



Volume 28 Number 1

January 2015

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, March 2nd 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 please contact Amélie Roberto-Charron at (780) 915-1301 or by email at arobertocharron@gmail.com

Happy New Year from the BBO: 2014 Year in Review.

Some of the highlights from the BBO during 2014 in photos.



March 27th King Edward School Hosted a bake sale to support BBO



First bird of the season: Ruby-crowned Kinglet



13 geolocators that were deployed on Tree Swallows in 2013 were recovered. Special thanks to Geoff Holroyd and Helen Trefry!

www.beaverhillbirds.com



May 7th: 2014 had a snowy start to spring.



MLA Fenske came to visit the BBO!



A Ruby-throated Hummingbird nest was found on site.



The 2014 Baillie Birdathon Team!



Alexis and Malicia, two wonderful French volunteers, spent a month on site!



Hundreds of nest boxes were monitored again this year, with the help of interns and volunteers.



The BBO's first annual butterfly count took place this year!



Mist-netting in full bug gear due to mosquitoes.



The 2014 BBO staff: Jerry Gordy, Amélie Roberto-Charron and Kevin Methuen.



In 2014 the BBO was fortunate to have a lot of support from several wonderful volunteers. Thank you for your continued support!



A Least Flycatcher was recaptured that had been banded in Mexico!



A gorgeous Blue-headed Vireo was banded on site.



Saw-whet and Boreal owl banding capped off the field season.



BBO hosted a banding workshop and bird banders from all over Alberta flocked to Tofield.



The BBO collaborated with the Tofield Library and hosted a Family Fun Owl night!

Acoustic Recording Unit Project

Scott Claypool and Amélie Roberto-Charron

This summer at the Beaverhill Bird Observatory (BBO), four Automatic Recording Units (ARUs) were set up throughout the Beaverhill Natural Area. This ARU project was part of a collaborative study between the Bayne lab at the University of Alberta and the Beaverhill Bird Observatory. Once an ARU is set, it takes audio recordings at specified times through the deployment. The ARUs were out at each deployment for a minimum of 2 days. Each deployment required a minimum of two mornings without raining. The ARUs that were deployed by the BBO this summer were set to record the first 10 minutes of every hour for the entire day.

The purpose of this collaboration was to record the different birds in this area. The data collected by the ARUs will be used for a number of projects. The data will determine whether the species of birds that are being banded or observed by the staff throughout the breeding season, June 10th to July 31st, are accurate representations of all the species that are in the natural area. The data will also be analyzed to determine whether Yellow Rails are present and it will be analyzed to determine the effects of roads and trails on species diversity of birds.

ARUs have been used in a variety of different studies. They are compact and easy to set up allowing for multi day deployment. The ARU's are more accurate than visual surveys and are less labour intensive, and allow for a review of the data.

Throughout the breeding season ARUs were set up in pairs in 4 different types of locations: interior habitat, in treed areas, along fences, and along roads. The interior location was always our control and the treed, fence, road were the manipulated variable. The ARUs were set up facing North and with preset settings set up by the Bayne lab that recorded the first ten minutes of the hour every hour for the entire duration of the deployment. Pictures were taken of each ARU once set up to show the ecozone and habitat in which it was deployed. Each ARU was tested upon deployment and upon removal from each location to ensure that the microphones were functioning properly and data would not be compromised.

Some issues arose throughout the process. During one deployment wildlife destroyed both of the microphones on one of the ARUs. It became evident to the staff that the ungulates in the natural area had expensive taste in field equipment.



September 2014 Answer- Cedar Waxwing

Who Am I?

- A male of my species has been recorded singing 466 songs in an hour during the breeding season
- My species is heavily impacted by the loss of mature forests on wintering grounds and the spraying of budworms and other forest pests

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

Interested in getting more involved with the Beaverhill Bird Observatory? Become a volunteer!

Visit our website: www.beaverhillbirds.com or email Amélie at arobertocharron@gmail.com to become a volunteer!

Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/BeaverhillBirdObservatory

Follow us on Twitter

@BBObservatory

And check out our website

www.beaverhillbirds.com

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 15, 2015.

We gratefully acknowledge Alberta Conservation Association, Alberta Sport Recreation Parks and Wildlife Foundation, Community Spirit Program, Environment Canada Science Horizons, Shell Environmental Fund, and Nature Canada (Charles Labatiuk Fund) for their support.