



# the WILLET

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

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## Beaverhill Bird Observatory's Steaks & Saw-whets:

*Friday September 27th and Saturday  
September 28th*

Celebrate the annual fall movements of the Northern Saw-whet Owl through the Beaverhill Natural Area. A steak barbeque with veggies will be served at BBO, followed by setting up mist nets to capture owls for banding. Learn about their biology while observing owls up close. Enjoy the sounds of fall migration and the stars overhead. This popular event sells out so please book early to ensure your spot!

**Online registration required.** Dress for the weather!

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

**Cost:** Members \$30 /person, Non-members \$40/ person can include a \$10 life membership, free for kids under 12 when accompanied by their parents.



If you wish to share home made baking with the group, bring some to share!

**Register:** Purchase tickets on-line at [www.beaverhillbirds.com](http://www.beaverhillbirds.com) ; for more information contact [chair@beaverhillbirds.com](mailto:chair@beaverhillbirds.com)

Photo credit: Sara Pearce-Meijerink with first NSWOW of this season.

**New Staff for Fall Migration Monitoring:** Connor Hawey and Christian Lunn, both experienced banders from eastern Canada, join the BBO Team for the fall. Thanks, Emily, for all your hard work and contagious laugh and good luck in your new career pursuit of becoming a teacher (Photos by Sara Pearce-Meijerink).



While MAPS capture rates were high, Fall capture rates have been slower than last year. However, diversity has been high, including birds rare for our area such as Black-throated Blue Warbler and Philadelphia Warbler (Below, Photos by Sara Pearce Meijerink).





Greg Ottoway (Alberta Parks), Emily Grose (BBO), Sonia Vallochchia (volunteer for 3 weeks!), Karimbar Singh and Jeremy Lambe (BBO); photo by Geoff Holroyd (another volunteer in this huge effort)



**New Signs at BBO!** The replacement of all the signs at the Beaverhill Natural Area started a year ago with Kevin Methuen working with Greg Ottoway (Alberta Parks) to arrange for new ones to be made.

Thanks Greg for this huge improvement to the trail signs. The old signs were whimsical and will be missed, but alas, they required continuous upgrading. Thanks to all the artists over the years!

Road maintenance is another ongoing and ungrateful job. Geoff Holroyd had the help of volunteer Bob Schwartz (THANKS) to fill in some of the worse holes.

Geoff also worked with Peter Dunn to arrange for a Malaise trap to be set out for sampling of aerial insects over the summer, part of a huge NA effort to measure insect abundance.



Thanks to Volunteer John Scott, for building a screen porch for the new staff cabin, "Raven's Roost" so the staff have a chance of entering the cabin insect free! With new flooring and the outside stained, work is now complete (photo Helen Trefry).

The annual BBO Birdathon teams raised more than \$3,000. BBO staff lead a team while Geoff Holroyd and Helen Trefry had another team. Thanks to the donors!





**2019 Interns:** Board Member Laurie Hunt arranged 12 Interns for another busy summer at BBO while Geoff Holroyd continues to be the lead in editing the many intern reports. This year's Tree Swallows interns were Man Yong, Alexis Anderson, Khoi Nguyen, Sara Conner mentored by Sara Pearce Meijrink; Breeding Bird Grid interns Katie Li, Robert Lu, and Sofia Guest were mentored by Geoff Holroyd; House Wren interns Kelly Musgrove and Emily Jamieson were mentored by Emily Grose; Bat Box interns Emily Halajian and Jessa Mae Gualter were mentored by Erin Low and Lynne Burns; and Butterfly intern Britni Gray was mentored by Steve Andersen.

### **Education Program**

The 2018-19 school program ended in June. Stephanie Thunberg compiled an education report with the totals: The outreach program reached approximately 5734 students and 434 adults from 88 different schools. Other presentations were given to approximately 13,051 people at 41 adult and youth group organizations. The Oil Kings Hockey event had the largest impact, reaching over

10,000 people. At that event Sara was featured on the Videotron for two – 5 minute presentations to all the hockey fans.

If you are interested in booking a talk by the BBO staff with a live owl for your school or event, please contact [education@beaverhillbirds.com](mailto:education@beaverhillbirds.com)

Phil and Helen Trefry have been taming an injured wild Northern Hawk Owl received from Wild North. “Hawkeye” will be joining the education team this winter.

### **Geoff Holroyd’s Young Ornithologists’ Workshop 2019**

This 4th year of the Workshop brought participants from BC, AB, ON and QC together. Their enthusiasm for birding and an intrusion of dogs (two pups dumped on BBOs doorstep) made for an interesting week. The group saw 113 species on their Big Birding Day which included staying up most of the night for nocturnal species- all were all ready for a big sleep when they departed!



Sam Bennett, Ethan Denton, Kalin Ocana (BC), Lucas Wessner, Robbie Morrow, staff Karambir Singh, Tessa Frisky, Shayle Didur (QC), butterfly expert David Laurie, Hailey Strydhurst, Helen Trefry with grand-daughter Emma Hudson, Geoff Holroyd; kneeling: Kayla Bezkorow (ON), staff members Emily Grose, Stephanie Thunberg and Sara Peace-Meijerink. Thanks to all for making this a fun week and we hope to see some of you back at BBO, like who Tessa volunteered for a couple of weeks afterwards. (Photo credit: Geoff Holroyd)

Kayla (below), Kalin and Haley.



The skill of handling birds safely (and snakes!) and the art of skulling, taught by Sara, are part of the week.



Sam admires a butterfly; humming bird banding. Shayle and Lucas take a break from butterflies. Photos: Bezkorow and Helen Trefry





## Big Birding Breakfast 2019:



The Big Birding Breakfast in June saw ~80 people attending over 2 days. It is always a great time for friends to meet and share in their love of birds. Thanks to the cooks : Janos (left with Hardy Pletz), Joan Kovacs and Joyce deGroot.

See you at BBO!