



Annual Report 2013

by

Amélie Roberto-Charron, Editor

January 2014

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Annual Report 2013

Table of Contents

- List of Executive and Contact Information
- 2013 Audited Financial Report
- Spring Report (Amélie Roberto-Charron)
- Summer Report (Kevin Methuen)
- Fall Report (Amélie Roberto-Charron)
- Biweekly Station Updates
- Willet Newsletters
- Intern Publications (Steve Anderson and Amélie Roberto-Charron; Sara Friske and Amélie Roberto-Charron)
- Intern Reports

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Executive Phone & Address List

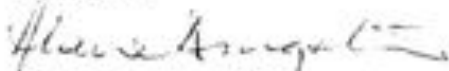
Last Name	First Name	Occupation	Position	Home	Cell	Email	Address
Priestley	Lisa	Research Biologist Consultant	Chair	780- 662-6398	918-4804	lisa@beaverhillbirds.com	Box 1013, Tofield AB T0B 4J0
Priestley	Chuck	Consultant	Past Chair	780- 662-6398	984-6957	chuck@STRIXecological.ca	Box 1013 Tofield, AB T0B 4J0
Takats	Margaret	Retired	Treasurer	780- 437-3860	221-3860	mritakats@shaw.ca	3535 - 105A St Edmonton AB T6J 2M6
Holroyd	Geoff	Emeritus Research Scientist- Envir. Canada	Secretary	438-1462	--	geoffholroyd@gmail.com	4132-122 St Edmonton AB T6J 1Z1
DeGroot	Al	Senior Project Co- ordinator	Director of Infrastructure	942-2062	722-0659	jdeg@telusplanet.net	Box 752 Redwater AB T0A 2W0
Beck	Jim	Retired University Professor	Director at Large	435 - 2065	--	Jim.Beck@afhe.ualberta.ca	10947 – 36 Ave. Edmonton, AB T6J 0B9
Knapton	Richard	Owner/Tour Operator- Eagle Eye Tours	Director at Large	461-0757		rknpton@telus.net	1024 – 52 St. Edmonton, AB T6L 1Z2
Hanneman	Matt	GIS/Remote Sensing Specialist	Director at Large	485-4907	780- 977-1035	matt.hanneman@gmail.com	8829-8 avenue SW Edmonton, AB T6X 1C4
Boulton	Christine	Rangeland Agrologist	Director at Large	403- 668-9061	403- 305-5016	plant_geek@hotmail.com	1011 Tuscanora Manor NW Calgary, AB T3L 2S9
Sheppard	James	Furniture Installation Supervisor	Director at Large	444-2568	--	Leadbelly500@hotmail.com	23 Hyndman Cres. Edmonton, AB T5A 4S6
Duxbury	Jason	Consultant	Director at Large		780-722- 0663	jayduxbury@gmail.com	7036-22 Avenue SW , Edmonton, AB, T6X 0T8
McGregor	Darren	Web Designer/ Biologist	Web Designer	488-5699	--	d.gription@gmail.com	11403 Malmo Road Edmonton, AB T6H 4M3
Roberto- Charon	Amélie	Executive Director			780-915- 1301	arobertocharron@gmail.com	Edmonton, AB

(Sept.) EXECLIST 2012.DOC

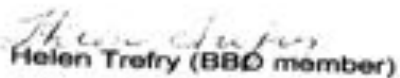
Audited Financial Report

We, the authorised internal auditors assigned to audit the 2013 Financial Records of the Beaverhill Bird Observatory, have examined the attached sheets (together with receipts and cancelled cheques associated with each debit, receipts issued for donations, monthly bank statements and records of deposits made at the bank), and we find that the records as presented are complete, balance and are in order.

Signature



Alan Hingston (BBO member)



Helen Trefry (BBO member)

Date: February 20 2014

BEAVERHILL BIRD OBSERVATORY SOCIETYBox 1418
Edmonton Alberta
T5J 2N5**Balance Sheet****As of 13th Period 20**1/13/2014
1:59:16 PM**Assets**

Current Assets		
Chequing Account		\$15,720.53
Casino Chequing Account		\$6,815.96
Casino Investment Account		\$40,000.00
US cash		\$0.00
Investments		\$10,000.00
Elson Investment Fund		\$25,000.00
Accounts Receivable		\$3,950.00
Interest Receivable		\$0.00
Deposits Paid		\$0.00
Property & Equipment		
Buildings	\$6,097.82	
Donation Boxes	\$541.00	
Computer	\$2,471.43	
Banding Equipment	\$4,338.95	
General Mis. Equipment	\$4,599.89	
Display Board	\$527.00	
Refrigerator	\$2,000.14	
Solar Panels	\$2,618.15	
Lab Equipment	\$1,122.01	
Total Property & Equipment		\$25,616.39
Total Assets		\$127,002.88

Liabilities

Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$0.00	
Deposits on account	\$0.00	
Total Current Liabilities		\$0.00
Payroll Liabilities		
Income Tax Deductions	\$0.00	
Income Tax Deductions for Cash	\$1,560.90	
CPP Payable	\$476.46	
CPP Payable Casino Account	\$476.46	
EI Payable	\$276.36	
EI Payable Casino Account	\$197.40	
Workers' Compensation Payable	\$0.00	
Vacation Payable	\$0.00	
Total Payroll Liabilities		\$2,987.58
exchange		\$0.00
Total Liabilities		\$2,987.58

Equity

Retained Earnings	\$76,053.41	
Current Year Earnings	\$44,961.89	
Historical Balancing	\$1,000.00	
Total Equity		\$124,015.30
Total Liability & Equity		\$127,002.88

BEAVERHILL BIRD OBSERVATORY SOCIETY

Box 1418
Edmonton, Alberta
T6J 2N5

Profit & Loss Statement

13th Period 2013

11/3/2014
1:58:05 PM

	Selected Period	% of Sales	Total to Date	% of TTD Sales
Income				
GRANTS				
Charles Labloub Fund	\$0.00	NA	\$6,000.00	1.4%
Community Sport Program of AB	\$0.00	NA	\$11,200.00	8.0%
OSJ Ops of Canada	\$0.00	NA	\$6,400.00	3.0%
Shell	\$0.00	NA	\$10,000.00	7.3%
Stella Herbathon	\$0.00	NA	\$498.00	0.3%
ACA Sponsorship & March 2013	\$0.00	NA	\$18,100.00	13.0%
Total GRANTS	\$0.00	NA	\$60,231.00	38.0%
Memberships	\$0.00	NA	\$410.00	0.3%
Misc. Income	\$0.00	NA	\$284.13	0.2%
Donations				
General donation	\$0.00	NA	\$3,025.11	2.2%
Alberta Owl Surveys	\$0.00	NA	\$1,188.80	0.8%
Total Donations	\$0.00	NA	\$4,213.91	3.0%
Interest	\$0.00	NA	\$302.50	0.2%
Casino Account Interest	\$0.00	NA	\$95.78	0.1%
GST Refund	\$0.00	NA	\$258.08	0.2%
Sales				
Pancake Breakfast	\$0.00	NA	\$370.00	0.3%
Beats and Saw-whet Event	\$0.00	NA	\$2,383.00	1.7%
Total Sales	\$0.00	NA	\$2,753.00	2.0%
Inventory Assets from Grants	\$0.00	NA	\$4,750.45	3.4%
Casino Income	\$0.00	NA	\$76,182.18	54.8%
Total Income	\$0.00	NA	\$139,460.21	100.0%
Cost of Sales				
Gross Profit	\$0.00	NA	\$139,460.21	100.0%
Expenses				
Office Expense	\$0.00	NA	\$54.37	0.0%
Maps, Photos	\$0.00	NA	\$509.61	0.4%
Telephone	\$0.00	NA	\$60.89	0.1%
Bank Charges	\$0.00	NA	\$149.55	0.1%
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$0.00	NA	\$282.31	0.2%
Office Expenses	\$0.00	NA	\$1,085.73	0.8%
Total Office Expense	\$0.00	NA	\$3,114.14	2.2%
Supplies	\$0.00	NA	\$469.63	0.3%
Event Expenses	\$0.00	NA	\$500.28	0.4%
Food	\$0.00	NA	\$137.60	0.1%
Repairs & Mntce	\$0.00	NA	\$74.61	0.1%
Lab Renovations	\$0.00	NA	\$3,911.21	2.8%
Lab - Purchases for Housing	\$0.00	NA	\$676.79	0.6%
Bands & Equipment	\$0.00	NA	\$3,905.28	2.8%
Telemetry Equipment Geolocator	\$0.00	NA	\$370.08	0.3%
Bird Surveys Equipment	\$0.00	NA	\$500.00	0.4%
Solar Panels & Batteries	\$0.00	NA	\$183.39	0.1%
Nets & Poles	\$0.00	NA	\$1,899.53	1.4%
Trail Cameras and Equipment	\$0.00	NA	\$31.50	0.0%
Dues & Subscriptions	\$0.00	NA	\$286.22	0.2%
Educational Presentations	\$0.00	NA	\$154.19	0.1%
Property Taxes	\$0.00	NA	\$200.00	0.1%
WCB Expense	\$0.00	NA		

BEAVERHILL BIRD OBSERVATORY SOCIETY

Profit & Loss Statement

1/13/2014
1:58:05 PM

13th Period 2013

	Selected Period	% of Sales	Year to Date	% of YTD Sales
Accommodations				
Mileage	\$0.00	NA	\$575.17	0.4%
Travel Expenses	\$0.00	NA	\$2,879.00	2.1%
Staff Travel Expense	\$0.00	NA	\$710.50	0.5%
Volunteer Travel Expense	\$0.00	NA	\$1,839.25	1.3%
Payroll	\$0.00	NA	\$1,021.90	0.7%
Wages	\$0.00	NA	\$10,000.00	7.2%
Contract Work Others	\$0.00	NA	\$500.00	0.4%
Contract Work Fall	\$0.00	NA	\$6,500.00	4.7%
Contract Work Exec. Director	\$0.00	NA	\$7,725.47	5.5%
Vacation Pay Expense	\$0.00	NA	\$400.00	0.3%
Employer Expenses	\$0.00	NA	\$3,104.58	2.2%
Steaks & Saw-whets Event	\$0.00	NA	\$18.73	0.0%
Owl Projects	\$0.00	NA	\$2,113.76	1.5%
Transmitters for Owl Projects	\$0.00	NA	\$211.22	0.2%
AB Noct. Owl Survey Expenses	\$0.00	NA	\$1,136.90	0.8%
Casino Expense Accounts				
Bank S/C Casino Account	\$0.00	NA	\$69.00	0.0%
NSWD Migr. Monit. - mileage Vol	\$0.00	NA	\$400.00	0.3%
Vol. Nestbox Monit. - Mileage	\$0.00	NA	\$1,055.13	0.8%
BBO Profile - Web & Newslette	\$0.00	NA	\$608.74	0.4%
Lab Upgrade	\$0.00	NA	\$1,271.42	0.9%
Bird Survey Field Tech Course	\$0.00	NA	\$1,171.00	0.8%
Education Alberta Expenses	\$0.00	NA	\$510.66	0.4%
Contract Salary Casino Funds	\$0.00	NA	\$32,000.00	22.9%
Insurance - Liability & Pro.	\$0.00	NA	\$738.00	0.5%
Postage & Office Expense	\$0.00	NA	\$236.70	0.2%
Total Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>NA</u>	<u>\$94,498.32</u>	<u>67.8%</u>
Operating Profit	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>NA</u>	<u>\$44,961.89</u>	<u>32.2%</u>
Other Income				
Other Expenses				
Net Profit / (Loss)	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>NA</u>	<u>\$44,961.89</u>	<u>32.2%</u>

Seasonal Reports



**Beaverhill Bird Observatory
Spring Report 2013**

by

Amelie Roberto-Charron

July 2013

Introduction

The 2013 banding season staff included Amelie Roberto-Charron and Kevin Methuen. May 1st was our set up day for the migration nets, and standard mist-netting started on May 2nd, running through until June 9th. May 1st was a very chilly day; it was far below zero, which prevented mist netting. This spring was quite different from the past few springs, it was very late. Snow was present until the middle of May!

The winter of 2012/13 had a lot of snow, more than we have seen in recent years. This resulted in a lot more water in and around the Beaverhill Lake Natural Area, especially compared to last year when it was relatively dry. This spring the water was once again flowing from Lister Lake into Beaverhill Lake, and the hiking trails leading out the Weir required rubber boots to access without soaking your feet. The Kallal field on the way to the Natural Area was completely flooded. The staff was concerned that the water would flood the road going into the lab. The meadow supported a large quantity of waterfowl throughout the entire spring, which were greatly enjoyed. Drives into town became significantly more exciting when a significant diversity of waterfowl could be observed in the ditches and meadows along the way! Strangely enough, however, the increase in precipitation that was observed during the winter months was not continued in May. May was dry, with very little precipitation. We look forward to seeing how these precipitation patterns will impact the number or types of birds this year and the amount of water in the Beaverhill Lake bed.



Road on the way into the lab in May.

Songbird Migration Monitoring

Songbird Migration Monitoring started on May 2nd and ran through to June 9th. Over the course of the spring banding period, a total of 324 birds were captured in 1884 net hours, yielding a total of 17.20 birds/100 net hours (Table 1).

It appears as though the late spring this year resulted in a decreased number of birds. A list of all birds banded (total 211), repeat captured birds (total 35), returning birds (total 37), and other captures (total 63) is presented in Table 2.

The nets were set for 1884 net hours out of a possible 3120 (60%). Poor weather conditions (rain, wind) prevented banding on 2 days, and a few hours were lost on 11 days because the nets were partially closed for the same reasons. Staff days off or working off site accounted for 6 days of banding lost, and unfortunately no qualified volunteers were found to cover these days.

The top five species captured during Spring Migration Monitoring included; Least Flycatcher (91), House Wren (34), Clay-coloured Sparrow (29), Yellow Warbler (24), and Myrtle Warbler (23). This accounted for 62% of all captures during spring migration monitoring. Least Flycatchers accounted for 28%, House Wrens accounted for 10.5%, Clay-coloured Sparrows accounted for 9.0%, Yellow Warblers accounted for 7.4% and Myrtle Warblers accounted for 7.1% of all captures.

The top five banded birds included; Least Flycatcher (42), Myrtle Warbler (23), House Wren (21) Clay-coloured Sparrow (20), and Swainson's Thrush (15). This accounted for 57.3% of all banded birds during spring migration monitoring.

A notable capture included a bird originally banded in the fall of 2007 and aged as AHY. This Yellow Warbler (band number: 2440-68729) is therefore at least seven years old. He has been recaptured 8 times on site, usually in breeding condition. This little male Yellow Warbler has therefore returned to the BBO to breed for at least the past 7 seasons!

Table 1. Eleven year trends for bird captures and net hours at the BBO.

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Birds Captured	754	532	276	242	408	382	500	497	412	459	324
Birds Banded	546	424	196	169	318	288	351	333	241	307	211
Net Hours	2219	1809	1570	1615	1813	1828	1608	2016	1884	1997	1884
Capture Rate (birds/100 net hours)	33.98	29.41	17.46	14.98	22.84	20.9	31.09	24.65	21.87	22.99	17.20
Species Captured	44	38	32	31	44	38	39	38	40	39	36

Table 2. Birds caught in mist nets at Beaverhill Bird Observatory Spring 2013

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	Total
American Redstart	1	0	0	0	0	1
American Robin	13	2	0	0	2	17
American Tree Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Baltimore Oriole	3	0	2	0	1	6
Black-and-White Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Black-capped Chickadee	2	1	1	0	1	5
Blackpoll Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1
Brown-headed Cowbird	0	0	2	0	2	4
Chipping Sparrow	5	0	0	0	0	5
Clay-coloured Sparrow	20	3	1	0	5	29
Common Yellowthroat	1	0	0	0	0	1
Downy Woodpecker	1	0	0	0	0	1
Fox Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Gray Catbird	2	0	1	0	0	3
Hermit Thrush	1	0	0	0	0	1
House Wren	21	10	0	0	3	34
Least Flycatcher	42	16	22	0	11	91
Lincoln's Sparrow	2	0	0	0	3	5
Myrtle Warbler	23	0	0	0	0	23
Northern Waterthrush	1	0	0	0	0	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	1	0	0	0	1	2

Oregon Junco	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ovenbird	1	0	0	0	0	1
Pine Siskin	12	0	0	0	0	12
Red-breasted Grosbeak	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ruffed Grouse	0	0	0	0	1	1
Savannah Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	0	0	0	0	1	1
Slate-coloured Junco	12	0	0	0	2	14
Song Sparrow	3	0	0	0	0	3
Swainson's Thrush	15	0	0	0	0	15
Warbling Vireo	1	0	1	0	0	2
White-crowned Sparrow	3	0	0	0	0	3
White-throated Sparrow	11	0	0	0	0	11
Yellow Warbler	6	3	7	0	8	24
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	211	35	37	0	41	324

- 1 Banded recently (within 90 days) at the BBO.
- 2 Banded at the BBO > 90 days prior to recapture (e.g. in a previous year).
- 3 Banded at a location other than the BBO.
- 4 Caught in a mist-net but not banded (e.g. escaped net).

Nest Boxes

With the help of several volunteers and interns, the staff built a total of 467 new nest boxes this year from donated plywood. These boxes were used to replace the old Golondrinas style boxes that have a small gap between the sides of the box and the roof that and old boxes that are starting to decay. These boxes were also used to expand the Elson Bluebird Trail around the Beaverhill County.



Nest boxes built this summer at the BBO.

Tree Swallow Grid



Kevin banding Tree Swallow chicks.

Three interns, Nicole Boucher, Norma Young and Emily Cicon, have been monitoring our Tree Swallow grids this year. Thanks to their help the old boxes in the R Grid, the S Grid and the T Grid have been replaced, the numbers have been repainted, they have all been faced East, and the boxes have been monitored on a weekly basis. The chicks were then banded by the staff. This year, the BBO was also fortunate enough to take part in two new projects. A Tree Swallow geolocator project at the BBO was started, and 40 geolocators were put on adult Tree Swallows nesting in the T Grid, as these birds tend to have higher site fidelity. Another project that took place this year studying the Tree

Swallows was a behavioural study looking at the response of adults to a foreign object, a rubber ducky, on top of their nest box. This study is in cooperation with the Golondrinas de las Americanas. Two interns worked on the Tree Swallow behavioural study, Erin Campbell and Caroline LeCourtois.

Elson Bluebird Trail

The Elson Bluebird Trail, a trail composed by over 400 nest boxes, was monitored and maintained this year by four interns: Roy Tian, Carly Lynch, Sian Ford and Alexandria Tiffinger. They replaced old boxes along the trail, painted numbers on them, and monitored them over the course of the summer. As many chicks as possible were banded by the staff and by a few volunteers: Geoff Holroyd and Anna Daku.



Sian, a BBO intern, at one of her boxes.

House Wren Grid

Two House Wren grids that Mike Quinn monitored in the late 80s were re-established this year. The first grid is located off of Weasel Wynd behind the lab. The second grid is located off of Flicker Freeway. These grids were re-established with the help of Geoff Holroyd, and with the help of four interns, Michelle Zarowny, Sara Friske, Meagan Butler and Cassandra Durocher, that were tasked to monitoring and maintaining the grid. Most of the chicks were then banded by the staff.

Other Banding

The staff was fortunate enough to be invited to go banding with several raptor banders. The staff banded American Kestrels and a couple Red-tail Hawks with Al Degroot, some Northern Saw-whet Owl chicks with Ray Cromie, and some American Kestrel chicks with Hardy Pletz.



Amélie with an American Kestrel chick.

Other Work



The recently painted lab.

The staff has also been busy decluttering and painting the lab. The entire exterior of the lab and interior will be painted by the end of the summer with help of interns and volunteers. Thus far, the exterior of the lab has been painted and so have the kitchen walls.

Other programs that are going on this summer include the reestablishment of the Breeding Bird Grid surveys, which is being undertaken by two interns: Alec Forest and Rebecca Himself, and the reestablishment of the Pollard Butterfly counts, which is again being undertaken by an intern, Steve Andersen.

Other work has included repairing mist nets and clearing net lanes and trails in preparation for MAPS and maintaining the Natural Area. New trail signs were painted and installed around the natural area.

Interpretation

On June 1st the BBO hosted its annual BIG Birding Breakfast. As per usual lots of people attended, including several kids! The BIG Birding Breakfast was successful again this year: beautiful weather, a great crowd, and delicious food (of course). Approximately 75 visitors came to visit and enjoy the 20 birds caught throughout the morning. A huge thank you to all the volunteers, and special thanks to Janos Kovacs for cooking all the fantastic crepes!

This spring the staff has also been quite fortunate in the number of people visiting. It is not unusual to have over a dozen visitors on any given morning. Several young families have been visiting, spending the morning with the staff and learning all about bird banding and the birds of the region!

Acknowledgements

The lab has been busy with visitors this spring! Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped with various tasks over the summer and to all the visitors who have come to visit over the spring.

Thanks to Irene for dropping by on a regular basis, with her lovely dog Onyx, and to Donna and Ted McKen and Kyle Winters who helped us with painting one sunny day! Thanks also to Bob and Renee Howard, and Melissa Chisolm who helped the interns and staff build nest boxes. Thanks to Geoff Holroyd for setting up a rain barrel supplying the kitchen with rain water, to Al Degroot for building various shelves for the lab and for all his help with maintenance, and to Jim Beck for bringing in the new fridge! Thanks to all of the interns for all their help with projects and chores around the lab, and thanks to all the visitors that have been making the BBO a regular stop! The staff are also thankful for all the volunteers and board members when helped open the lab and who helped at the Big Birding Breakfast!



Janos, crepe master, in his element!

Appendix A.
Top 5 Species

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
#1 Captured Species	Least Flycatcher (174)	Myrtle Warbler (162)	Least Flycatcher (68)	Least Flycatcher (69)	Clay-coloured Sparrow (72)	Least Flycatcher (84)	Least Flycatcher (70)	Least Flycatcher (131)	Least Flycatcher (117)	Least Flycatcher (130)	Least Flycatcher (91)
#2 Captured Species	Myrtle Warbler (149)	Chipping Sparrow (59)	Yellow Warbler (47)	Yellow Warbler (32)	Least Flycatcher (70)	Yellow Warbler (37)	Clay-coloured Sparrow (66)	Clay-coloured Sparrow (81)	Yellow Warbler (57)	Myrtle Warbler (43)	House Wren (34)
#3 Captured Species	Yellow Warbler (119)	Clay-coloured Sparrow (51)	Clay-coloured Sparrow (27)	Clay-coloured Sparrow (23)	Myrtle Warbler (35)	Brown-headed Cowbird (35)	Myrtle Warbler (35)	Myrtle Warbler (38)	Clay-coloured Sparrow (49)	Swainson's Thrush (34)	Clay-coloured Sparrow (29)
#4 Captured Species	White-throated Sparrow (48)	Least Flycatcher (51)	Swainson's Thrush (20)	Swainson's Thrush (19)	Yellow Warbler (25)	Myrtle Warbler (27)	Swainson's Thrush (25)	Yellow Warbler (37)	House Wren (26)	Yellow Warbler (32)	Yellow Warbler (24)
#5 Captured Species	Clay-coloured Sparrow (40)	Swainson's Thrush (40)	Myrtle Warbler (19)	House Wren (17)	House Wren (22)	Swainson's Thrush (25)	Yellow Warbler (18)	House Wren (32)	Swainson's Thrush (22)	Baltimore Oriole (29)	Myrtle Warbler (23)
% of total Captures	70%	66%	66%	66%	55%	55%	43%	64%	66%	58%	62%



Summer Report 2013

Kevin Methuen

Introduction

The summer staff for 2013 were Amélie Roberto-Charron, Bander In Charge, and Kevin Methuen, Assistant Bander, who were responsible for carrying out the Monitoring Avian Survivorship and Productivity (MAPS) Program.

The Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Program provides information on population size, and post-fledging productivity, estimates of adult survivorship, proportion of residents in the population, and population growth rate by utilizing constant effort, standardized, mist netting during the breeding season. It is a cooperative effort throughout North America composed of individual bird banders, public agencies and private organizations and is organized by the Institute for Bird Populations. The goal is to monitor the productivity, survivorship and population trends of North American land birds.

The MAPS program has been in operation since 1989. The three MAPS stations that were run in the Beaverhill Natural Area are the Beaverhill lab (BLAB), an area east of the weir (WEIR), and another area south of the lab (PARK). At each site there are 10 mist nets, and 9 point count locations. This year MAPS began on June 10th and was carried out until July 31st. During that time period, five 10-day rotations were carried out comprised of one day of constant effort mist-netting, followed by point counts at each respective location.

This summer was filled with various other activities, such as monitoring nest boxes, raptor banding, painting, managing interns, writing updates and conducting general maintenance around the lab.

Mist Netting

Constant effort mist-netting is the main method of data collection for MAPS. The mist nets have a mesh size of 30mm and are strung on poles that are 3.2m tall. Mist netting does not take place in unsuitable conditions, i.e. in rain, in windy conditions that exceed a 3 on the Beaufort Force scale or 20km/hour, in temperatures below 0 °C and above 27 °C. Nets are checked frequently, at least every half hour.

All 900 hours of banding, 300 per station, were successfully completed this summer. There were no rounds that required an extension beyond the ten-day period due to unfavourable conditions.

PARK

The PARK station (Lat 53 22 34 Long 112 31 45) has been in operation since 1996. We caught 37 birds of 6 different species at Park this summer. Over 300 hours of mist netting this yielded a capture rate of 12.3 birds/100 net hours. Highlights at this site included Baltimore Oriole, White-throated Sparrow, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

Dates banding was conducted were: June 13th, June 23rd, July 2nd, July 12th, and July 28th

BLAB

The BLAB station (Lat 52 22 50 Long 112 31 39) has been operating since 1989, the very start of the MAPS program. We caught 60 birds across 9 species here, making it our most successful site. The capture rate was quite good for MAPS at 20.0 birds/100 net hours. Species caught solely at BLAB included American Robin, Black-capped Chickadee, Downy Woodpecker, Hermit Thrush, and House Wren.

Dates banding was conducted were: June 11th, June 21st, July 1st, July 11th, and July 26th

WEIR

The WEIR station (Lat 53 22 48 Long 112 30 19) has been in operation since 1994. We caught 29 birds across 6 species here, making it our least successful station. The catch rate was 9.7 birds/100 net hours. Highlights at Weir included a Red-eyed Vireo and a Hairy Woodpecker.

Dates banding was conducted were: June 14th, June 24th, July 4th, July 13th, and July 29th

All stations

The three most abundant species that were banded during MAPS at all three stations were Least Flycatcher (composing 74.6% of all captures), American Robin (composing 4.0% of all captures) and in a tie for third, Brown-headed Cowbird and Warbling Vireo (both making up 3.2% of all captures). As usual, the Least Flycatcher is a prolific species in the natural area. For a breakdown of species caught per station, see Appendix 1.

Overall, we caught 126 birds across 15 species making this season of MAPS a great success. Our final capture rate combining all stations was 14.0 birds/100 net hours. The 15 species caught included: American Goldfinch, American Robin, Baltimore Oriole, Black-capped Chickadee, Brown-headed Cowbird, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Hermit Thrush, House Wren, Least Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, White-throated Sparrow, Yellow Warbler, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.



Least Flycatcher nest.
(photo by Chuck Priestley)

Point counts

Point counts were also conducted within each of the MAPS stations at nine different locations. Point counts were done in the same 10-day rotation as the mist netting, but on separate days. At each point count observers listened for 10 minute periods and recorded all birds heard during that time. Observers also approximated the distance of the bird from the observer, the direction of the bird, as well as which time interval, one, two or three, the bird was heard singing, Interval 1 was defined as during 1-3 minutes, Interval 2 during 3-5 minutes, and Interval 3 during 5-10 minutes. The list of species heard during point counts along with the number of detections can be found in Table 1. The species that were most often detected were the Least Flycatcher, composing 46.8% of all detections, the Warbling Vireo, composing 11.5% of all detections, and the Yellow Warbler, making up 7.1% of all detections.

Dates point counts were conducted are as follows:

Park June 12th, June 25th, July 3rd, July 14th, July 27th
Blab June 10th, June 22nd, July 3rd, July 15th, July 25th
Weir June 12th, June 22nd, July 5th, July 14th, July 27th



Yellow Warbler nest. (photo by Tyler Hallman)

Table 1. Number of detections for each species at the BBO MAPS stations (combining of all visits listed above).

Species	BLAB	PARK	WEIR	Total
Alder Flycatcher	0	0	1	1
American Coot	0	0	1	1
American Crow	0	1	0	1
American Robin	3	0	25	28
Baltimore Oriole	6	1	9	16
Barn Swallow	0	0	2	2
Black Capped Chickadee	5	4	0	9
Brown Headed Cowbird	4	1	15	20
Canadian Goose	0	0	5	5
Cedar Waxwing	0	1	2	3
Clay Colored Sparrow	1	0	2	3
Common Raven	11	0	5	16
Common Snipe	2	1	25	28
Downy Woodpecker	0	0	1	1
Duck sp.	0	0	1	1
Great-horned Owl	0	0	4	4
Hairy Woodpecker	0	0	4	4
Hermit Thrush	0	1	0	1
House Wren	19	1	5	25
Killdeer	0	0	3	1
Least Flycatcher	103	104	83	290
Long-eared Owl	3	0	0	3
Mallard	2	2	2	6
Mourning Dove	0	0	2	2
Northern Flicker	1	0	3	4
Ovenbird	0	0	1	1
Red-eyed Vireo	0	0	1	1
Red-tailed Hawk	0	0	1	1
Red-winged Blackbird	0	0	8	8
Ring-billed Gull	0	1	2	3
Song Sparrow	0	0	1	1
Sora	0	0	1	1
Tennessee Warbler	0	0	8	8
Warbling Vireo	36	6	29	71
Western-wood Pewee	0	0	1	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	0	0	1	1
White-throated Sparrow	0	2	1	3
Woodpecker sp.	0	0	1	1
Yellow Warbler	24	10	10	44
Yellow-headed Blackbird	0	0	1	1
Total	220	136	266	620

Other Wildlife

Other animals observed throughout the summer within the natural area included: Moose, White-tailed Deer, Coyotes, Snowshoe hares, Porcupines, Voles, Deer Mice, a Short-tailed Weasel, Northern Flying-Squirrels, Wood Frogs, and Little Brown Bats.

Volunteers/Visitors

A number of visitors joined us out at the lab, we were pleased to have the following people stop by for a visit:

Irene and Onyx
Katie Chestnutt
Cassandra Durocher
Roy Tian
Erin Campbell
Kurt Yakimovich
Lisa Priestley, Sam, Kate
Neil Foley
Alec Forest
Norma-Jane Young
Geoff Holroyd
Helen Trefry
Steve Andersen
Caroline Lacourtious
Alexandria Tiffinger
Emily Cicon
Melissa Chisolm
Gemma
Rebecca Himsl
Suzy
Carissa
Meaghan Butler
Donna and Ted Mcken
Julia and Michael
Al Degroot
Michelle Zarowny
Sara Friske
Carly Lynch
Shane Haneland
Tyler Mcnah
Meaghan Jacklin
Nicole Boucher

Acknowledgments

Many thanks to Al DeGroot for installing a screen door in the Corvid Crib, and for taking us raptor banding on multiple occasions. We'd also like to thank Geoff Holroyd for installing a rain-water fed kitchen tap system and for organizing the shed.



Appendix 1. Summary of species captured during the MAPS program for each banding location from June 10 to July 31, 2013.

Species	Banded			Repeats			Recoveries			Others			Total			Grand Total
	BLAB	WEIR	PARK	BLAB	WEIR	PARK	BLAB	WEIR	PARK	BLAB	WEIR	PARK	BLAB	WEIR	PARK	
AMGO	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
AMRO	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	5
BAOR	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
BCCH	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	2
BHCO	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	4
DOWO	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
HAWO	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
HETH	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
HOWR	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
LEFL	21	12	18	6	3	5	13	4	3	3	2	4	43	21	30	94
REVI	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
WAVI	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	4
WTSP	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
YEWA	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3
YBSA	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	34	17	25	8	5	5	14	5	3	4	2	4	60	29	37	126



Fall Report 2013

by

Amélie Roberto-Charron and Lisa Priestley

November 2013

Songbird Fall Migration Monitoring

Fall migration at Beaverhill Bird Observatory in 2013 was lower than 2012, with 631 birds captured, and a capture rate of 20.0 birds/100 net hours (Table 1, Figure 1). The capture rate was lower than the last ten years average of 32.0 birds/100 net hours. A total of 3143.45 net hours were run, 62% of the total 5112 net hours (aerial net was not run) that were possible, ten percent lower than 2012. Most netting time missed was due to poor weather (rain and wind) in September and frost, and below zero temperatures in October.

Table 1. 2013 fall songbird-banding results from Beaverhill compared to previous ten years.

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Birds Captured	1315	975	1256	1969	1079	892	875	880	701	978	631
Birds Banded	1093	818	1089	1525	952	723	718	708			628
Net Hours	3818.3	3228.5	2787.3	3476.0	3534.0	3399.5	3670.5	3189.5	3677.5	3682.5	3143.45
Capture Rate (birds/100NH)	34.4	30.2	45.1	56.6	30.5	26.2	23.8	27.6	19.1	26.6	20.0
Species Captured	57	60	59	63	52*	58*	51	60*	53	57*	45

* includes Ruffed Grouse caught in net but not banded

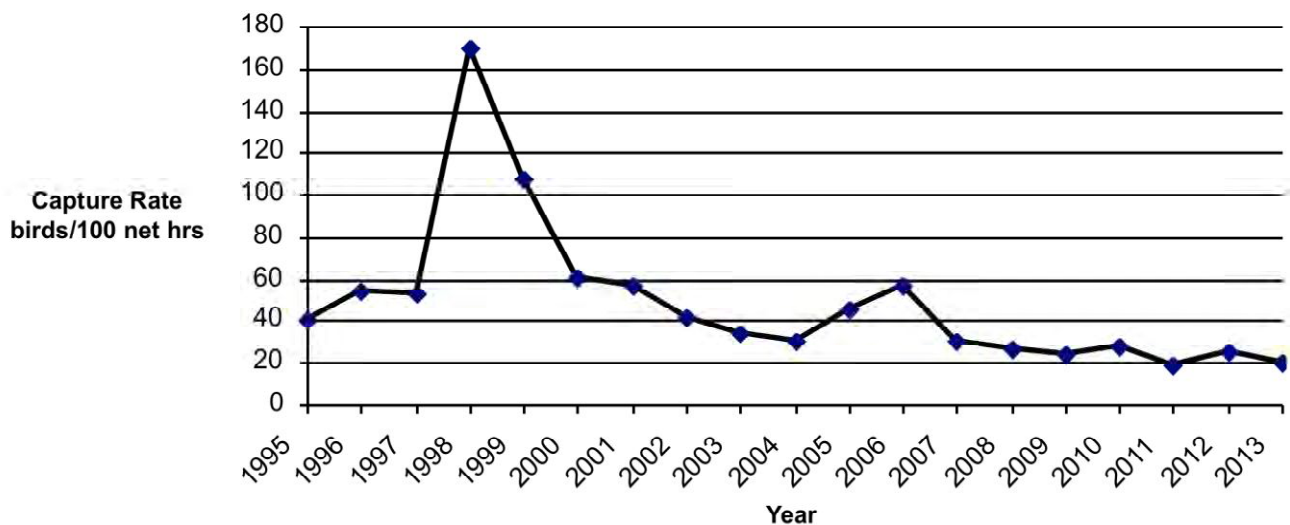


Figure 1. A comparison of fall capture rates (songbirds/100 net hours) between 1995 and 2012.

Top three species representing 44.4% of the captures were: Myrtle Warbler (155), Least Flycatcher (63), and Black-capped Chickadee (62). These capture rates were significantly lower than those for last year; 217, 144 and 99 respectively. Notably, American Tree Sparrow, Yellow Warbler and Clay-colored Sparrow have much lower capture rates than previous years. Unusual

species that were captured this fall were 3 Brown Creepers, 5 Western Palm Warblers, and 2 Canada Warblers.

Table 2. Birds caught in mist nets at Beaverhill Bird Observatory fall 2013.

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	TOTAL
Alder Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	0	1
American Goldfinch	8	0	1	0	0	9
American Redstart	19	2	0	0	0	21
American Robin	2	0	0	0	0	2
American Tree Sparrow	27	0	0	0	0	27
Black-and-white Warbler	5	0	0	0	0	5
Black-capped Chickadee	27	31	2	0	2	62
Blackpoll Warbler	5	0	0	0	0	5
Brown Creeper	3	0	0	0	0	3
Canada Warbler	2	0	0	0	0	2
Cedar Waxwing	9	1	0	0	0	10
Clay Colored Sparrow	4	1	1	0	0	6
Common Yellowthroat	4	0	0	0	0	4
Downy Woodpecker	4	4	0	0	0	8
Gray Catbird	1	1	0	0	0	2
Hairy Woodpecker	1	2	1	0	0	4
Hermit Thrush	7	2	0	0	0	9
House Wren	3	3	0	0	0	6
Least Flycatcher	56	6	1	0	1	63
Lincoln's Sparrow	3	0	0	0	0	3
Magnolia Warbler	7	0	0	0	0	7
Myrtle Warbler	154	1	0	0	0	155
Northern Flicker	3	0	0	0	0	3
Northern Waterthrush	2	0	0	0	0	2
Orange-crowned Warbler	34	0	0	0	0	34
Ovenbird	3	0	0	0	0	3
Philadelphia Vireo	2	0	0	0	0	2
Red-eyed Vireo	3	0	0	0	0	3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	8	0	0	0	0	8
Savannah Sparrow	2	0	0	0	0	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	0	0	0	0	1
Slate-colored Junco	27	1	0	0	0	28
Swamp Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Swainson's Thrush	4	0	0	0	0	4
Tennessee Warbler	24	11	0	0	0	35
Trail's Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	0	1
Warbling Vireo	31	2	0	0	0	33
Western Palm Warbler	5	0	0	0	0	5
White-breasted Nuthatch	2	2	0	0	0	4
Willow Flycatcher	2	0	0	0	0	2
Wilson's Warbler	7	1	0	0	0	8
White-crowned Sparrow	2	0	0	0	0	2
White-throated Sparrow	12	0	0	0	0	12
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	0	1
Yellow Warbler	20	0	0	0	0	20
Total	551	71	6	0	3	631

¹ Repeat indicates it was captured with the last 90 days at the bird observatory

² Return indicated it was captured over 90 days before at the bird observatory

³ Other Captures include escaped birds, released without banding

In addition to our 12 standard historical nets, this fall, two new nets were set up further into the willows past 8, 9, and 9X. They have been numbered 50 and 51. They were first operated on September 9th, and were run for the rest of the season. They were run for a total of 197.9 hours. They captured 60.1 birds per 100 net hours, with a total of 119 birds. This capture rate was three

times what was recorded in our standard 12 nets. A breakdown of the species captured is provided in table 3.

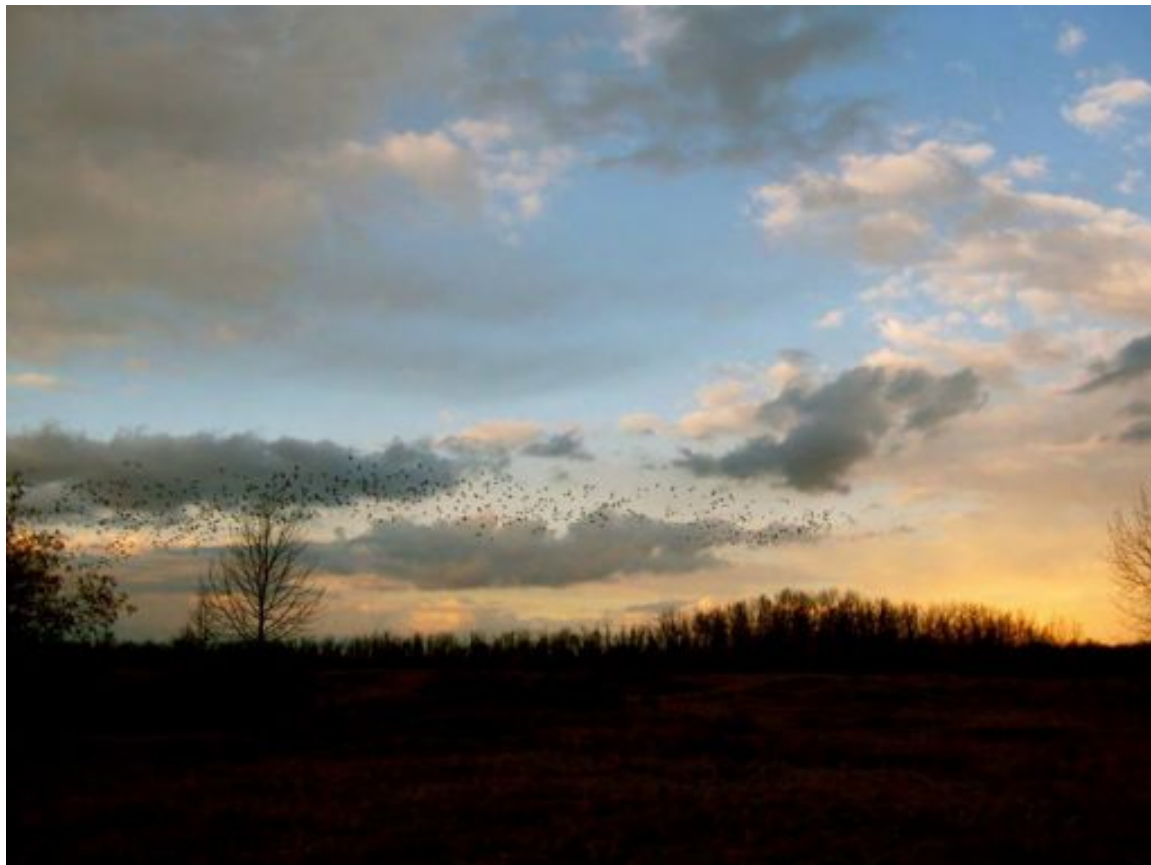
Table 3. Birds caught in mist nets 50 and 51 at Beaverhill Bird Observatory fall 2013.

Species	Banded	Repeat ¹	Return ²	Foreign ³	Other ⁴	TOTAL
American Goldfinch	0	1	0	0	0	1
American Redstart	1	0	0	0	0	1
Black-capped Chickadee	3	5	0	0	0	8
Blue Jay	1	0	0	0	0	1
Clay-colored Sparrow	2	0	0	0	0	2
Downy Woodpecker	2	1	0	0	0	3
House Wren	1	0	0	0	0	1
Least Flycatcher	1	0	0	0	0	1
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Myrtle Warbler	52	1	0	0	0	53
Orange-crowned Warbler	23	0	0	0	0	23
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	0	0	0	0	3
Slate-colored Junco	7	0	0	0	2	9
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	0	0	0	0	2
Song Sparrow	1	0	0	0	0	1
Tennessee Warbler	1	0	0	0	1	2
Western Palm Warbler	5	0	0	0	0	5
White-crowned Sparrow	2	0	0	0	0	2
Total	108	8	0	0	3	119

¹ Repeat indicates it was captured with the last 90 days at the bird observatory

² Return indicated it was captured over 90 days before at the bird observatory

³ Other Captures include escaped birds, released without banding



Birds migrating in the fall!

Saw-whet Owl Fall Monitoring

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Northern Saw-whet Owl fall migration monitoring began on September 10 and was completed on November 17, 2013. Data from September 10 through November 14 was used in analysis to be comparable to previous seasons. A total of 63 nights were covered amounting to 1234.0 net hours. We caught 199 Saw-whet owls (capture rate of 16.1 owls/100 net hours) (Table 3, Figure 2). We had 194 unbanded Saw-whets, five recaptures from within the season. One extra night of banding occurred on November 17, and a Boreal Owl was captured. Three Long-eared Owls were also captured this year.

Table 3. Number of Northern Saw-whet Owls captured at Beaverhill Lake 2002-2013 (Sept 9- Nov 14).

Year	Number of Nights	Number of Net Hours	Number of Owls Captured	Number of Owls/ 100 Net Hours
2002	54	929.0	144	15.5
2003	48	761.0	147	19.3
2004	58	992.0	296	29.8
2005	38	604.0	135	22.4
2006	42	559.5	147	26.3
2007	49	675.5	183	27.1
2008	47	669.5	131	19.6
2009	48	806.5	125	15.5
2010	57	1067.0	304	28.5
2011	55	1130.0	229	20.3
2012	53	1044.0	157	15.0
2013	63	1234.0	199	16.1

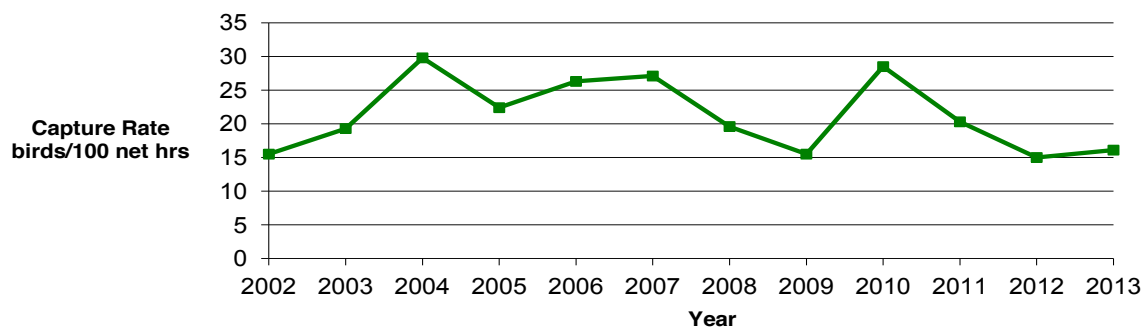


Figure 2. A comparison of capture rates (Saw-whets/100 net hours) between 2002 and 2013 (September 9 to November 14 only).



We also ran our second year of pilot Boreal Owl monitoring. Two additional nets were set about 100 meters away from the Saw-whet Owl net array. The nets were set every night, however, Boreal Owl call was played every second night at the Boreal Owl net array. The Saw-whet Owl call was still played every night at the Saw-whet net array. We captured 2 Boreal Owls and two Saw-whet Owls in these nets.

Pletz Park

Hardy Pletz spent 10 nights between September 25 and October 18, 2013 trapping for Saw-whets at his acreage Pletz Park, south of Millet, and caught 33 Saw-whet Owls (46.5 owls/100 net hour).

Gehlert's Grove

Bob Gehlert ran his fifth year of Saw-whet monitoring at Gehlert's Grove near Lindbrook (west of Tofield) with 2 nets. Bob banded on 40 nights between September 14 and November 5 for 320.5 net hours and caught 96 Saw-whet Owls (capture rate of 29.9 owls/100 net hours). There were 93 owls banded and three encounters of banded owls from the Beaverhill Bird Observatory banding station. The large increase in capture rates last year we believe were a result of changing from songbird mist nets to owl mist nets.

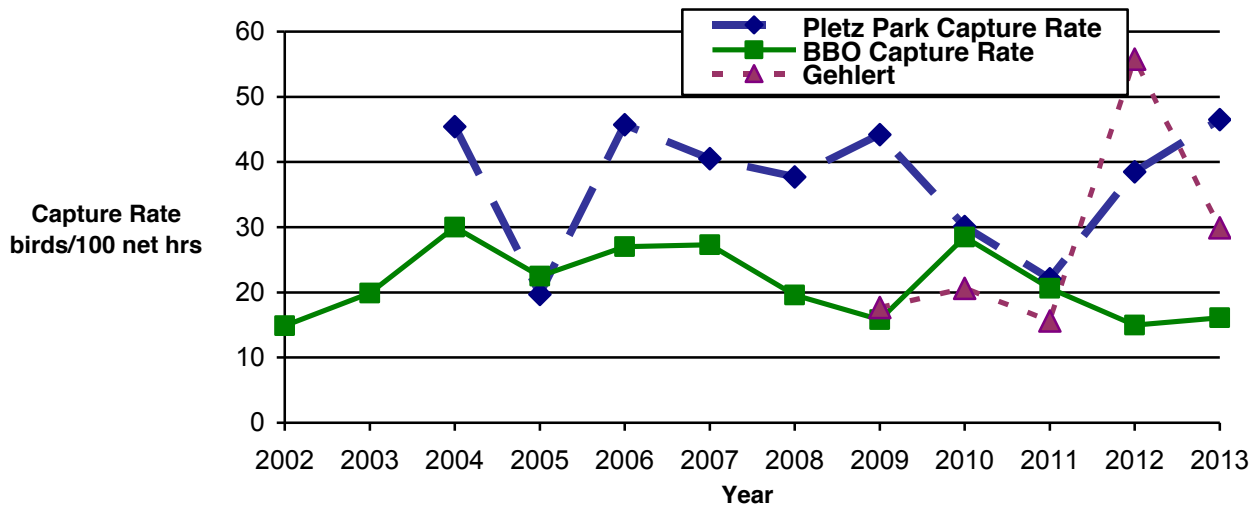


Figure 3. Comparison of Saw-whet Owl capture rates of Pletz Park, BBO, and Gehlert's Grove.

A Long-eared Owl pilot project was started this year, after observing a number of Long-eared Owls in the natural area. One net was run with a call back during three evenings during the fall, for a total of 10.5 hours. This net was set about 100 meters away from the Boreal Owl net, and about 150 meters away from the Saw-whet Owl net. This net was set earlier than the Saw-whet net, and was set at sunset. No Long-eared Owls were caught in this net; however, two were caught in the Saw-whet nets.

Interpretation

Large numbers of visitors came out to Beaverhill throughout the fall to observe the banding. We had University of Alberta students, NAIT Biological Sciences group, homeschoolers, Tofield Outdoor Club, and other groups come to see saw-whet banding. The Annual Steaks and Saw-whets event was once again very successful.

Acknowledgements

Funding and in-kind support from the following agencies is greatly appreciated: Alberta Conservation Association, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service), Shell, and Nature Canada (Labatiuk Endowment Fund). Our work here at Beaverhill Bird Observatory would not be possible without the wonderful staff and volunteers that spend time checking nets, banding birds, and keeping data. Thanks to Kevin Methuen who assisted me in August, and Sian Ford and Sara Pearce Meijerink who kept me company and assisted me throughout the rest of the fall.

Thanks also to those who covered banding days, namely: Geoff Holroyd, Jim Beck, Gerry Beyersbergen, Lisa and Chuck Priestley, Helen Trefry and Bryn Spence. Thanks also to all the Steaks and Saw-whets volunteers and to all the other amazing volunteers that helped throughout the fall.



Thanks also to all those that supported the Beaverhill Bird Observatory and came out for Steaks and Saw-whets! We appreciate your continued support.