

Annual General Meeting

March 4, 2013

at the University of Alberta

Report from our Treasurer, nominations for new board members, and voting in the new executive. Come see how the BBO works.

Time: 7:00 - 7:30 pm, with a regular executive meeting to follow

Location: Weldwood Room, 812 General Services Building, University of Alberta

Cost: Free, snacks and drinks provided.

Contact: If you are interested in becoming involved with BBO contact Lisa Priestley at lisa@beaverhillbirds.com or (780) 918-4804.

New Executive Director Hired

The Beaverhill Bird Observatory is very pleased to announce that a new executive director has been hired. Lisa Priestley is stepping away from the position after a decade of work in this position. Lisa will still be involved with the bird observatory in other capacities. We welcome Amélie Roberto-Charron!!

Amélie is a graduate of the University with a Bachelor of Science with a Specialization in Ecology. You might also recognize her, as she spent last summer working at the Beaverhill Bird Observatory as the assistant bander. Through the winter she worked for an environment consulting company Fiera Biological Consulting. Amélie has gained various experience in the past as the President of the Organization of Botany students, the Science Students' Councillor, and research projects and presentations at the University. She has also spent time banding at various other banding stations in Alberta and with Hardy Pletz trapping Snowy Owls. Our bird observatory has now become bilingual, as she also speaks french fluently!



We welcome Amélie and look forward to having her work with our organization!

Beaverhill Fall Migration Monitoring

Songbirds

Fall migration at Beaverhill Bird Observatory in 2012 was higher than 2011, 2009, and 2008, with 978 birds captured, a capture rate of 26.6 birds/100 net hours (Table 1, Figure 1). The capture rate was lower than the last nine years average of 32.6 birds/100 net hours. A total of 3682.5 net hours were run, 72% of the total 5112 net hours (aerial net was not run) that were possible. Most netting time missed was due to poor weather (rain and wind) in September.

Table 1. 2011 fall songbird banding results from Beaverhill compared to previous ten years.

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Birds Captured	1315	975	1256	1969	1079	892	875	880	701	978
Birds Banded	1093	818	1089	1525	952	723	718	708	589	776
Net Hours	3818.3	3228.5	2787.3	3476.0	3534.0	3399.5	3670.5	3189.5	3677.5	3682.5
Capture Rate (birds/100NH)	34.4	30.2	45.1	56.6	30.5	26.2	23.8	27.6	19.1	26.6
Species Captured	57	60	59	63	52*	58*	51	60*	53	57*

* includes Ruffed Grouse caught in net but not banded

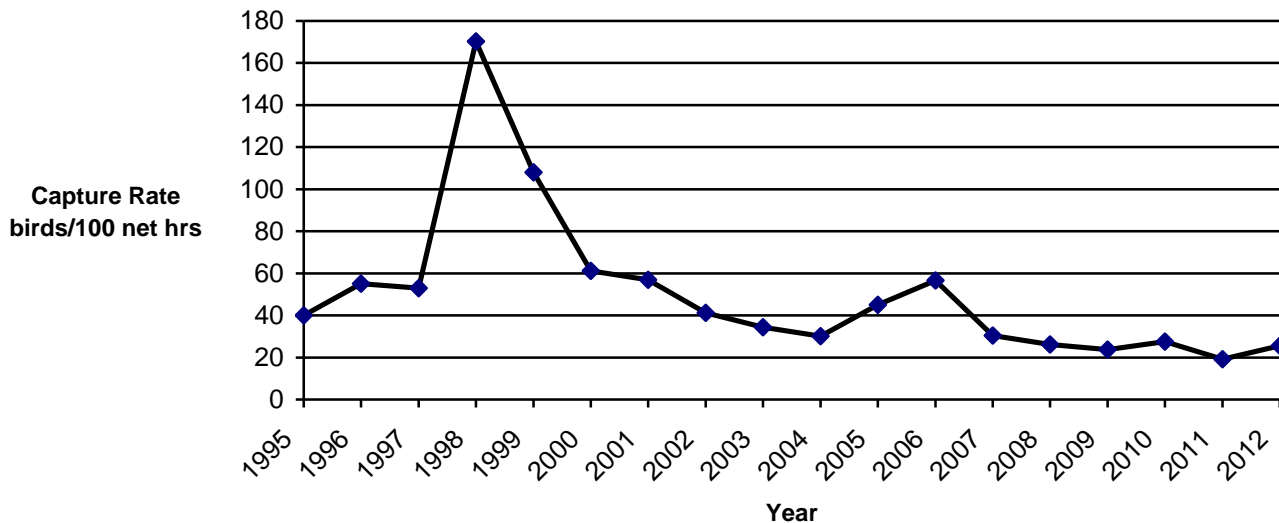


Figure 1. A comparison of fall capture rates (songbirds/100 net hours) between 1995 and 2011.



Top five species representing 61% of the captures were: Myrtle Warbler (217), Least Flycatcher (144), Slate-colored Junco (102), Black-capped Chickadee (99), and American Tree Sparrow (35) (picture left). Both Yellow Warbler and Clay-colored Sparrow have much lower capture rates than previous years. Unusual species that were captured this fall were a Chestnut-sided Warbler, a Nashville Warbler, two Black-throated Green Warblers, and three Sharp-shinned Hawks.

Saw-whet Owl Fall Monitoring

Northern Saw-whet Owl fall migration monitoring began on September 10 and was completed on November 16. Data from September 10 through November 14 was used in analysis to be comparable to previous seasons. A total of 53 nights were covered amounting to 1044.0 net hours. We caught 157 Saw-whet owls (capture rate of 15.0 owls/100 net hours) (Table 2). We had 153 unbanded Saw-whets, two recaptures within the season from our site, one recapture from Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory, and one unknown encounter (still no information on where it is from). Two extra nights of banding occurred after on Nov. 15 and 16, and a single Saw-whet Owl was captured each night. No Long-eared Owls were captured this year.



Sara Pearce Meijerink, volunteer extraordinaire, with two Saw-whet Owls.

Table 2. Number of Northern Saw-whet Owls captured at Beaverhill Lake 2002-2012 (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

Pilot Boreal Owl Monitoring Program 2012

Lisa Priestley

In October, 2012, the Beaverhill Bird Observatory initiated a pilot Boreal Owl netting project. With help from Chuck Priestley, Meaghan Bouchard and Sara Meijerink, a site was chosen, and two additional nets were set about 100 meters away from the Saw-whet Owl net arrays. The nets were set every night from October 20th to the end of season, however, Boreal Owl call was only 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 5 Boreal Owls (October 30, November 4, 6, 12, and 13), 4 in the Boreal Owl nets and one in the Saw-whet Owl nets. No Saw-whet Owls were captured in the Boreal Owl nets. We are hoping to continue monitoring for Boreal Owls in fall 2013, and to test mist netting and audio lures for Long-eared Owls.



THANKS TO OUR CASINO VOLUNTEERS!!

The Beaverhill Bird Observatory fund-raising AGLC casino was held on November 2 and 3, 2012. We would like to express our sincere thanks to all the volunteers that helped with this important fund-raiser!!

Barb Beck
Jim Beck
Mary Blair
Kim Blomme
Meaghan Bouchard
Christine Boulton
Christine Brown
Shaun Cariou
Shirley Cromie
Ray Cromie

Al DeGroot
Jason Duxbury
Warren Fleming
Geoff Holroyd
Alan Hingston
Kelsey Low
Erin Low
Andrea McGregor
Darren McGregor
Rebecca McKinnon

Krista Nuako
Michael Otto
Treva Piekema
Lisa Priestley
Margaret Shane
Toby-Anne Reimer
Amélie Roberto-Charron
Josef Takats
Margaret Takats
Helen Trefry

We would also like to thank our casino advisor Cheryl McNalley for helping with the casino again this year.

Backyard Visitor – What Is It?

This little songbird is common to the Beaverhill area. It breeds on site, however we also catch migrants that are moving north and south in the spring and fall. This species nests on the ground or in low vegetation. One of our board members Richard Knapton conducted detailed studies on this species.

Answer to September 2012 - Townsend's Solitaire



(c) STRIX Ecological Consulting

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 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:

Amélie Roberto-Charron, Editor, Box 1418, Edmonton, AB T5J 2N5.

Email: arobertocharron@gmail.com. Articles and photos can be on bird banding, bird watching, wildlife viewing, personal nature photos, etc. **Deadline:** April 20, 2013.

Join us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/5822270917/>

We gratefully acknowledge Alberta Conservation Association, Community Spirit Program, AGLC, Environment Canada, Shell Fuelling Change Program, Mountain Equipment Coop, and Nature Canada (Charles Labatiuk Fund) for their support.