

Beaverhill Bird Observatory's Geoff Holroyd Young Ornithologists' Workshop

The **Beaverhill Bird Observatory's Geoff Holroyd Young Ornithologists' Workshop** is a week-long workshop to provide teenagers interested in nature with a practical, working knowledge and aesthetic appreciation of birds and their conservation. The Workshop will run from Monday, **August 2nd to Sunday, August 8th, 2021**. Up to 10 participants, aged 15-18 years old, will be selected. Each morning they will be provided with the opportunity to learn bird banding and identification skills from experienced ornithologists at our field research station east of Tofield, Alberta. In the afternoons they will be introduced to a variety of wildlife from local experts. Applicants do not have to be experienced birders, but they should have an interest in nature, birds and conservation. The BBO will cover all direct costs of the workshop including food, travel for field trips, and professional instruction. Recipients are responsible for their transportation to and from the banding station, tents, sleeping mats and sleeping bags. Tents and mats are available for loan if applicants cannot bring their own.

Students from Alberta are eligible to receive High School credits for this Workshop (with additional work afterwards).

Participants will be immersed in the daily, hands on work of field ornithology while they learn about the BBO's migration monitoring program and MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship) sites and participate in the running of a banding lab. They will improve their bird identification while being trained in the skills and art of handling and banding birds, aging and sexing techniques, bird behaviour and the life histories and conservation concerns of species. The students will also learn about bats, butterflies, raptors and other wildlife. The students will be tenting and sharing camp duties, another necessary skill for a field biologist. Field trips to surrounding areas and talks by experts on natural history topics will be offered in the afternoons and evenings.

Geoff Holroyd is the current Chair of the BBO and a co-founder of the BBO, the oldest banding station in Alberta and second oldest in Canada. Geoff relates how times spent as a youth at Long Point Bird Observatory were instrumental in developing his birding skills and commitment to working with birds as a career. It is the goal of the BBO to continue in this tradition and offer interested youth the opportunity to advance their birding skills while learning about birds and other wildlife in a field situation.

Applicants can apply by sending the completed Application Form that follows to helentrefry@gmail.com.

**BEAVERHILL BIRD OBSERVATORY'S GEOFF HOLROYD YOUNG
ORNITHOLOGISTS' WORKSHOP APPLICATION FORM**

Please return this application and all necessary attachments to:
helentrefry@gmail.com (scan and send) or mail to
Helen Trefry, 20102 Twp Road 512, Beaver County, AB T0B 4J1.
Applications must be received by July 1st, 2021.

Name: _____

Birth Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Applicant's Cell: _____

Applicant's Email: _____

Parent's email: _____

How many species of Canadian birds are you able to identify (circle one)?

30-50 51-75 76-100 101-125 >125

At what age did you become interested in birds and natural history?

Do you have any other hobbies or sports that you like to participate in? What are they?

Do you have camping experience? If so, explain the extent of your experience.

List any natural history clubs or organizations you belong to and how long you have been a member.

How would you evaluate your physical health? (circle one):

Fair Good Excellent

List any allergies you have (please include environmental, food and drug allergies):

Are there any foods that you avoid for health or allergy reasons?

On a separate page(s), please attach the following:

- a) A paragraph about why you want to participate in this workshop.
- b) A paragraph telling us why you think birds, and wilderness in general, are important to conserve.

Parents of successful applicants will be required to sign a release form before the applicant can attend.

Parents'/Guardians' Name(s): _____

Phone number(s) where parents/guardians can be reached:

Home: _____

Cell: _____

Parent's email contact: _____

Please attach a letter of support from one adult reference (for example a teacher, scout leader, head of naturalist club). This letter should attest to your natural history interest and skills, as well as your ability to work as part of a team in a camping situation. The letter of support needs to include the following:

Name of Reference: _____

Position: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number (s): _____