



Volume 31 Number 2

April 2018

Annual General Meeting for the Beaverhill Bird Observatory (BBO)

BBO, the oldest bird monitoring station in Alberta and the second oldest in Canada, has banded over 100,000 birds.

Ever wonder where we get our money? Hear first-hand from the Treasurer's report.

Who serves on their Board to keep them moving forward? Meet the Board and vote in the new executive.

Do you want to help these dedicated individuals? Come see how you can volunteer, learn about birds, and have fun with this active bird organization.

Date and time: May 7th 7:00 - 7:30 pm, with a regular executive meeting to follow.

Location: Room 3 at the Strathcona Community Centre (next to Sherwood Park library); 401 Festival Lane, Sherwood Park. The Community Center has 2 hours free parking underground. **Cost:** Free; snacks and drinks provided.

Contact: If you are interested in becoming involved with BBO please contact Geoff Holroyd; chair@beaverhillbirds.com, cell 587-783-9188.

BBO's BIG Birding Breakfast

Saturday June 2nd and Sunday June 3rd



5 am to 11 am Mist netting and bird banding.

7 - 11 am Breakfast of crepes, bacon, fruit and more.

9 am Guided nature walk. Children activities and Crafts

Cost \$20/adult (children 12 and under accompanied by parents free).

Pre-registration and pre-payment required: www.beaverhillbirds.com.

Any questions? helentrefry@gmail.com

Celebrate the return of songbirds migrating through the Beaverhill Lake Natural Area while enjoying a great breakfast. Walk the net lanes with the banders while getting a dose of Vitamin N (Nature). View and learn about our feathered friends while they are banded and released. Located one hour East of Edmonton.

The Banding Lab is Open!

After a late spring, the banding lab opened May 1st. Water continues to flow over the weir. Photos below were taken April 30th (by: Helen Trefry)



BBO has two banders returning this spring. Head Biologist **Kevin Methuen** has returned from Winnipeg after spending the winter writing and applying for funds. Fellow bander **Sara Pearce Meijerink** (below) just finished a very busy winter education program. Thanks to

Meghan Jacklin for her help at BBO as she moves on to a new job with Edmonton & Area Land Trust.

THANKS to Good Court for loaning out “Vinnie” the Peregrine Falcon and “Colonel” the Barred Owl for talks to help out BBOs two Northern Saw-whets owls would not suffice. Thanks to Bill Poulson and Pam Webb for helping out with transportation of the owls. Thanks to Phil Trefry for ongoing housing support of the



educational NSWOs. Thanks to Meghan Jacklin, Amelie Alberto-Charron, Geoff Holroyd and Helen Trefry for volunteering to cover for education events when Sara was double booked in April!

BBO welcomes three new staff this year. Michelle McKay comes to BBO fresh from a camera trap project in Costa Rica. Michelle has a MSc and has extensive banding experience, including working at other banding stations. We welcome Michelle out west for her first time, bringing her extensive field experience with birds, small mammals, bats and other living things!



Jeremy Lambe (left), from Edmonton, was a Young Ornithologist in 2016, completed an Internship conducting lakebed bird surveys in 2017, and has since been a regular BBO volunteer. He has demonstrated his ability to work hard and his love of being outdoors (he even thinks winter camping is a lot of fun :)

Emily Grose (right) recently graduated from the University of Alberta's Augustana Faculty with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology. She brings her biodiversity monitoring experience to BBO. Her hobbies include horseback riding, camping, and figure skating. She absolutely loves being outdoors and is very excited about working with the BBO this summer. Her duties will include assisting Glen Hvenegaard around Camrose with the Purple Martin dispersal and longevity project initiated last year.

BBO's Educational Program reached over 5000 students and 1000 adults this winter!

From November until end of April, Sara and Meghan gave 170 educational presentations to schools, after-school groups (brownies, girl guides, pathfinders, boy scouts) as well as to seniors and adults with disabilities. With another ~20 presentation in May, the BBO will have reached a record number of people with educational talks about birds and given people an up-close opportunity to view a live owl.

Thanks to all the volunteers that helped at the May 1st and 2nd, 2018 Casino:

General Managers Al DeGroot and Assistant Managers Steve Andersen and Stan Nordstrum; Shirley Cromie, Jayne Carre, Deanna and Robin Clee, Andrew Dalwood, Jim Beck, Lisa Takats, Elliot Linklater, Stacey Balon, Meghan Jacklin, Treva Piekema, Emily Cicon, Chris Veervorst, Art Hughes, Lynne Dickson, Ellen Homola, Kim Blomme, Emily Upham-Mills, Joan and Janos Kovacs, Brian Nicolai, Kaitlyn Scaber, Chris Kallal, Thea and Chloe Carpenter, Toby-Anne Reimer, Treva Piekema and Peter Jowle.



Thanks to Irene Crossland for sharing many of her Tofield area bird photos and keeping us up to date on bird arrivals on E-bird. A flock of white-faced ibis has been one highlight.

2019 Western Canada Bird Banding Conference

Dates: 29-31 March 2019

The BBO will host a banding conference for those interested in banding and other methods of studying bird movements. Participants will exchange what we have learned since the last conference in 2010 from talks by featured speakers, western Canadian banding stations, and individuals. This event will finish with an owling field trip to search for Great Grey Owls, Northern Hawk Owls, and other winter birds. This conference is open to anyone from bird banders and students, to interested members of the public. The conference will be held at King's University in Edmonton, Alberta.

Here is the tentative schedule:

Friday March 29 7-9pm. Featured speaker presentation: Steven Price, President, Bird Studies Canada will give a talk entitled "Long Point Bird Observatory: 60 years, One Million Birds, and Beyond".

Saturday March 30 9:00am-4:00pm. Speakers will include CMMN station presentations, and individual presentations about bird biology and monitoring. Break refreshments provided.

Saturday March 30 5:00-8:00pm. Edmonton Nature Club Banquet option – Sawmill Banquet Center. Featured speaker Steven Price, President, Bird Studies Canada "A Century of the Tri-national Migratory Bird Convention: Status of North America's Birds and the Need for More Ambition in Canada!" Purchase tickets directly from ENC in early 2019.

Sunday March 31. Owling and Birding trip.



What is it???

Echinococcus multilocularis!!

Meghan Jacklin found a flying squirrel in late fall, 2018, at BBO. It was in poor condition and was given to Kim Bloome, wildlife rehabber at WILDNorth. The animal died soon after and a necropsy was done. The animal had a heavy cyst load caused by a type of tapeworm common in the northern hemisphere. Normally it is in mice with a wild Canid (foxes, coyotes, sometimes dogs or cats) eating the eggs and acting as the other host. Unless we are eaten by a wild dog, we are not involved in the life cycle so no worries! As far as we can determine, this parasite had not been documented previously in flying squirrels.

Beaverhill Bird Observatory's Geoff Holroyd Young Ornithologists' Workshop: a Natural History Camp August 5-11, 2018

- Are you 15-18 years old and interested in birds and nature?
- Would you like to learn hands on and practice how to identify, sex, age and band birds at the oldest banding station in Alberta?
- Would you like to experience living in a camp setting with other teens, learning from biologists and going on field trips? This is a FREE workshop to successful applicants (you must cover transportation costs to BBO).

Location: Beaverhill Bird Observatory (BBO) near Tofield, Alberta

Check out www.beaverhillbirds.com for information and the application form to attend this workshop. Contact: helentrefry@gmail.com for more information.



Here are some recent Northern Saw-whet Owl encounter records:

Banded at BBO on:

10/09/2016 encountered at Loveland, Colorado on 11/19/2016

10/03/2016 encountered at Grand Forks County, North Dakota on

10/16/2017

10/19/2016 encountered at Ministik Banding Station (Lisa and Chuck Priestley)

Banded at Ministik Banding Station on:

09/27/2017 retrapped at BBO 10/08/2017

09/19/2016 retrapped at BBO 10/09/2017

In the last Willet we reported a Baltimore Oriole banded by Sara Pearce Meijerink 26 May 2017 that was found dead after striking a window in Columbia, South America (22 October, 2017). That story has since been reported in the Edmonton Journal and elsewhere and you can check it out at:

<http://edmontonjournal.com/news/local-news/songbird-banded-east-of-edmonton-turns-up-in-south-america>

THANKS TO OUR FUNDERS

Thanks to all Donors for funding the Beaverhill Bird Observatory, including: the Edmonton Nature Club and private donors for assisting with the Young Ornithologists Program; Alberta Conservation Association, Alberta Liquor and Gaming Commission, TD Friends of the Environment, Community Environment Action Grant, Bird Studies Canada's Baillie Fund, the Wildbird General Store, Serving Communities Internship Program (SCiP), Wildbirds Unlimited, and Nature Canada's Charles Labatiuk Nature Endowment Fund.