

Steaks and Saw-whets

*October 3 and 4, 2008 at the
Beaverhill Bird Observatory*



Join the Beaverhill Bird Observatory volunteers, staff and executive for an evening barbeque and netting of Northern Saw-whet Owls.

Steaks, chicken, hotdogs, veggie burgers, corn, potatoes, and all the fixings are served. An assortment of homemade desserts is followed by setting up mist nets to capture saw-whet owls on migration. This annual event sells out quickly so please book early to ensure your spot!!

Time: Dinner is served between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. Nets go up at 8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$25 for adults, free for kids under 12.

Contact: For more information and to register, contact Chuck Priestley at (780) 427-8124 or e-mail chuckp@strixenvironmental.ca .

Supported by Alberta Conservation Association and Federation of Alberta Naturalists

FALL Staff Eager for Visitors to the Bird Observatory

The Beaverhill Bird Observatory continues to run banding throughout the fall months (to November 15). Our summer bander Robin Pimm is running songbirds for the 2008 fall season, and Lisa Priestley returns to the lab for evening Saw-whet Owl migration monitoring. We thank Jonathan Martin-DeMoor who is completing his graduate studies at the University of Alberta. We encourage you to come out to the lab to see the banding operations this field season. The colourful songbirds are migrating through on their way to the south (and other unusual captures, see photo right), and the saw-whets are beginning to move through with two banded to date. Read about the latest observations in our bi-weekly updates at: <http://www.beaverhillbirds.com/summaries.php>



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Beaverhill Bird Observatory has been awarded a casino for Thanksgiving weekend, October 11-12. If you are interested in working a shift for us please contact Lisa Priestley lisa@beaverhillbirds.com or phone 780-918-4804. Evening shifts for count room available.

The OWL FILES

Nocturnal Owl Survey 2008 Update

The Alberta Nocturnal Owl Survey is over for 2008. We sent out over 180 routes to volunteers this year. If you were able to complete your survey(s) please submit your data. Our next Willet will contain the results for the season. Thanks for VOLUNTEERING!

Fencing Project Being Completed

As part of our Shoreline Improvement Program, the Beaverhill Bird Observatory has received funding to improve fencing around the Natural Area. We have contracted a local farmer to complete the north fence to enclose the Natural Area. This will ensure that there is no access by cattle to the shoreline around the Natural Area, which can damage the wetlands and reduces water quality. We thank Shell Environment Fund and Mountain Equipment Coop for funding this program.



Beaverhill Bird Observatory Golondrinas de las Americas Project Update

The Beaverhill Bird Observatory has partnered with a new International program. Golondrinas de las Americas is a community of biologists dedicated to studying Tree Swallows and their tropical nearest relatives from Alaska to Argentina, combining detailed studies of the breeding biology of the birds with standardized sampling of the swallows' aerial insect prey. The BBO added 50 Tree Swallow nest boxes to their grid of 50 boxes, and a biologist Shern Kier came to stay lab in June and July to collect data for the program.

For more information on this project see the website: <http://golondrinas.cornell.edu/>

Membership Information

\$10/yr for an individual, \$20/yr for a family, \$25/yr Supporting, \$25/yr Corporate, \$100/yr Sustaining, \$500 (one time) Life Time Membership

Cheques can be made to the Beaverhill Bird Observatory and sent to:
Box 1418, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 2N5

Material for the next newsletter can be sent to: Lisa Priestley, Editor, Box 1418, Edmonton, AB T5J 2N5. Email: lisa@beaverhillbirds.com. Articles and photos can be on bird banding, bird watching, wildlife viewing, personal nature photos, etc. Deadline: August 31, 2008

