colored Juncos. The staff had another busy day on May 24th after a weekend of rain during the peak of migration and managed to catch 90 birds of 28 species!

Natural Area Stewardship

Over a two-day period, staff and volunteers removed a section of barb wire fence from within the Beaverhill Natural Area. This particular section started on Accipiter Alley and ran through our former Park MAPS site, across Harrier Highway, and up to Amisk Creek. A

huge thanks goes out to Steve Andersen, Suzanne and Rick Cicon, and Fraser Methuen who all helped the staff complete this job, which made the Natural Area a safer place for wildlife.



Education and Outreach

The annual Big Birding Breakfast was held on June 4th at the Observatory. Over 70 guests were treated to crepes made by the legendary chef Janos Kovacs and sous-chef David Ealey. BBO staff conducted mist-netting for songbirds and Geoff Holroyd took guests on an interpretive walk to Lister lake. A big thanks goes out to all of our volunteers and board members who contributed to this successful event, especially board member Helen Trefry who was the lead organizer. One issue of the Willet was produced this spring by board member Helen Trefry and distributed to members in addition to being posted on our website. The BBO Facebook page has continued to grow since being created in 2013 and is now at over 830 page “likes.”

BBO Assistant Biologist Meghan Jacklin wrote an article about BBO’s events and our early start date, welcoming visitors to the observatory. Her article was successfully published in the Tofield Mercury, the Tofield local newspaper. With help from Nature Alberta the BBO co-hosted an event on site for International Migratory Bird Day. This year’s bird day marked the centennial of the Migratory Birds Convention Act, which protects migratory birds and their nests.

Helen Trefry attended a Parrot conference in Edmonton with Ray the Saw-whet Owl, BBO’s education owl, where she sold memberships and increased the awareness surrounding our programs. Geoff Holroyd promoted our programs at the Snow Goose Chase in Tofield and

BBO Assistant Biologist Emily Cicon operated a bird banding demonstration. Emily also represented BBO at a career fair at Hairy Ainley School in Edmonton where over 1500 students were in attendance, and gave a presentation on owls to the Camrose Wildlife Stewardship Society. Meghan Jacklin presented a talk to a pre-kindergarten class in Edmonton, complete with crafts and our education owl.

Great Canadian Birdathon

This year's birdathon was a hit! Along with a team of board members and volunteers, the BBO staff set out to identify as many bird species as they could by sight and sound in a 24-hour period. Starting at midnight in the Natural Area, Common Nighthawk, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and Marsh Wrens were the first few species recorded. Irene Crosland combed the mudflats in the morning, which produced ample numbers of shorebirds, while Jeff Manchuk focused on the Blackfoot and Sherwood Park areas and Zoltan Domahidi covered the Edmonton area for us. The day was capped off at Elk Island National Park where we spotted a Canvasback that had been eluding us and were treated to an American Bittern, which flew low over our heads. Near sunset, a few diehard birders kept searching for the last few species and managed to hear a Winter Wren singing, in addition to discovering a Northern Goshawk on her nest. In the end, the team managed to bring in 133 species and raised over \$1000 for the BBO and Bird Studies Canada. Way to go team!



Many other monitoring programs and maintenance activities were completed by staff, board members, dedicated volunteers, and student interns. To view the spring report in its entirety, visit <http://beaverhillbirds.com/media/1140/2016-springreport>.

Summer Report

Introduction

The 2016 summer season covers the period from June 10th to August 8th. BBO staff conducted six rounds of the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program and caught 532 birds, which was the highest number of captures since BBO joined the MAPS program 28 years ago! The BBO hosted eight youths for the inaugural Geoff Holroyd Young Ornithologist Workshop, which was a phenomenal success. BBO staff also monitored bat boxes, searched for nests, banded nestlings, wrote scientific and interpretive articles, and interacted with visitors and volunteers at the lab. Eight interns surveyed nesting Tree Swallows, House Wrens, two breeding bird grids and butterflies.



Marsh Wren captured at SOPO station. (Photo credit Geoff Holroyd)

Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship

The BBO is one of the oldest participants in the MAPS program, having established the BLAB station in 1989. The WEIR and PARK stations were created in 1994 and 1996 respectively. Significant habitat changes have occurred at our MAPS sites since the 1990's, which have led to declining capture rates. We decided it was time to revitalize this project, so we established two new stations, Sora Pond (SOPO), which replaced WEIR, and Lister Lake (LILA), which replaced PARK. See individual station sections below, and <http://beaverhillbirds.com/media/1139/2016-summerreport.pdf>, for full banding results.



Emily Cicon with a Yellow-shafted Flicker caught at BLAB. (Photo credit Kevin Methuen)

BLAB

The BLAB station was located near the banding lab (N53.38055° W112.52737°) with most of the nets found southeast of the lab. The habitat here used to be described as young willow, aspen and poplar near water, however due to 28 years of succession and fluctuating water levels in Beaverhill Lake, the habitat today is more accurately described as mixed age aspen and poplar forest. Banding occurred at BLAB on June 16th, June 27th, July 4th, July 14th, July 26th, and the final period was split over August 3rd and 4th.

The BLAB nets recorded 93 captures of 11 species over the maximum effort of 360 net hours, for a capture rate of 25.8 birds per 100 net hours. Least Flycatcher was captured the

most (64), representing 69% of all birds caught. Other notable captures included Yellow-shafted Flicker (1), Baltimore Oriole (1), Cedar Waxwing (3), and Hermit Thrush (4).

SOPO

The SOPO station (N53.37936° W112.51921°) was located around the intersection of Flicker Freeway and Harrier Highway. The habitat here was composed of mixed age aspen and poplar which transitioned into willows that bordered two wetlands; Sora Pond and Lister Lake.



Jeremy Lambe with a Rose-breasted Grosbeak captured at SOPO. (Photo credit Geoff Holroyd)

Banding occurred at SOPO on June 18th, June 23rd, July 6th, July 7th, August 2nd, and August 7th. Period 7 was split over July 6th and 7th due to rain, while period 8 was missed due to flooding in the Natural Area.

The SOPO nets recorded 254 captures of 28 species over 275 hours, for a capture rate of 92.4 birds per 100 net hours. Yellow Warbler was captured the most (73) followed by Least Flycatcher (61) and Marsh Wren (20). Other notable captures included Tree Swallow (1), Red-winged Blackbird (7), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (1), Philadelphia Vireo (1), Northern Waterthrush (1), Common Yellowthroat (2), and Black-and-White Warbler (1).

LILA

The LILA station (N53.37216° W112.52930°) was on Harrier Highway along the shore of Lister Lake, just east of the viewpoint. The habitat at this site was also mixed age aspen and poplar, transitioning into willows that formed a narrow corridor along Lister Lake. Banding occurred at LILA on June 20th, June 28th, July 9th, July 27th, and August 5th. Period 8 was missed due to flooding in the Natural Area.

The LILA nets recorded 185 captures of 26 species over 300 hours, for a capture rate of 61.7 birds per 100 net hours. Least Flycatcher was caught the most (50) followed by Yellow Warbler (29) and Song Sparrow (16). The most exciting capture at this station was a Long-eared Owl!

Geoff Holroyd Young Ornithologist Workshop (written by Helen Trefry)

The first ever Beaverhill Bird Observatory's Geoff Holroyd Young Ornithologists' Workshop ran from July 31st to August 6th, 2016.



2016 Beaverhill Bird Observatory's Young Ornithologist Workshop group (missing Meghan Jacklin): Dr. Geoff Holroyd (Chair Beaverhill Bird Observatory), Larry Zhong, Robin Moore, Myles Grieve, Luke Nelson, Charlotte Wasyluk, Carson Hvenegaard, Stephanie Olson, Jeremy Lambe, and banders Kevin Methuen and Emily Cicon, and Helen Trefry (BBO Board Member and workshop organizer). In front is Jackie, camp mascot. (Photo credit Phil Trefry)

The fun and enthusiastic group of students made for an enjoyable and productive week. The eight students came from across central Alberta with a common interest in birds and nature. During the week they improved their bird identification skills and every morning they were taught how to extract birds from mist nets and band them. The week included short talks with topics as diverse as bird identification and photography (Gerald Romanchuk), Tree Swallow ecology (Geoff Holroyd) and Peregrine Falcon recovery (Gordon Court). David Lawrie and Loney Dickson led a field trip to learn about local butterflies. Other local field trips allowed the students to band Purple Martins, canoe, release rehabilitated ducklings and handle raptors. While camping at the banding station and getting up to band at 5 am they experienced a glimpse of a field biologist's life. By learning about the lives and plights of the local breeding birds and those migrating through the area they gained a better understanding of bird conservation issues.

The similar Doug Tarry Young Ornithologist program at Long Point Bird Observatory has seen their program become a jumping off point for many leaders in bird conservation. We saw the same enthusiasm and leadership skills in BBO's group of budding ornithologists. Two of the students attended both programs, providing them with a Canadian bird monitoring experience from east and west.

We hope the Workshop will become an annual event. If you wish to support a student in 2017, your \$400 donation will ensure a student can attend! Contact helentrefry@gmail.com if you are interested in supporting a future young naturalist.

Leaders Helen Trefry and Geoff Holroyd want to extend a big thank you to those already mentioned as well as Jeff Manchak, Dan Verhoeff, Kim Bloome, and Irene Crossland for assisting. A HUGE thanks to the staff, Kevin Methuen, Emily Cicon and Megan Jacklin for helping to make the week a memorable one for the students. The Tofield IGA provided a much appreciated discount on groceries. TD Friends of the Environment graciously provided funding for this workshop.

Bat Monitoring

Four more bat boxes were installed this summer, for a total of 12. These boxes were monitored by BBO staff twice a week, and bats were discovered on more than half the checks, usually alone or in pairs. Jody Rintoul from the University of Alberta's Augustana campus in Camrose operated the BBO bat detector this summer. Thank you Jody for volunteering your time on this project, and offering an expert opinion on bat box design and installation.

This is a shortened version of the summer report. You can find the full version on our new website: <http://beaverhillbirds.com/media/1139/2016-summerreport.pdf>

Fall Report

Migration Monitoring

Fall migration monitoring was conducted from July 20th to October 20th, making it one of our longest fall monitoring periods in recent BBO history. BBO staff operated thirteen mist nets through these dates, achieving an overall capture rate of 41.2 birds per 100 net-hours. A total of 1721 birds were captured, of which 1390 were newly banded (three fewer than were banded in fall of 2015). Species diversity was average, with 53 species captured (Table 1).

Table 1. Numbers of captures, mist-netting effort, capture rates, and number of species caught during fall migration monitoring at the Beaverhill Bird Observatory since 2001.

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total Captures	2095	1734	1315	975	1256	1969	1079	892
Birds Banded	1758	1464	1093	818	1089	1525	952	723
Net hours (NH)	3679	4174	3818	3229	2787	3476	3534	3400
Capture Rate (birds/100 NH)	57.0	41.5	34.4	30.2	45.1	56.6	30.5	26.2
Species Captured	56	62	57	60	59	63	52	58

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total Captures	875	880	701	978	631	738	1641	1721
Birds Banded	718	708	589	776	628	618	1393	1390
Net hours (NH)	3671	3190	3678	3683	3144	2565	4478	4174
Capture Rate (birds/100 NH)	23.8	27.6	19.1	26.6	20.1	28.8	36.6	41.2
Species Captured	51	60	53	57	45	46	58	53

As always, there were certain days of migration that made for unforgettable experiences at the banding lab. Noteworthy captures this fall included four Brown Creepers, thirteen Golden-crowned Kinglets, three LeConte's Sparrows, three Nashville Warblers, five Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, one Philadelphia Vireo, and one Northern Shrike! On September 2nd we were rushing from net to net in order to process 128 captures, 86 of which were Myrtle Warblers!

Owl Monitoring

BBO records were set this fall for total captures of Northern Saw-whet Owls (566) Boreal Owls (8) and Long-eared Owls (9). The previous record for Saw-whet captures was 504, set in fall 2015. The breakdown of banding results can be viewed in Table 3 below. Another record was broken on October 22nd, when staff captured 40 owls in a single night, surpassing the previous record of 29 set in fall 2015.

Table 3. Total number and type of capture per species during 2016 owl migration monitoring at Beaverhill Bird Observatory (BBO). Repeat captures were banded in 2016 at BBO, Return captures were banded at BBO in a previous year, Foreign captures were banded at a location other than BBO, and Other captures were caught in a mist net but released un-banded, or caught more than once in a single day.

Species	Banded	Repeat	Return	Foreign	Other	Total
Northern Saw-whet Owl	541	10		15		566
Boreal Owl	8					8
Long-eared Owl	7				2	9
Totals	556	10	0	15	2	583

Assistant Biologist Meghan Jacklin led the BBO's owl monitoring efforts this fall. The observatory was fortunate to have Sara Pearce-Meijerink, an experienced bander who stayed at the lab and volunteered for the entirety of the owl monitoring season, and Alyssa Bohart from the University of Alberta who was an owl monitoring intern. Head Biologist Kevin Methuen and Assistant Biologist Emily Cicon also took part in this program when they weren't busy banding songbirds.



Education and Outreach

Our annual Steaks and Saw-whets Supper fundraiser was held at the observatory on September 30th and October 1st. Both nights sold out and despite a bit of rain, guests enjoyed their steak dinner and were thrilled to interact with Ray the Saw-whet (our education owl) in addition to wild owls that were caught and banded. A very special thanks to all board members and volunteers who contributed this year!

Emily and Meghan represented BBO at the Love the Lake Day in August that was organized by the Pigeon Lake Watershed Alliance. Ray the Saw-whet was a hit, in addition to the bird banding (two mist nets were operated). 217 people visited the BBO booth and were taught all about our programs and bird banding. Emily also gave an owl presentation to kids at the Strathcona County Library in September.



Kevin dressed up as a Ringed-necked Pheasant and spent the Saturday before Halloween at the Wildbird General Store promoting BBO's programs. On the same day, Meghan and Ray, the Saw-whet, were at Wildbirds Unlimited engaging with the public, alongside Gord Court and a few other birds of prey. A big thanks to both stores for their support!

The BBO hosted a diverse array of groups and students for both songbird and owl banding this fall. Thank you to the following groups who visited the banding lab: Chris Olsen's

wildlife students from Lakeland College; Laurie Hunt's environmental students from NAIT; Dr. Glen Hvenegaard's bird-ecology students from the U of Alberta's Augustana campus; the U of Alberta outdoors club; Jeff Manchuk and the Tofield Outdoor Education and Conservation Club; the Augustana Wildlife Society; and the Friends of Elk Island Club.

Starting this fall and continuing into this winter the BBO is growing its education program, which is being operated by Meghan and Emily. This program will expand the reach of the observatory to school groups and other organizations and will allow us to educate the public about the threats that face birds, and empower people to take action to conserve bird species. Each presentation is complete with a live owl! If you are interested in booking a presentation, please send an email to educationbeaverhillbirds@gmail.com.

Other Activities

In addition to banding and education, BBO staff spent many afternoons on other projects with help from board members, volunteers, and interns. Fence "flags" were installed on 2.2 km of fence that forms the north boundary of the Natural Area. This boundary area lies within Beaverhill Lake and in dry years it becomes a grassland, which is home to many species of birds and mammals. These fence flags are cut from long strips of vinyl undersill trim, and serve to make the barb wire fence more visible to wildlife in order to reduce collisions and mortality associated with these fences.

The BBO continued to increase roosting opportunities for bats in the Natural Area, while monitoring their activity. 12 bat boxes were checked twice a week this fall, with either one or two bats being found in each box on approximately every second check. Staff and volunteers installed an additional 26 boxes this fall in order to spread out the availability of roosting sites in the Natural Area. Jody Rintoul from the U of A's Augustana campus operated the BBO bat detector in order to determine which species are using the Natural Area. A big thanks to Jody for volunteering her time and lending us her expertise on bats.

If you are interested in reading more about our fall activities, please see the full report here: <http://beaverhillbirds.com/media/1603/2016-fall-report.pdf>

Weekly Updates

BBO's assistant biologists complete a banding summary each week to keep you up to date on our activities at the observatory. These updates are a great way for the public to monitor our progress through the field season and find out when the migrants are arriving. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter where we post these updates when they are hot off the presses. To view weekly updates from 2016, visit the banding summaries page of our website: <http://beaverhillbirds.com/updates/banding-summaries/>



Intern Reports

The BBO was fortunate to have ten student interns in 2016. Three interns monitored Tree Swallow nest boxes, two monitored House Wren nest boxes, two conducted breeding bird surveys, one conducted butterfly surveys along a standardized route, one conducted amphibian surveys, and one assisted with owl monitoring and interpretation. Each group of interns had a mentor, who volunteered their time to ensure each project was successful. Board member Laurie Hunt organizes the BBO internship program, which is funded by SCiP (Serving Community internship Program). These interns allow the Observatory to complete many more projects than the staff would be able to do on their own, which we are very grateful for.

Intern reports produced in 2016 can be viewed on our website:
<http://beaverhillbirds.com/publications/student-interns/>



Willet Newsletters

The Willet is the official newsletter of the Beaverhill Bird Observatory. Each newsletter contains information about upcoming events, stories from the field, and more. Usually two or three editions are produced and sent out to BBO members each year. In 2016 the Willet was produced by BBO board member Helen Trefry. If you would like to read editions of the Willet from 2016, click the following link: <http://beaverhillbirds.com/publications/the-willet/>

