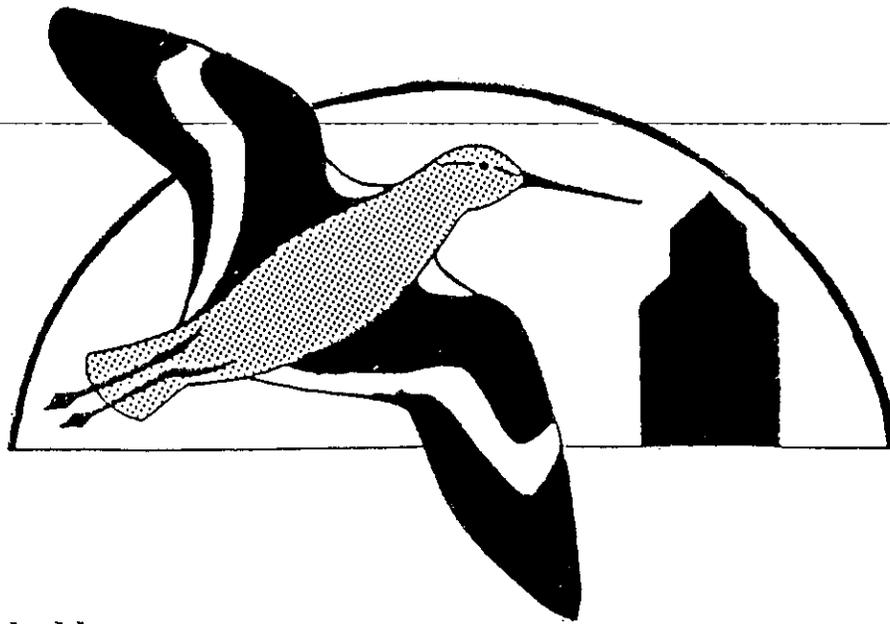


# Beaverhill Bird Observatory

## 1995 Annual Report



Published by:  
Beaverhill Bird Observatory  
P.O. Box 1418  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5J 2N5

September , 1996

Editor: Petra Rowell

The Beaverhill Bird Observatory Society is a non-profit organization composed of a variety of volunteers dedicated to developing an understanding of the birds and other natural history at Beaverhill Lake and elsewhere. A board of elected Directors administers the society and operates the field station as a bird banding, research and interpretive centre.

Membership is open to anyone and includes a subscription to *The Willet* (the BBO newsletter), the opportunity to participate in BBO activities and events (and assist in planning them) and the possibility of training in bird banding.

Two full membership meetings are held each year - one in spring and one in the fall.

The BBO provides support to amateur, student and professional field naturalists in pursuing studies of bird life and related fields at Beaverhill Lake and elsewhere. Student field staff are employed to man the station during the summer months.

Membership fees are:

Individual	\$10
Family	\$20
Corporate	\$25
Supporting	\$25
Sustaining	\$100
Life	\$500

Tax deductible donation receipts are available. If you wish to join, please send your name, address and phone number, along with a cheque for the appropriate amount (made out to the Beaverhill Bird Observatory) to:

The Treasurer,  
Beaverhill Bird Observatory  
P.O. Box 1418  
Edmonton, AB  
T5J 2N5

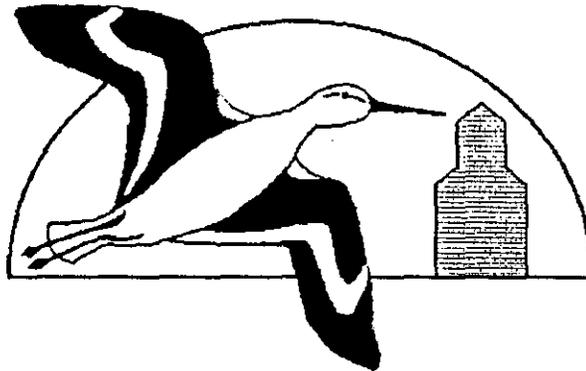
## DEDICATION

The Beaverhill Bird Observatory 1995 Annual Report is dedicated to the late **Professor Emeritus W. Ray Salt** whose monumental effort to promote an understanding and appreciation of local birds has left all Albertans a lasting legacy.

*When he first heard I was working as a summer student at Beaverhill Lake, my favorite Great Uncle gave me his favorite birding book - **The Birds of Alberta** by Ray and Jim Salt (1976). At the time, I had no idea what a treasure I had just received! Ten years later, I cannot count the number of times I have gone to this reference to learn more about Alberta birds, or the number of times friends and family without their own copy have tried to borrow mine! Ray Salt's **Alberta Vireos and Wood Warblers**, published by the Provincial Museum of Alberta in 1973, is another great reference that I know has helped many a young summer student working at the Beaverhill Bird Observatory. Although I never had the opportunity to meet Ray Salt before his death on June 6, 1996, I feel a great deal of admiration for the tremendous effort put into these works - gifts - that in this family, will be as useful to the next generation, as they were to the last three.*

*Petra Rowell  
September, 1996*

# WANTED



## BIRD SIGHTINGS FROM BEAVERHILL LAKE

AREA: SOUTH OF HWY 16; NORTH OF HWY 14  
EAST OF ROAD 834; WEST OF NORTH/SOUTH ROAD THAT  
RUNS DOWN EAST SIDE OF LAKE

**YOU CAN HELP BY:**

1. WRITING YOUR SIGHTINGS IN THE GUEST BOOK AT THE BBO LAB
2. PHONING YOUR SIGHTINGS OF THE DAY TO THE COMPILER
3. COLLECTING SEVERAL CHECKLISTS OVER A SEASON AND MAIL TO COMPILER.
4. LISTING YOUR SIGHTINGS IN THE NOTEBOOK PROVIDED AT ONE OF THE BIRD BLINDS (FRANCIS VIEWPOINT; WEIR)

**Send sightings to: Record Compiler, Beaverhill Bird Observatory,  
P.O. Box 1418, Edmonton, AB T5J 2N5**

(ANNONYMOUS SIGHTINGS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED, PLEASE LEAVE NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER AND DATE OF SIGHTINGS)

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Tables  
List of Figures  
Introduction

### Committee Reports:

1. Executive Committee
  - 1a. The 1995 Executive
  - 1b. Chairman's Year-end Report
  
2. Financial/ Fundraising Committee
  - 2a. Fundraising Report/ 1995 Sponsors
  - 2b. Treasurer's Report
  
3. Scientific Research/Projects Committee

---

  - 3a.i) Overall Bird Banding Totals at Beaverhill Bird Observatory in 1995
  - ii) Migration Monitoring Report for Beaverhill Bird Observatory
  - iii) Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS)
  - 3b. Repeats, Returns and Recoveries
  - 3c. 1995 Sight Records Report
  - 3d. Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory Project
  - 3e. The 1995 Peregrine Falcon Survey
  
4. Education Committee
  
5. Publications Committee
  
6. Interorganizational Cooperation

Acknowledgements  
Literature Cited

## **List of Tables**

Table 1. Birds banded at the Beaverhill Bird Observatory in 1995.

Table 2. Noteworthy returns of birds banded at the BBO.

Table 4. Recoveries and Foreign Events of the BBO since 1980.

Table 5. Sightings at the Beaverhill Bird Observatory in 1995.

## **List Of Figures**

Figure 1. Access map of the Southeast corner of Beaverhill Lake.

Figure 2. Access map of the Southeast shore of Lesser Slave Lake.

Figure 3. Weekly capture rates at the BBO in 1995.

---

## **INTRODUCTION**

Beaverhill Lake is a large, shallow body of water situated in the aspen-parkland ecoregion

## INTRODUCTION

Beaverhill Lake is a large, shallow body of water situated in the aspen-parkland ecoregion of central Alberta. Near the Town of Tofield, approximately 70 km SE of Edmonton, it is a popular place to bird watch. With its large mudflats, extensive grassland/willow complexes and surrounding aspen forest, this area is a haven for many species of wildlife. In the spring and fall, the lake provides a staging ground for migratory waterfowl, shorebirds and passerines.

Because of the rich diversity of wildlife in the Beaverhills area, many studies have been conducted here by people like William Rowen and Robert Lister (Lister, 1979), Dick Dekker (1991), and Roy Fairweather (1993). Ducks Unlimited has also completed several waterfowl projects in the area, such as providing spring waterfowl staging areas and breeding islands in Lister Lake. Beaverhill Lake has gained international recognition under the RAMSAR wetland agreement and has been declared a Natural Viewpoint by the Canadian Nature Federation. The Alberta Government has also declared the southeast corner and Pelican and Dekker Islands as Natural Areas, with the Beaverhill Bird Observatory as Natural Area Steward.

The Beaverhill Bird Observatory (BBO) was founded in 1984 as a joint committee of the Edmonton Bird Club and Edmonton Natural History Club. Now an individual society, the BBO is a non-profit, volunteer organization that conducts a variety of projects at the "lab" situated at the southeast corner of Beaverhill Lake (Figure 1).

1995 also marked the third year of operations at the Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory (LSLBO). The LSLBO station was initiated in 1993 as a pilot project of the BBO and the Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park. This site is located on the east shore of Lesser Slave Lake, in Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park (Figure 2). The area around the site seems to be one containing a high concentration of migrating birds in the spring and fall, with a composition of summer resident birds different from that of Beaverhill Lake. This area is nestled in between the large Lesser Slave Lake and Marten Mountain, the highest point in the Pelican Mountain area. These two obstacles may funnel the birds through the site during migration.

The primary function of both stations is bird banding and censusing as part of the Canadian Network of Migration Monitoring Stations and the North American Monitoring of Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) programs. This annual report will summarize these and other activities at the BBO and the LSLBO in 1995.

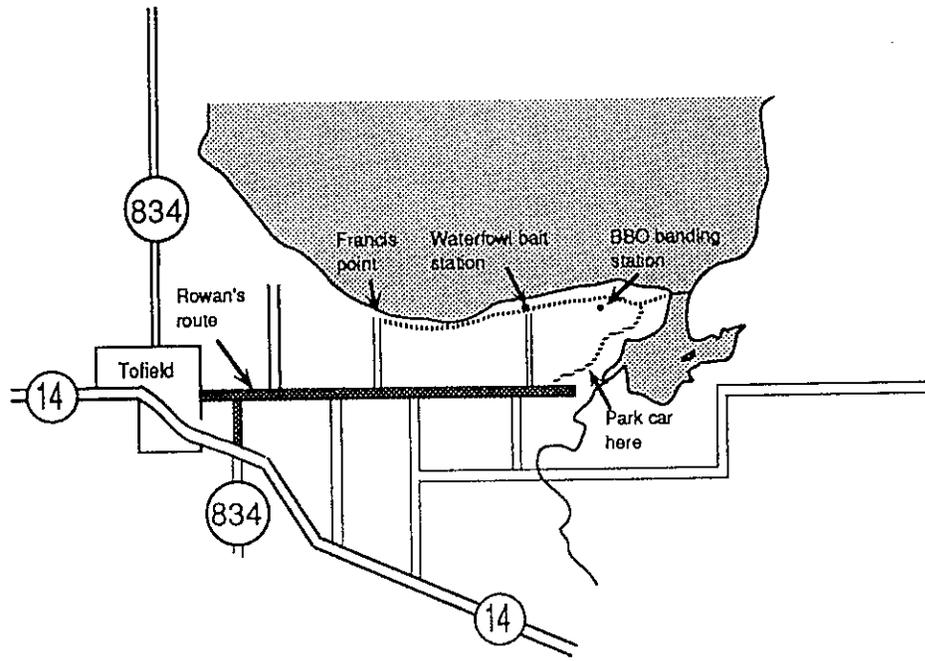


Figure 1 - Access map of Southeast corner of Beaverhill Lake.

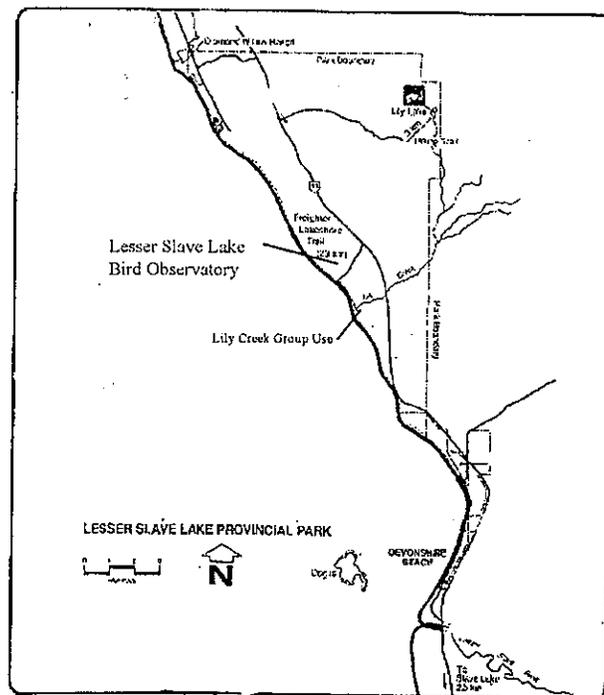


Figure 2 - Access map of Southeast shore of Lesser Slave Lake.

## 1995 BEAVERHILL BIRD OBSERVATORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

### 1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The goal of the Executive Committee is to use financial, human and physical resources effectively and responsibly to ensure the growth and continuation of the Beaverhill Bird Observatory Society.

#### 1a. The 1995 Executive (prior to November elections):

Past Chairman	Geoff Holroyd
Chairman	Petra Rowell
Vice-Chairman	Jason Duxbury
Treasurer	Elson Olorenshaw
Editor	Doug Collister
Directors-at-large	Rick Chabaylo (Bird-a-thon coordinator)
	Ross Dickson (Compiler)
	Al Degroot (Building Maintenance)
	Jim Faragini (Building & Equipment)
	Stefan Jungkind ( L.S.L. Field Projects)
	Roy Fairweather (B.L. Stakeholders liaison)

---

#### 1b. Chairman's Year End Report - Petra Rowell

For the BBO's 12th year of operations, past Chairman Geoff Holroyd handed over the reins of leadership to *the next generation*. The new executive got down to business almost immediately with executive meetings graciously hosted by Jim Faragini. A normally bleak February was brightened up with a visit from our eastern cohorts - Michael Bradstreet and David Hussell - from the Long Point Bird Observatory in Ontario. Editors Jason Duxbury and Josh Bilyk also helped to pass the month of February by providing us with some entertaining reading from the BBO 1993 Annual report.

Continuing his efforts to locate Alberta birds wintering in Guatemala, Geoff Holroyd returned to that country with Helen Trefrey in February. This time however, rather than spending time assisting a U.S team on the east coast, the two focused on the potential to inventory wintering birds in the highlands and the possibility of starting our own project in the Pacific Slope area of Lago de Atitlen.

In March, Doug Collister produced a revised BBO newsletter re-titled *The Willet* and given a zippy new look by artist Al Degroot. Ross Dickson (Edmonton) and Dave Zuberbier (Slave Lake) provided assistance as regional compilers. As well, Roy Fairweather produced a new calender checklist, that judging from Treasurer Elson Olorenshaw's sales figures, is a big hit!

April brought another Snow Goose Festival. Once again, Josh Bilyk and Geoff Holroyd organized tours to and demonstrations at the lab. May saw staffers Rechel Amores and Laura Blonski get underway with summer banding programs at the lab.

May Long weekend brought the First Lesser Slave Lake Songbird Festival to the newly formed Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory. The LSLBO, chaired by Marion Whitby, officially formed as a subcommittee of the BBO in 1994, moved a "lab" on site in January 1995, put in the necessary amenities during an Easter workbee, gave their first school tour April 29 and had summer staffer Lisa Zuberbier start summer programs a day later! Is there anything this group can't do?! To round off a busy month, Ric Chabaylo organized another successful Baillie Bird-a-thon the end of May.

After enduring a rather wet and windy stay, summer staff handed over the banding pliers to Kevin Hento for the month of September. Jim Faragini and Al Degroot again undertook the task of cleaning up the lab in mid-October. Local landowner Pat Nolan graciously agreed to store a pile of our non-perishible stuff. November saw the BBO Annual General Meeting with an entertaining slide show by Steve Lane.

All in all, a busy year made possible by a number of generous volunteers. To those listed above and everyone else who gave in some way, I thank you all for making our 12th year not only successful, but fun too!

## 2. FINANCIAL/ FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The goal of this committee is to develop and maintain a strong financial position to support all BBO activities - to provide adequate funds for BBO operations and projects.

### 2a. Fundraising Report/ 1995 Sponsors

Work conducted in 1995 would not have been possible without the support of the Alberta Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation, J.B. Baillie Memorial Fund, Canadian Wildlife Service, Employment and Immigration Canada (SEED), Alberta Advanced Education and Career Development (STEP), ECOTRUST Foundation, Canada Trust, Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park and many individual supporters.

### 2b. Treasurer's Report - Elson Olorenshaw

#### Beaverhill Bird Observatory Society BALANCE SHEET Dec 31, 1995

#### ASSETS

##### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash	4,304.82	
Bank	<u>0.00</u>	
Cash: Total		4,304.82
Accounts Receivable		4,250.00
Advance LSL		<u>483.86</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>9,038.68</b>

##### FIXED ASSETS

Building	1,400.00	
Computer	600.00	
Donation Boxes	541.00	
Banding Equipment	1,100.00	
Display Board	527.00	
Refrigerator	577.04	
Solar Panels	<u>845.00</u>	
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>		<b>5,591.04</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>5,591.04</b>

**TOTAL ASSETS** 14,629.72

#### LIABILITIES

##### CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	<u>1,250.00</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,250.00</b>

##### TOTAL LIABILITIES

1,250.00

#### EQUITY

##### EQUITY

Capital	9,506.06
Current Earnings	<u>3,873.66</u>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>13,379.72</b>

##### TOTAL EQUITY

13,379.72

##### LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

14,629.72

Beaverhill Bird Observatory Society  
 INCOME Jan 1,1995 TO Dec 31,1995

REVENUE

EXPENSE

REVENUE		
Memberships		530.00
Grant-Alta Govt Step	3,524.40	
Grant-Baillie Fund	6,000.00	
Grant-CWS Songbird	7,000.00	
Grant-Can Govt SEED	2,800.00	
Grant-Can.Gov.SEED ISL	2,450.00	
Grant-RPW	5,600.00	
Grant-Ecotrust	15,000.00	
Grant-Can.Trust	<u>2,000.00</u>	
Total Grants		44,374.40
Donations	4,246.67	
Donation Box- Gate	48.13	
Donation Box- Lab	<u>12.25</u>	
Total Donations		4,307.05
Baillie Fund Pledges		128.00
Interest		124.89
GST Refund		253.96
Sales-Checklists	235.75	
Sales- Prairie Waters	19.00	
Sales- Calendars	813.00	
Sales- Pins	4.00	
Sales- T-Shirts	24.95	
Sales- Pancake B'fast	0.00	
Sales- Misc	100.00	
Sales- Nat'l Geo Birdbook	55.00	
Snow Goose Fest. Income	124.50	
Songbird Festival LSLBO	<u>1,988.00</u>	
Net Sales		<u>3,364.20</u>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>53,082.50</b>

EXPENSES		
Office- Mail Box	104.86	
Office- Stationery	109.51	
Office- Postage	363.53	
Office- Printing	201.31	
Office- Network	37.75	
Office- Reports/manuals	540.52	
Telephone	88.15	
Office- Misc	<u>192.35</u>	
Total Office Supplies		1,637.98
Insurance		725.00
Property Taxes		75.41
Bank Charges		82.71
Repairs & Maintenance		3,070.57
Nets & Poles		2,120.70
Bands & Equipment		0.00
Snow Goose Fest.Expense	92.31	
Sale Items- Prairie Waters	0.00	
Sale Items- Calendars	324.41	
Songbird Festival	<u>1,627.03</u>	
Sale Item Cost - Total		2,043.75
Memberships		50.00
Travel Exp - LS Lake	1,723.34	
Travel Expense- BBO	575.00	
Travel Expense- Gua.	<u>1,961.78</u>	
Total Travel Expense		4,260.12
GST Expense		0.00
Wages-LS Lake	16,771.70	
Wages-BBO	11,299.29	
UI Expense	1,638.09	
CPP Expense	<u>0.00</u>	
Total Wages & Benefits		29,709.08
Computer		1,817.93
Scale		421.58
Radio		750.00
Solar Panels		1,662.09
Peregrine Project	<u>1,627.92</u>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>50,054.84</b>

TOTAL REVENUE 53,082.50

TOTAL EXPENSE 50,054.84  
 INCOME 3,027.66

### 3. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH/ PROJECTS COMMITTEE

The goal of this committee is to develop, promote, implement and publish quality, field-oriented surveys and research on birds and other wildlife at Beaverhill Lake and elsewhere.

#### 3a i) Overall Bird Banding Totals at the Beaverhill Bird Observatory in 1995.

Bird banding activities at Beaverhill Bird Observatory were carried out on 81 days in 1995. Spring banding got underway May 1 and work continued later into the fall (October 13) than previous years. Overall, a total of 5,380.75 net hours saw only 1,430 new birds banded (Table 1). Hence, despite a good effort, bird numbers were appalling low in 1995 at the BBO and at a site on the east side of the lake where Edgar Jones runs a banding operation. While migrant species, for the most part, did not reflect much change from previous years, local breeders such as Yellow Warbler and Least Flycatcher, were significantly lower. As of yet, no corresponding change in weather or lake levels can explain this poor season for local songbirds.

The number of species captured in 1994 was 54. The top five species with the highest numbers caught were Least Flycatcher (268), Yellow-rumped Warbler (206), Yellow Warbler (108), Orange-crowned Warbler (91), and Black-capped Chickadee (78). Interesting captures included a Western Wood Peewee, 4 Blue Jays, 18 Purple Finch and 2 Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Banding effort was a combination of staff and volunteer commitment in 1995. Field personnel Rechel Amores, Laura Blonski and Kevin Hento did an excellent job overseeing breeding and migration programs. As well, a number of volunteers provided invaluable assistance over the summer including Josh Bilyk, Tony Blonski, Jim & Josh Faragini, Al Degroot, Jason Duxbury, Geoff Holroyd, Elson Olorenshaw, Warren Schaffer and Lisa Takats.

Table 1. Birds banded at Beaverhill Bird Observatory in 1995.

Species	# Banded	Species	# Banded
Hairy Woodpecker	2	Blackpoll Warbler	24
Downy Woodpecker	3	Chestnut-sided Warbler	2
Northern Flicker	2	American Redstart	34
Western Wood Peewee	2	Yellow Warbler	108
Eastern Phoebe	6	Palm Warbler	3
Traill's Flycatcher	30	Orange-crowned Warbler	91
Least Flycatcher	268	Tennessee Warbler	56
Tree Swallow	8	Common Yellowthroat	4
Barn Swallow	3	Wilson's Warbler	6
Blue Jay	4	Ovenbird	4
Black-capped Chickadee	78	Northern Waterthrush	10
Red-breasted Nuthatch	9	White-throated Sparrow	26
Brown Creeper	2	White-crowned Sparrow	7
House Wren	24	Chipping Sparrow	22
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	24	American Tree Sparrow	36
Golden-crowned Kinglet	3	Clay-colored Sparrow	66
Gray Catbird	1	Song Sparrow	5
American Robin	7	Lincoln's Sparrow	19
Swainson's Thrush	49	Savannah Sparrow	16
Hermit Thrush	7	Slate-colored Junco	36
Cedar Waxwing	2	Red-winged Blackbird	8
Red-eyed Vireo	4	Yellow-headed Blackbird	1
Philadelphia Vireo	4	Brown-headed Cowbird	25
Warbling Vireo	27	Baltimore Oriole	3
Magnolia Warbler	15	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2
Yellow-rumped Warbler	206	Purple Finch	18
Black and White Warbler	2	American Goldfinch	6
Total Individuals			1430
Total Species			54

### 3a ii) Migration Monitoring

Although monitoring the movement of spring and fall migrants through Beaverhill Lake has always been a central part of the BBO's activities, a formal Migration Monitoring Protocol was adopted in 1992 (Duxbury 1994). Similar to the Long Point Bird Observatory protocol, daily banding totals, census tallies and estimated daily totals are combined to estimate spring and fall migration numbers.

In 1995, spring migration was monitored on 26 days between May 1 and June 7. Approximately 680 birds of 39 species were caught during this period with a capture rate of 37 birds per 100 net hours. This rate was comparable to the spring capture rate of 1994 (35 birds per 100 net hours).

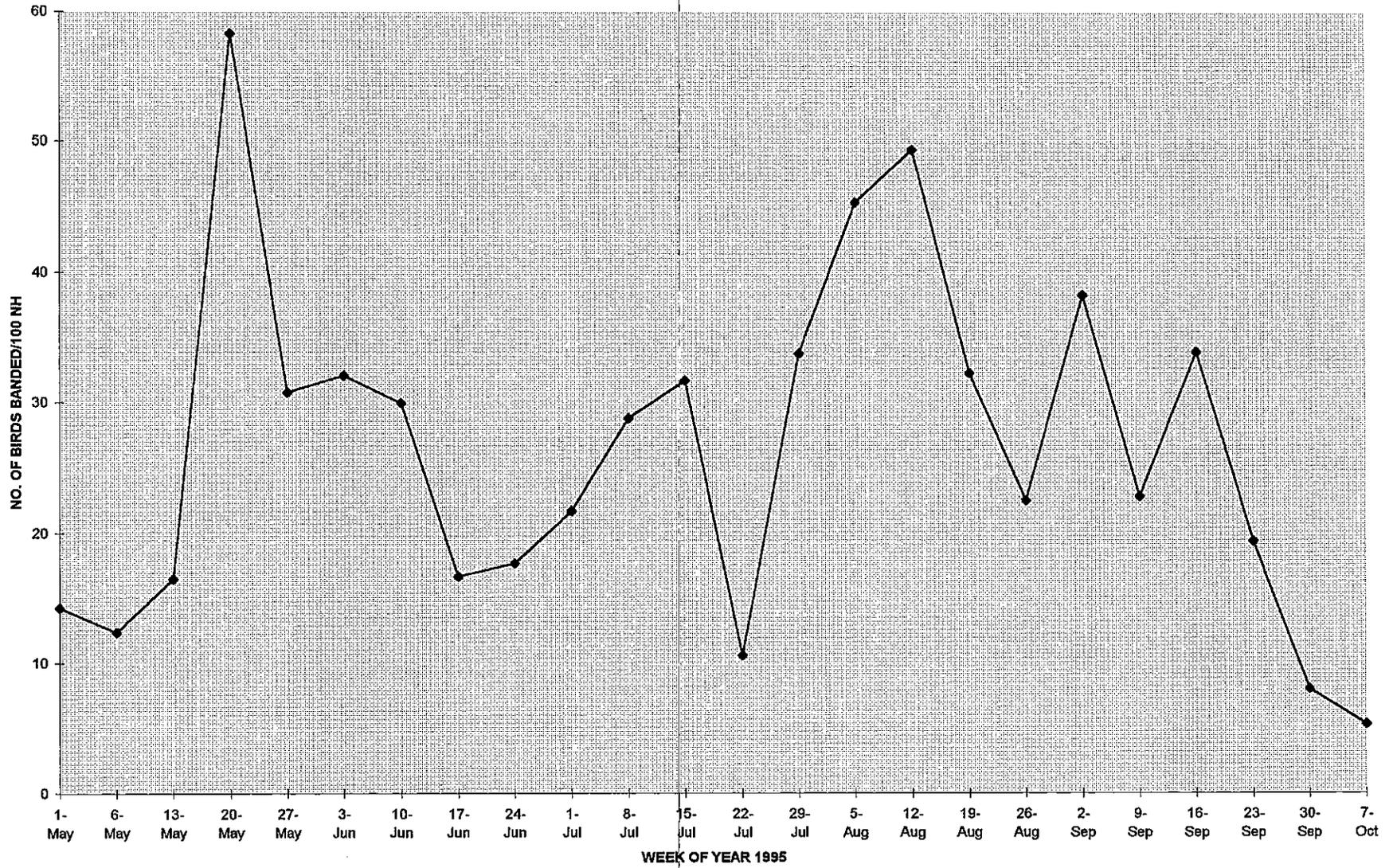
Although one would expect the number of birds censused to increase in the fall, indicating a successful breeding season, this did not occur in 1995. Fall migration was monitored on 45 days (between August 1 and October 13). Approximately 1102 birds of 49 species were caught during this period. With a fall capture rate of 40 birds per 100 net hours, the fall migration roughly equaled that of spring and appears to indicate a very poor breeding season. Although the summer of 1995 was somewhat wetter and cooler than previous years, precipitation was only recorded a total of 9 days in July and August at the BBO.

### 3a iii) Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship Project (MAPS)

For the seventh year in a row, the BBO participated in the continent wide MAPS project. This project, organized by the Institute for Bird Populations in Point Reyes, California, uses a standardized protocol of at least 6 mist nets used one day out of each 10 day period for 6 periods through the breeding season. The project measures the rise in population during the summer (the increase due to the hatch year birds or productivity) and keeps track of the subsequent returns of those birds banded in previous years (survivorship).

MAPS banding was conducted on 13 days at two MAPS stations at the BBO in 1995. Approximately 157 individuals of 21 species were banded during the MAPS period. Continental results for 1995 have not yet been published, however Desante & Burton (1994) have written a report of the first four years of the project, 1989-1992.

FIGURE 3. WEEKLY CAPTURE RATES



### 3b. Repeats, Returns and Recoveries

For the most part, captures made at the BBO are of unbanded birds handled for the first time. However, approximately 20% of captures are retraps - banded birds found in the nets. These retraps fall into three categories; repeats, returns and foreign encounters.

Repeats, birds caught and banded, then recaptured in the same summer, make up the majority of retraps. Returns, birds found in the mist nets with bands from previous years, provide interesting survivorship information. These birds, banded at the BBO, have migrated at least once to their wintering grounds, or managed to survive at least one central Alberta winter, and returned once more to be recaptured at Beaverhill Bird Observatory. Well known for their site fidelity, several Yellow Warblers have returned to Beaverhill six or seven years after they were originally banded. In 1995, there were no age records added to table 2 below.

"Foreign encounters" are birds retrapped at the BBO that were originally banded by someone other than BBO members or BBO members banding somewhere other than at the observatory. Although finding a foreign bird in the nets at the BBO is a rare event, it does happen on occasion (Table 4).

Equally rare are events where a bird banded by the BBO is found somewhere other than at Beaverhill Lake. Table 4 outlines some interesting recoveries to date.

Species	Band Number	Year Banded	Age/Sex at Banding	Year of Return	Minimum Age
Yellow Warbler	1750 53798	1987	AHY/M	1993	7
American Goldfinch		1987	AHY/M	1992	5
Red-winged Blackbird	762 34167	1987	ASY/M	1991	6
Tree Swallow		1987		1992	5

Table 2. Some noteworthy age records for birds banded and returned to Beaverhill Lake.

Birds banded by BBO but recovered elsewhere:					
Species	Banding Data:			Recovery data:	
	Age/Sex	Date		Location	Date
Marbled Godwit	AHY/F	June 15/83		Monterey Bay, Calif.	Mar. 25/84
Least Flycatcher	U/U	Aug. 13/89		Chiquimula, Guatemala	Apr. 15/91
Tree Swallow	L/U	Jul. 3/89		Long Lake, Minnesota	Jun. 28/90
Black-capped Chickadee	HY/U	Jun. 29/88		Tofield, Alberta	Jul.29/89
Black-capped Chickadee		Jun 27/90		Cooking Lake, Alta.	Jun. 18/ 95
Yellow Warbler		Jul.29/89		Beaverhill Lake (east side)	May 25/95
Myrtle Warbler	HY/U	Sept.8/90		Macon, Georgia	Jan 19/91
Mourning Warbler	HY/U	Aug.18/94		Whitewater Lake, Man.	Aug. 29/94
Purple Finch	AHY/F	Jul.13/88		Lougheed Alta.	Apr. 24/89
Foreign Encounters (Birds recovered at BBO but banded elsewhere)					
Species	Banding Data:				Recovered at the BBO:
	Age/Sex	Date	Bander	Location	
Tree Swallow	HY/U	Jun 21/88	H. Pletz	Kingman, Alta.	Jun. 7/89
Tree Swallow	SY/F	Jun 25/82	C. Finlay	Cooking Lake, Alta.	Jun. 3/87

Table 4. Recoveries and Foreign Encounters of the BBO.

### 3d. The Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory Year-end report - Lisa Zuberbier

The Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory (LSLBO), located in the Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park (see Duxbury & Rowell, 1995 for a complete site description), was operated as a sub-committee of the Beaverhill Bird Observatory in 1995. The committee was chaired by Marion Whitby, and with directors Edith Maron (Secretary), Dave Zuberbier (Communications), Kevin Stephenson (Computers), Stefan Jungkind (Projects), Petra Rowell (Director-at-large) and Frank Fraser (LSLPP liaison). This project was initiated in 1992 with the purpose of monitoring migrant landbird and summer resident populations.

The 1995 field season at LSLBO began on April 29 and ran through to September 24. Total birds captured at the station was 3,488: 1050 during spring migration, 337 during the summer breeding program (MAPS), and 2101 during the fall migration period. A total of 53 species were captured during spring migration, 22 species during MAPS Project and 54 species during fall migration.

Highlights of spring migration include banding a Grey-cheeked Thrush (May 21), a Harris Sparrow (May 25), a Bay-breasted Warbler (June 4), a Black-throated Green Warbler (June 9), three Veerys (May 9,10), four Fox Sparrows (May 4), a Chestnut-sided Warbler (June 5) and sighting a Western Meadowlark (May 1).

No unexpected sightings were recorded during the MAPS Project however a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers were believed to be nesting within the study area. Also a Winter Wren was present throughout the breeding season although no mating activity was ever observed.

Highlights of the fall migration include the sighting of Caspian Terns (Aug. 23-24), banding two Bay-breasted Warblers (Aug. 14, 16), a Nashville Warbler (Aug. 4), a Connecticut Warbler (Aug. 22), and three Black-throated Green Warblers (Aug. 6,7). LSLBO set a new daily record in 1995 with a total of 180 birds banded on August 25.

A generous grant from the ECOTRUST Foundation allowed the LSLBO to expand greatly in 1995. Frank Fraser, Marion Whitby (sub-committee Chair), and other LSLBO members were able to secure a building that was pulled on to the site prior to the field season. Volunteers made improvements to the building in the form of shelving, windows and

doors. As well, funds from the grant were used to equip the observatory with nets and poles, electronic scales, a computer and other valuable items.

LSLBO field staff in 1995 included Lisa Zuberbier and Sherrilynn Lessard. As well, a number of contract days were fulfilled by Colleen Johnston, Steve Lane, Kevin Hento and Matthew Smith. Volunteer support increased in 1995. Colleen Johnston was our primary volunteer and deserves special recognition. Other volunteers that lent their much appreciated support over the season included Debbie Strickland, Kellan and Jerry Sunderland, Ann Zuberbier, Melanie McLaughlin, Cheryl Dash, Carla Otto, Andrew Lukat, Aaron Lehman, Jason Duxbury, Gordon Frith, Rainer Ebel, Stefan Jungkind, Steve Lane, Jeff Ingram, Rachel Amores and Laura Blonski.

In addition, a number of volunteers put in substantial amounts of time organizing The First LSL Songbird Festival and improving the site before this event including Marion and Ian Whitby, Ian and Colleen Johnston, Al Degroot, Frank Fraser, Dan Tarney, Kevin Stephenson and Roxanne Anderson. This event, held on May 20-21, had approximately 275 people in attendance. Banding demonstrations and guided walks were offered by field staff, special guest Dr. James Butler, and several BBO volunteers including Geoff Holroyd, Elisabeth Beaubien, Petra and Kim Rowell and Al Degroot.

Other events at the observatory included demonstrations to the H. Gish School of St. Albert, the Roland Michener High School of Lesser Slave Lake, the Lesser Slave Lake Church Organization, Weyerhauser, and the Junior Forest Wardens. Overall, the LSLBO recorded 815 visitors over the summer ranging from local Slave Lakers to international travellers from as far away as England.

### 3e. 1995 Peregrine Falcon National Survey

In 1995, the BBO was asked to coordinate a local volunteer effort to assist in a national Peregrine Falcon survey being organized in Alberta by the Canadian Wildlife Service and the Department of Environmental Protection Natural Resources Service.

For this worthy cause, the BBO applied to Canada Trust's *Friends of the Environment Foundation* for a grant to cover volunteer travel expenses of approximately \$2,000.00.

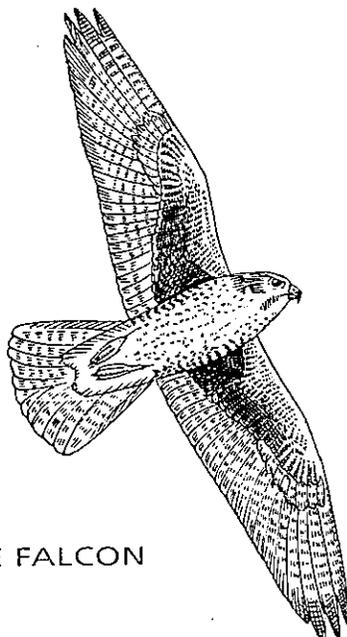
Although hampered by poor weather over the summer, several volunteers did manage to travel to and survey areas of historical peregrine activity in and around the Greater Edmonton area. Overall, 9 individuals committed 35 man-days to survey 10 areas with total expenditures claimed of \$1,627.92. (Remaining funds of \$372.08 were held over to encourage volunteers to survey the Greater Edmonton Area for peregrines again in 1996.)

Results were extremely encouraging for this endangered species! Along with three pairs breeding in the city in 1994, a fourth pair was located in northeast Edmonton in 1995 on the Beverly Bridge on the Yellowhead Highway. As well, a number of peregrine sightings were reported for the stretch of the North Saskatchewan River from Devon to Ft. Saskatchewan. These sightings provide strong evidence that more breeding pairs will be located in this area in the near future.

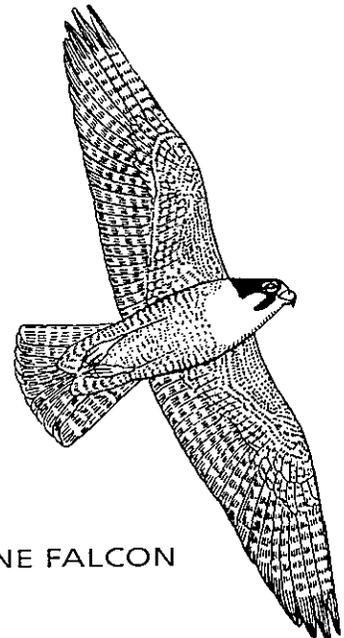
Many thanks goes to several volunteers who reported peregrine sightings or who undertook surveys including Ray Cromie, John Moore, Trevor Roper, Sean Ollinger, Gordon Court, Petra, Kim, and Michael Rowell. A special thank you goes to Dick Dekker for his extensive coverage of the Beaverhill drainage and other sites along the North Saskatchewan. This project would not have been possible without the assistance of Canada Trust who's generosity allowed the BBO to participate in a national survey of an endangered species.



MERLIN



PRAIRIE FALCON



PEREGRINE FALCON

#### 4. PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The goal of this committee is to educate the public and promote community interest in the value of birds and the natural world through organization and participation in seminars and outdoor activities related to wildlife at Beaverhill Lake and elsewhere.

##### 4a. Tours, Events and Visitors in 1995

The first "fieldtrip" undertaken in 1995 was the February Guatemala expedition organized by Geoff Holroyd as reported previously. A little closer to spring, the BBO was one of many participants in the annual Tofield Snow Goose Festival that saw thousands of people visit the area as well as at least 200 visitors to the lab itself. Geoff Holroyd and Josh Bilyk helped serve up hot chocolate and cookies, as well as a few words about banding, to many of these visitors.

In May, the BBO again participated in the Baillie Bird-a-thon. Richard Chabaylo organized the Alberta portion of this nation-wide event that netted the BBO approximately \$3,000 this year. The Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory and Calgary Bird Banding Society also participated in this event in 1995.

Groups visiting the lab include a tour of Calgarians led by Don Stiles. Petra Rowell and Hugh Campbell led a tour through the Edmonton Natural History Club. Other visitors to the lake included 130 individuals that stopped at the lab long enough to sign the Guest Book. These visitors hailed from as far away as Ghana, P.E.I., Boston and California.

---

Both a spring and fall General Meeting were held in 1995. In the spring, Michael Bradstreet and David Hussell came west to discuss some exciting new developments at Long Point Bird Observatory and the new offices of Bird Studies Canada. In November, several members gathered at the John Janzen Nature Center to view an entertaining slide show on bird-banding created by Steve Lane.

## 5. PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The goal of this committee is to develop an awareness and community interest in birds and natural history through publication. In 1994, the BBO newsletter was revised and renamed "The Willet". Other publications that have resulted from activities of the BBO include:

Campbell, L. (ed.) 1991. *Beaverhill Bird Observatory 1990 Annual Report*. Beaverhill Bird Observatory, Edmonton.

Dunn, P.O. 1989. The maintenance of monogamy in Black-billed Magpies and Tree Swallows. PhD dissertation, University of Alberta, Edmonton.

Dunn, P.O. and Hannon, S.J. 1990. Intraspecific competition and maintenance of monogamy in Tree Swallows. *Behavioural Ecology* 2(3): 258-266.

Duxbury, J. 1994. *The Beaverhill Bird Observatory Operations Manual*. Beaverhill Bird Observatory, Edmonton.

----- 1994. *The Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory Operations Manual*. Beaverhill Bird Observatory, Edmonton.

----- 1995. *Beaverhill Bird Observatory 1993 Annual Report*. Beaverhill Bird Observatory, Edmonton.

----- and Rowell, P. 1996 *Beaverhill Bird Observatory 1994 Annual Report*. Beaverhill Bird Observatory, Edmonton.

Ebel, G.R.A. 1985. An abnormally coloured Yellow-rumped Warbler. *Alberta Naturalist* 15(2): 78.

----- 1986. Highlights from the Beaverhill Bird Observatory Annual Report 1984. *Edmonton Naturalist* 14(4): 6-14.

----- 1986. *Beaverhill Bird Observatory Annual Report*. Edmonton Bird Club.

---

Holroyd, G (ed.) 1987. Beaverhill Bird Observatory 1985 Annual Report. *Edmonton Naturalist* 15(2): 5-11.

Jungkind, S. 1988. *Beaverhill Bird Observatory 1986 Annual Report*. Beaverhill Bird Observatory, Edmonton.

----- 1988. *Beaverhill Bird Observatory 1987 Annual Report*. Beaverhill Bird Observatory, Edmonton.

----- 1990. Activities at Beaverhill Bird Observatory 1988 and 1989. *Edmonton Naturalist* 18(1): 9-13.

----- 1990. *Beaverhill Bird Observatory 10 Year Report (1980-1989)*. Beaverhill Bird Observatory, Edmonton.

Quinn, M. 1989. Factors regulating the breeding population, reproductive success and mating system of House Wrens at Beaverhill Lake, Alberta. M.Sc. thesis, University of Alberta, Edmonton.

----- 1990. Nest-site and prey of a pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks in Alberta. *Journal of Raptor Research* 25(1): 18-19.

----- and Holroyd, G. 1989. Nesting and egg destruction by House Wrens. *Condor* 91: 206-207.

Rowell, P. (ed.) 1993. *Beaverhill Bird Observatory 1992 Annual Report*. Beaverhill Bird Observatory, Edmonton

Rowell, P. (ed.) 1996. *Beaverhill Bird Observatory 1995 Annual Report*. Beaverhill Bird Observatory, Edmonton.

## 6. INTERORGANIZATIONAL COOPERATION

The goal of this committee is to communicate and promote participation of volunteers and organizations of a similar nature in cooperative bird projects at Beaverhill Lake and elsewhere.

### 6a. Interorganizational cooperation in 1995

The last few years have been very active for the BBO with three expeditions to Guatemala and a new banding station at Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park. As well as undertaking these cooperative ventures, the BBO has also become a part of a network of bird monitoring stations across Canada with the Migration Monitoring Protocol and across North America with the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship project. Other projects that have brought attention to Beaverhill Lake include a production by Sherry Kozac featuring neotropical migrants and a segment of John Acorn's Nature Nut series filmed at Mundare Beach.

Closer to home, Roy Fairweather continues as the BBO representative on the Beaverhill Lake Stakeholders committee. This committee has provided input to The Town of Tofield on The Beaverhill Lake Interpretive Plan released in 1994 identifying Beaverhill Lake as a special place for birds and several guidelines to increase awareness and appropriate use of the lake in the future. As well, the stakeholders group, under the direction of Gerry Beyersbergen (Canadian Wildlife Service) is in the process of nominating Beaverhill Lake as Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network site. To provide the information for this nomination, Ducks Unlimited and CWS coordinated a number of shorebird surveys over the summer with staff and volunteers. Roy Fairweather has tabulated these results in the sightings section of this report.

To strengthen coordination between organizations, the Calgary Bird Banding Society became a corporate member of the BBO in 1995. Efforts to facilitate volunteer and data sharing, newsletter and promotional items, and fundraising efforts will be made in the future.

## **Acknowledgements**

The editor of this report wish to thank those who contributed information for reports including Josh Bilyk, Jason Duxbury, Rick Chabaylo, Ross Dickson, Geoff Holroyd, Elson Olorenshaw and Lisa Zuberbier. A special note of thanks goes to Roy Fairweather who compiled an overwhelming amount of sightings data. As well, Kim Rowell assisted with chart production. A final thank you to the BBO membership for being so patient in waiting for this report. Thank you all.

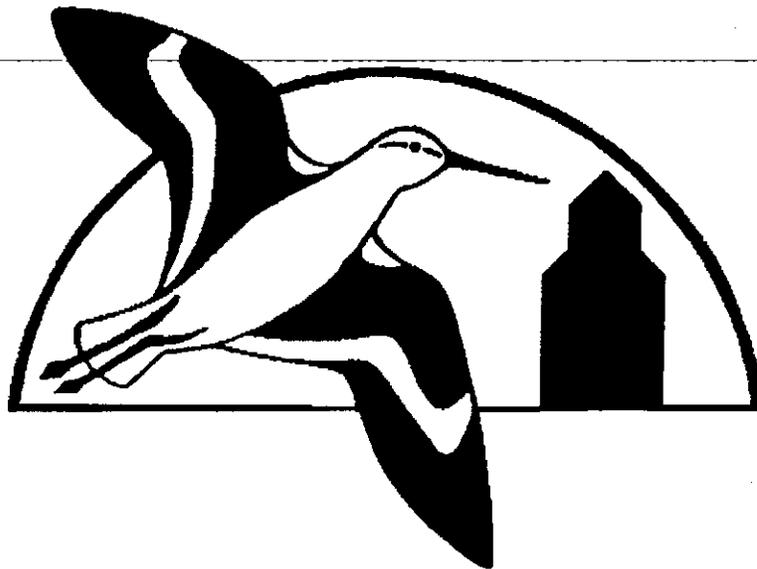
## **Literature Cited**

DeSante, D.F. and Burton, K.M. 1994. *The Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program Third Annual Report*. The Institute for Bird Populations, Point Reyes, California.

---

# Beaverhill Bird Observatory

## 1995 SIGHT RECORDS REPORT



**Published by:**

**Beaverhill Bird Observatory  
P.O. Box 1418  
Edmonton, AB  
T5J 2N5**

**September 1996**

**Compiled by:**

**Roy Fairweather**

# 1995 BEAVERHILL LAKE SIGHT RECORDS

- compiled by Roy Fairweather for the Beaverhill Bird Observatory

## 201 Species Reported

This Sight Records Report is a compilation of all the bird sightings that were submitted to the Beaverhill Bird Observatory (BBO) for the year 1995. Unlike past years this report does not include general public sightings. The bulk of the information comes from BBO Daily Totals that include census route and banding information. Independent reports from recognised birders (Dick Dekker, Edgar T. Jones (includes banding totals), Ross Dickson and Bob Carroll) were essential to this report. Ducks Unlimited conducted a comprehensive census of shorebirds at Beaverhill Lake in 1995. This report, submitted by Michael Barr, accentuated the vast numbers of species and individuals of spring migrant and breeding shorebirds.

Beaverhill Lake continued to drop in depth in 1995. The Pelican Islands are no more than a peninsula now although other islands are forming. Shorelines, especially on the west, are becoming vast beds of marsh ragwort. The changing dynamics of the lake are subtly modifying how some species of birds use the lake. In 1993 Western Grebe were noted consistently from mid-April to mid-September. In 1995 only one sighting of 10 birds was recorded. In 1993 Eared Grebe were seen in large numbers (200-300). In 1995 fewer sightings of small flocks of usually less than 35 birds were made. American White Pelican were noted from mid-April to the end of August, 1993 in numbers reaching 300. During the summer of 1995 only sporadic sightings were made and these often small flocks of 3 or 4. In 1993 Double-crested Cormorant were seen in large numbers of 50 to 150 birds, whereas in 1995, only 1 - 3 birds were seen on any one day. Black-crowned Night Heron, in 1993 were recorded from mid-April to the second week in August with numbers reaching 30 or 40 birds. In 1995, 1 or 2 birds were seen on occasion and none after June 20. The pattern of less sightings, fewer birds held true for White-winged Scoter, California Gull, Forester's Tern and Common Tern.

The Ducks Unlimited Census poignantly points out the vast numbers of shorebirds visiting Beaverhill Lake each spring. It should be noted that these numbers are considered conservative. Even so, with totals on May 19 and 24 being over 50,000 on each date it can be stated with no hesitation that Beaverhill Lake is a very important staging area for shorebird species. This report emphasised to the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network that Beaverhill Lake indeed should be a member (and is, as of 1996). Thirty-two species of shorebirds were recorded for 1995.



## NOTEWORTHY SIGHTINGS FOR 1995

PIED-BILLED GREBE	1 - JUNE 2 (BBO)
WESTERN GREBE	10 - MAY 6 (ROSS DICKSON)
ROSS'S GOOSE	APR 22-23 (SNOW GOOSE FESTIVAL CHECKLIST - SGF)
BRANT	1 - APRIL 18 & APRIL 21 (ROSS DICKSON)
CINNAMON TEAL	2 - SEPT 9 (BEAVERHILL BIRD OBSERVATORY - BBO)
EURASIAN WIGEON	3 - APRIL 18 & 20 (ROSS DICKSON), 1 - APRIL 29 (BBO)
RING-NECKED DUCK	APR 22-23 (SGF)
GREATER SCAUP	4 - APRIL 20 (BOB CARROLL)
BARROW'S GOLDENEYE	1 - JULY 4 (BOB CARROLL)
HOODED MERGANSER	1 - JULY 4 (BOB CARROLL)
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER	1 - MAY 4 (BBO)
NORTHERN GOSHAWK	1 - APRIL 22 (ROSS DICKSON)
BROAD-WINGED HAWK	1 - MAY 27 (EDGAR T. JONES), 1 - AUG 25 (BBO)
GOLDEN EAGLE	1 - APRIL 29 (ROSS DICKSON), 1 - MAY 24 (BOB CARROLL)
PRAIRIE FALCON	1 - JULY 26 (DICK DEKKER), 1 - SEPT 13 (DICK DEKKER)
RING-NECKED PHEASANT	1 - APRIL 2 (ROSS DICKSON)
SHARP-TAILED GROUSE	5 - MAY 27 (EDGAR T. JONES)
YELLOW RAIL	1 - MAY 21 (BOB CARROLL), 2 - MAY 21 (BOB STORMS) *2 MILES NORTH OF HWY 16
PIPING PLOVER	(DUCKS UNLIMITED - DU) SEE SEPERATE REPORT
UPLAND SANDPIPER	1 - AUG 28 (BOB CARROLL)
WHIMBREL	MAY 13 (DICK DEKKER), 1 - MAY 19 (DU), 1 - MAY 21 (BOB STORMS), 6 - MAY 24 (DU), 6 - MAY 27 (DU), 1 - MAY 29 (DU)
HUDSONIAN GODWIT	MAY 6 (DICK DEKKER), 21 - MAY 19 (DU), 2 - JUNE 2 (DU), 2 - JUNE 3 (BBO), 3 - JUNE 12 (BBO), 4 - JULY 4 (BC), 6 - JULY 18 (BC), 33 - AUG 1 (DU), 4 - SEPT 7 (BC)
WESTERN SANDPIPER	1 - MAY 6 (ROSS DICKSON)
DUNLIN	2 - MAY 21(BOB CARROLL), 2 - MAY 21(BOB STORMS)
JAEGER SPECIES	3 - MAY 25 (DICK DEKKER)
HERRING GULL	1 - MAY 22 (BOB STORMS)
BARRED OWL	1 - SEPT 16 (BBO)
LONG-EARED OWL	1 - AUG 29 (BBO)
NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL	1 - OCT 4 & 5 (BBO)
PILEATED WOODPECKER	1 - SEPT 16 (BBO)
GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER	1 - JULY 4 (BOB CARROLL)
BROWN CREEPER	1 BANDED - SEPT 6 (BBO), 1 BANDED - SEPT 20 (BBO)
VEERY	1 BANDED - MAY 27 (EDGAR T. JONES)
GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH	2 - MAY 21 (BOB CARROLL), 1 - MAY 27 (EDGAR T. JONES)
GRAY CATBIRD	1 - MAY 27 (EDGAR T. JONES), 1 - BANDED JUNE 19 (BBO), 1 - JULY 18 (BOB CARROLL)
NORTHERN SHRIKE	1 - MARCH 19 (ROSS DICKSON)
SOLITARY VIREO	1 - AUG 21 (BBO) CENSUS ROUTE
PHILADELPHIA VIREO	BANDED 1 - JUNE 27, 1 - JUNE 29, 1 - AUG 10, 1 - AUG 16 (BBO)
PALM WARBLER	1 - MAY 6 (ROSS DICKSON), 1 - BANDED SEPT 8 (BBO), 1 - BANDED SEPT 23 (BBO), 2 - SEPT 26 (BOB CARROLL)
OVENBIRD	1 BANDED ON EACH OF AUG 16, 20 & 22(BBO), 1 - BANDED SEPT 6 (BBO)
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH	2 - BANDED MAY 21 (BBO), 1 - BANDED MAY 16, 1 - BANDED MAY 22 (BBO), 2 - BANDED AUG 11 (BBO), 1 - BANDED AUG 16 (BBO), 1 - BANDED AUG 22 (BBO)
MOURNING WARBLER	1 - JUNE 4 (BBO) CENSUS ROUTE, 1 - JUNE 5 (BBO) CENSUS ROUTE
WILSON'S WARBLER	1 - BANDED MAY 27, 2 - BANDED AUG 28 & 30(BBO), 1 - BANDED SEPT 13, 17 & 18 (BBO)
WESTERN Tanager	MAY 27 (BOB CARROLL)
ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK	MAY 22 (BBO), MAY 27 (EDGAR T. JONES), AUG 17 (BBO)
SMITH'S LONGSPUR	100 - MAY 15 (D. DEKKER), 60 - MAY 16 (B. CARROLL), 3 - SEPT 7 (R. DICKSON), 6 - SEPT 26 (BC), 1 - OCT 30 (R. DICKSON)
RUSTY BLACKBIRD	APR 22-23 (SGF)
EVENING GROSBEAK	1 - MAY 7 (BBO)

## 1995 Shorebird Census - Beaverhill Lake, Alberta

-as submitted by Michael Barr of Ducks Unlimited

Beaverhill Lake has long been recognised as key amongst prairie wetlands for many species of wetland-dependent migratory birds. Various surveys have occurred on portions of the lake over many decades, however no comprehensive census has ever been conducted to determine its exact continental standing.

During spring and summer of 1995, DU, Bob Carroll and NAWMP staff undertook such a census with several objectives in mind:

- i) to increase professional knowledge toward our expanded commitment beyond waterfowl (ie. More Than Ducks initiative).
- ii) to facilitate an ecosystem - level understanding of the lake and associated wetland complexes thereby directing future habitat securement and enhancement.
- iii) to assist our partners (namely CWS) in determining precise status and subsequently seek recognition for its continental significance for shorebirds (under the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Network, WHSRN).

A total of 8 census were conducted between May 9 and August 16 requiring 21 field person - days. During the intensive period (May 19, 24, and 29), a crew of two observers each censused one of four quadrants of the lake proper while a fifth crew censused inland wetlands immediately south and east of the lake and inland wetlands were omitted. All census were conducted by all - terrain vehicles (quads) and adhered to procedures outlined in the Prairie Shorebird Survey Program (CWS) with the exception of the final census (August 16) which was conducted aurally by fixed - wing aircraft. Rising lake levels in early August precluded further ground census.

**Twenty - six shorebird species** were identified with **178,627 individuals** tallied during 8 outings. Peak counts occurred on May 19 and 24 producing 50,169 and 52,334 individuals respectively. Shorebird highlights included: Buff-breasted Sandpiper (70), large numbers of Black-bellied Plover (7829), Whimbrel and several breeding pairs of Piping Plovers (later observed with young). Certain shorebird species such as Pectoral Sandpiper and Hudsonian Godwit indicated a preference for inland backflood wetland. Numerous Peregrine Falcons, Bald and Golden Eagles, breeding concentrations of Short - eared Owls, White Pelicans and Sharp - tailed Grouse were other noteworthy sightings.

All participants gained considerably from the experience as did our ecosystem level understandings of this important wetland complex. Gerry Beyersbergen (CWS) is currently making (note: since been accepted) application for Beaverhill Lake under the WHSRN system as a proposed regional or international status site.

**DUCKS UNLIMITED SHOREBIRD CENSUS 1995**

Species/Date	May 9	May 11	May 19	May 24	May 29	June 2	July 21	Aug 1	Aug 16
SMALL SHOREBIRD SP.	5140	5402	32642	20235	16740	302	2213	5832	4984
MEDIUM SHOREBIRD SP.	32		9400	2335	920	42	5127	3023	501
LARGE SHOREBIRD SP.			312	113			142	25	49
OTHER SHOREBIRDS			1750	2					100
BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER	83		14	7829	169	340		166	6
LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER		2	10	3	25				
SEMPALMATED PLOVER	13	10	124	1	21		2	400	
PIPING PLOVER			1	4	2		1	1	
KILLDEER	5	1	59	43	65	77	28	55	
AMERICAN AVOCET	157	182	699	1073	935	445	97	235	279
YELLOWLEGS SP.	108		85	3	2		608	1726	1216
WILLET	13	1	59	46	40	24	10	46	1
SPOTTED SANDPIPER			15	6				14	
WHIMBREL			1	6	1				
HUDSONIAN GODWIT			21	0		2		33	
MARbled GODWIT	17	11	57	51	61	41	48	48	2
RUDDY TURNSTONE				430	35	16			
RED KNOT			2	905		515			
SANDERLING			3	171	2072	1980		15	
SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER			<del>120</del>	<del>7218</del>	<del>1434</del>				
LEAST SANDPIPER		56	400	18	23		5		
WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER			1	3	64				
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER			67	567	1765				
PECTORAL SANDPIPER			839	7	233	6	3		
STILT SANDPIPER			323	217	6		9	8	
BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER					70	7			
DOWITCHER SP.	153	42	2972	1158	215		297	3298	2500
COMMON SNIPE			25	7	16				
WILSON'S PHALAROPE	14		128	191	66	63	540	227	
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE			40	9692	1926				
TOTAL BIRDS	5735	5707	50169	52334	26906	3860	9130	15152	9638
TOTAL SPECIES	9	8	24	24	23	12	12	14	6

## 1995 Sightings By Dick Dekker

The following information is condensed from reports that were sent to Michael Barr of Ducks Unlimited and Roy Fairweather, BBO.

Dick writes:

"Compared to your comprehensive survey (DU), I only walked the north shore, usually back and forth between the NW bay where Ross Creek flows in, to the peninsula extending east of the windmill on the Stonehouse access trail. On some days, especially with westerly winds, I paid a quick visit to the mid-west shore on either side of, what I call the West Bay.

I made a total of 9 visits to the lake in April and 14 in May. Following are first dates for some species, rough guesstimates of the total shorebirds seen, and major species on the big dates. I must admit that my main focus was not on counting birds but on observing peregrine activity (over 100 sightings)."

### First Dates for Species:

12 April	- (no shorebirds seen to this date)
18 April	- avocet
22 April	- greater yellowlegs
23 April	- killdeer
25 April	- marbled godwit
30 April	- lesser yellowlegs
1 May	- willet
4 May	- peep spp.?
6 May	- dowitcher, Hudsonian godwit, semipalmated plover
10 May	- stilt sandpiper
13 May	- whimbrel
17 May	- black-bellied plover, golden plover, red knot, red-necked phalarope
19 May	- white-rumped sandpiper
21 May	- sanderling, dunlin
27 May	- buff-breasted sandpiper

### Dates when totals over 100

6 May	- 3500		(200 dow. 3000 peeps)
7 May	- 1500		(400 dow. 1000 peeps)
10 May	- 750		(200 dow. 500 peeps)
13 May	- 10,500	Strong northerly winds	(10,000 peeps, 500 stilts)
15 May	- 35	Strong south-easterly	
17 May	- 10,000	Strong northerly	(8000 peeps, 2000 stilts)
18 May	- 12,000	Gale force northerly	(10,000 peeps, 2000 stilts)
19 May	- 1000	Westerly	
21 May	- 3200	Westerly	(800 stilts, 400 peeps, 2000 phal.)
25 May	- 50,000?	Northerly after rain	(mostly peep and phal.)
27 May	- 250	Very light winds	
31 May	- 5000	Light winds	Plover, knot, phal., peep, stilts All along NW and west shores

### **Peregrine Falcon Sightings**

First sighting of 1 falcon on April 30, 1995

During May peregrines on the following dates with total sightings and minimum number of birds seen, identified as to age group, either adult or immature.

<u>May</u>	<u>Sightings</u>	<u>Ad.</u>	<u>Imm.</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Sightings</u>	<u>Ad.</u>	<u>Imm.</u>
1	1	1		21	8	3	3
4	1	1		25	12+		6
6	7	4		27	4		3
7	4	3		31	0		
10	2						
13	10	6					
15	2		2				
17	12	2	5				
18	12	1	3				
19	15+		8				

**Unusual Birds** were few: 100 odd Smith Longspurs - 15 May  
 3 Jaegers (unid.) - 25 May  
 1 Peregrine and 1 Prairie Falcon, side by side on fence posts - July 26  
 1 Prairie Falcon - 13 September

## 1995 BEAVERHILL LAKE SIGHT RECORDS

SPECIES	FIRST RECORD	LAST SPRING	FIRST FALL	LAST RECORD	COMMENTS
RED-THROATED LOON	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. OCTOBER 3,1979 (DD); AUG 12,1992 (BC)
COMMON LOON	MAY 7 (RD)	MAY 22 (BS)	-----	-----	TRANSIENT
PIED-BILLED GREBE	*JUNE 2 (BBO)				BREEDING
HORNED GREBE	APRIL 18 (RD)	JUNE 1 (BBO)	-----	-----	BREEDING
RED-NECKED GREBE	APRIL 18 (RD)	JUNE 1 (BBO)	-----	-----	BREEDING
EARED GREBE	APR 22-23 (SGF)			JULY 18 (BC)	BREEDING
WESTERN GREBE	*MAY 6 (RD)				BREEDING, VISITOR ONLY 1995
CLARK'S GREBE	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. SEPTEMBER 15,1990 (EML)
<i>grebe sp.</i>				SEPT 9 (BBO)	
AM WHITE PELICAN	APR 22-23 (SGF)			SEPT 9 (BBO)	BREEDING, VISITOR ONLY 1995
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT	APR 22-23 (SGF)			SEPT 7 (BC)	BREEDING, VISITOR ONLY 1995
AM BITTERN	MAY 28 (RF)			JUNE 28 (BBO)	BREEDING
GREAT BLUE HERON	APR 22-23 (SGF)			OCT 30 (RD)	SUMMER RES.
GREAT EGRET	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. JUNE 7-11,1987 (PD); MAY 30,1991 (JH)
SNOWY EGRET	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. JUNE 1984 (CMc)
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON	APR 22-23 (SGF)	JUNE 20 (BBO)	-----	-----	BREEDING
TUNDRA SWAN	APRIL 14 (RD)	MAY 7 (BC)	SEPT 19 (BBO)	OCT 13 (BBO)	TRANSIENT
TRUMPETER SWAN	APR 22-23 (SGF)	MAY 27 (BC)			TRANSIENT
GR WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE	APRIL 7 (RD)	MAY 16 (BC)	AUG 13 (BBO)	OCT 30 (RD)	TRANSIENT
SNOW GOOSE	APRIL 7 (RD)	MAY 8 (BC)	SEPT 7 (BC)	OCT 15 (RD)	TRANSIENT - 1 BIRD ON MAY 25 (BC)
SNOW GOOSE (BLUE)	APRIL 18 (RD)	MAY 8 (BC)			TRANSIENT
ROSS'S GOOSE	*APR 22-23 (SGF)				TRANSIENT - PR.REC. SEPT 7, 1992 (DD)
BRANT	APRIL 18 (RD)	APRIL 21 (RD)			PROBABLE SIGHTING(1991);PRE.REC.MAY 8,SEPT13,SEPT24 1978 (DD)
CANADA GOOSE	MARCH 19 (RD)			OCT 15 (RD)	BREEDING
WOOD DUCK	NO RECORD 1995				PR. REC. MAY 29,1985 (DD)
GREEN-WINGED TEAL	APRIL 16 (RD)			SEPT 27 (BC)	BREEDING
AM BLACK DUCK	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. AUGUST 23,1987 (BT); AUG 12, 1992 (BC), OCT 4, 1994
MALLARD	APRIL 2 (RD)			OCT 13 (BBO)	BREEDING
NORTHERN PINTAIL	APRIL 2 (RD)			OCT 9 (RD)	BREEDING
BLUE-WINGED TEAL	APR 22-23 (SGF)			OCT 13 (BBO)	BREEDING
CINNAMON TEAL	*SEPT 9 (BBO)				BREEDING
NORTHERN SHOVELER	APRIL 14 (RD)			OCT 13 (BBO)	BREEDING
GADWALL	APRIL 16 (RD)			OCT 9 (RD)	BREEDING
EURASIAN WIGEON	APRIL 18 (RD)	APRIL 29 (BBO)			PR.REC. SEPT 26, 1990 (RK),MAY 8, 1994; 3 BIRDS RECORDED APRIL 18 & 20, 1995
AM WIGEON	APRIL 2 (RD)			SEPT 27 (BC)	BREEDING
CANVASBACK	APRIL 18 (RD)			OCT 9 (RD)	BREEDING
REDHEAD	APRIL 18 (RD)			SEPT 7 (BC)	BREEDING
RING-NECKED DUCK	*APR 22-23 (SGF)				TRANSIENT
GREATER SCAUP	APRIL 20 (BC)				PR.REC. APR 8 '90 (DN); APR 14 '91(DN); JUN 5 '92 (SJ); MAY 30, 1993 (MSC)
LESSER SCAUP	APRIL 14 (RD)			SEPT 27 (BC)	BREEDING
HARLEQUIN DUCK	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. SEPT 21,1991(TT); UNDATED RECORD(S&S)
OLD SQUAW	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. APRIL 29,1984 (RE)
BLACK SCOTER	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. MAY 15,1982 (EJ)
SURF SCOTER	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. MAY 19,1986 (PD); MAY 26,1991 (PR), OCT 11, 1994
WHITE-WINGED SCOTER	APR 22-23 (SGF)			AUG 30 (BBO)	BREEDING, VISITOR ONLY 1995
COMMON GOLDENEYE	APRIL 2 (RD)			JULY 18 (BC)	BREEDING
BARROW'S GOLDENEYE	*JULY 4 (BC)				PR.REC. UNDATED RECORDS (S&S); MAY 26, 1992 (BC); JUNE 20, 1993 (BC); AUG 4, 1994
BUFFLEHEAD	APRIL 16 (RD)			JULY 18 (BC)	BREEDING?
HOODED MERGANSER	*JULY 4 (BC)				TRANSIENT - PR.REC. MAY 27, 1992 (RF); SEPT 26, 1992 (BHLC); JULY 20/AUG 4,1994
COMMON MERGANSER	NO RECORD 1995				TRANSIENT
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER	*MAY 4 (BBO)				TRANSIENT
RUDDY DUCK	APRIL 18 (BC)			SEPT 27 (BC)	BREEDING



## 1995 BEAVERHILL LAKE SIGHT RECORDS

SPECIES	FIRST RECORD	LAST SPRING	FIRST FALL	LAST RECORD	COMMENTS
RUDDY TURNSTONE	MAY 21 (DU)	JUNE 2 (DU)	-----	-----	TRANSIENT
SURFBIRD	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. SEPT 21, 1975 (RK)
RED KNOT	MAY 17 (DD)	JUNE 2 (DU)	-----	-----	TRANSIENT
SANDERLING	MAY 6 (RD)	JUNE 2 (DU)	AUG 1 (DU)	OCT 30 (RD)	TRANSIENT
SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER	MAY 6 (RD)	MAY 29 (DU)	JULY 4 (BC)	SEPT 26 (BC)	TRANSIENT
WESTERN SANDPIPER	*MAY 6 (RD)				PR.REC. MAY 20, 1990 (RE); 1993 - 4 RECORDED BY ANDREW HOLTE (FROM 'HOTLINE' RECORDS)
LEAST SANDPIPER	MAY 11 (DU)	MAY 29 (DU)	JULY 4 (BC)	SEPT 26 (BC)	TRANSIENT
WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER	MAY 16 (BC)	MAY 29 (DU)	-----	-----	TRANSIENT
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER	MAY 16 (BC)	MAY 29 (DU)	JULY 18 (BC)	OCT 30 (RD)	TRANSIENT
<i>peep sp.</i>					SIGHTINGS REPORTED IN EVERY MONTH FROM MAY TO OCTOBER
PECTORAL SANDPIPER	MAY 19 (DU)	JUNE 2 (DU)	JULY 18 (BC)	OCT 22 (RD)	TRANSIENT
SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. SEPT 27, 1987 (EML)
DUNLIN	*MAY 21 (BC/BS)				TRANSIENT; PR.REC. MAY 3 (RF/DD) & MAY 15, 1993 (BBO), APRIL 23, 1994
STILT SANDPIPER	MAY 10 (DD)	MAY 29 (DU)	JULY 4 (BC)	SEPT 7 (BC)	TRANSIENT
BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER	MAY 21 (BS)	JUNE 2 (DU)	-----	-----	TRANSIENT
RUFF	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. MAY 8, 1978 (DD), APRIL 25, 1993 (TT)
SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER	MAY 7 (RD)	MAY 24 (BC)	JULY 4 (BC)	JULY 18 (BC)	TRANSIENT
LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER	MAY 21 (BS)	MAY 27 (EJ)	JULY 4 (BC)	JULY 18 (BC)	TRANSIENT
<i>(dowitcher sp.)</i>	MAY 6 (DD)	JUNE 2 (BBO)	JULY 21 (DU)	SEPT 7 (BC)	
COMMON SNIPE	APRIL 23 (RD)			JULY 12 (BBO)	BREEDING
WILSON'S PHALAROPE	MAY 6 (RD)			AUG 1 (DU)	BREEDING
RED-NECKED PHALAROPE	MAY 16 (BC)	MAY 31 (BBO)	*JULY 18 (BC)		TRANSIENT
RED PHALAROPE	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. SEPT 27, 1990 (DD)
PARASITIC JAEGER	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. OCTOBER 15, 1983 (BBO)
LONG-TAILED JAEGER	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. SEPT 8-12, 1977 (DD)
<i>(jaeger sp.)</i>	*MAY 25 (DD)				3 RECORDED
FRANKLIN'S GULL	APRIL 22 (RD)			SEPT 26 (BC)	1995 BREEDING STATUS UNKNOWN
LITTLE GULL	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. AUGUST 26, 1989 (DD)
BONAPARTE'S GULL	APRIL 29 (RD)	MAY 21 (BS)	SEPT 7 (BC)	OCT 15 (RD)	TRANSIENT - SUMMER SIGHTINGS JULY 4 & 18 (BC)
MEW GULL	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. AUG 8, 1988 (DD); SEPT 7, 1991 (DD)
RING-BILLED GULL	APRIL 2 (RD)			OCT 15 (RD)	1995 BREEDING STATUS UNKNOWN
CALIFORNIA GULL	APRIL 20 (BC)			SEPT 26 (BC)	1995 BREEDING STATUS UNKNOWN
HERRING GULL	*MAY 22 (BS)				TRANSIENT; PR.REC. MAY 25, JUNE 28, OCT 11 & 15, 1994
ICELAND GULL	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. OCTOBER 22, 1926 (RL)
GLAUCOUS GULL	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. MARCH 31, 1985 (GH); MAY 11, 1992 (SJ)
BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. MAY 15, 1988 (RE)
SABINE'S GULL	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. SEPT 5, 1975 (DD); SEPT 21 & OCT 13, 1991 (TT)
CASPIAN TERN	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. MAY 4, 1985 (RE); JULY 8, 1991 (BC)
COMMON TERN	*MAY 22 (BS)	*MAY 27 (BBO)	-----	-----	1995 BREEDING STATUS UNKNOWN
ARCTIC TERN	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. MAY 11, 1985 (RE)
FORSTER'S TERN	-----	-----	*JULY 4 (BC)	*JULY 18 (BC)	1995 BREEDING STATUS UNKNOWN
BLACK TERN	MAY 21 (BC/BS)			AUG 16 (BBO)	BREEDING
ANCIENT MURRELET	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. OCTOBER 2, 1983 (DD)
ROCK DOVE					YEAR ROUND RESIDENT, URBAN AND FARM
MOURNING DOVE	MAY 16 (BC)	JULY 4 (BC)	-----	-----	BREEDING?
BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO	NO RECORD 1995				BREEDING; PR.REC. BANDED 1986 & 1987; NEST 1987; 1992 ONE REPORTED ONE MILE WEST OF ROAD 834 (PH)
GREAT HORNED OWL	APRIL 18 (RD)			OCT 13 (BBO)	YEAR ROUND RESIDENT
SNOWY OWL	NO RECORD 1995				TRANSIENT WINTER VISITOR
NORTHERN HAWK OWL	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. OCTOBER 13, 1973 (DD)
BARRED OWL			*SEPT 16 (BBO)		NO PREVIOUS RECORD
BURROWING OWL	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. MAY 1983 (RS); RUMOURS OF SIGHTING 1995
GREAT GRAY OWL	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. SPRING 1925 (ROWAN)(RL); SEPT 1, 1992 (FF)
LONG-EARED OWL			*AUG 29 (BBO)		PR. REC. OCT 2, 1988 (BBO); 1992 - NEST WITH 3 YG
BOREAL OWL	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. MAY 15, 1983 (EJ) - FOUND DEAD
SHORT-EARED OWL	APRIL 18 (RD)	MAY 28 (RF)	*JULY 18 (BC)	-----	YEAR ROUND RESIDENT
NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL			*OCT 4 (BBO)	*OCT 5 (BBO)	TRANS.; ONE NEST 1987 (RE); SEPT 6, 1991 (EJ) BANDED

## 1995 BEAVERHILL LAKE SIGHT RECORDS

SPECIES	FIRST RECORD	LAST SPRING	FIRST FALL	LAST RECORD	COMMENTS
COMMON NIGHTHAWK	NO RECORD 1995			PR. REC. AUGUST 28,1988(BBO); MAY 31,1992 (SJ); MAY 30, 1993 (MSC)	
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD	JUNE 3 (BBO)			*AUG 30 (BBO)	VAGRANT
BELTED KINGFISHER	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. MAY 22,1990 (RD)
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. MAY 24,1987 (DN)
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER	MAY 3 (BBO)	MAY 27 (EJ)	-----	-----	TRANSIENT
DOWNY WOODPECKER	APRIL 20 (BC)			OCT 11 (BBO)	YEAR ROUND RESIDENT
HAIRY WOODPECKER	JULY 4 (BC)			OCT 13 (BBO)	VAGRANT
NORTHERN FLICKER	MAY 2 (BBO)			SEPT 20 (BBO)	BREEDING
PILEATED WOODPECKER				*SEPT 16 (BBO)	PR.REC. '88 (EML); OCT 18, 1992(DN); MAY 30, 1993(JH)
OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. MAY 26,1991 (SJ); MAY 31,1991 (BBO); AUG 14, 1994
WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE	*MAY 27 (BBO)	*JUNE 7 (BBO)	-----	-----	BREEDING?
YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER	NO RECORD 1995				TRANSIENT; PR.REC. JUNE 2 (BBO) & AUG 6 (JD/JB), 1993; AUG 16, 1994
ALDER FLYCATCHER	MAY 27 (EJ)			SEPT 9 (BBO)	BREEDING
WILLOW FLYCATCHER					MAY HAVE BEEN RECORDED ALONG WITH ALDER AS TRAILL'S
(TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER)	MAY 30 (BBO)			AUG 20 (BBO)	
LEAST FLYCATCHER	MAY 15 (BBO)			SEPT 9 (BBO)	BREEDING
EASTERN PHOEBE	APRIL 22 (BBO)			SEPT 9 (BBO)	BREEDING
SAY'S PHOEBE	NO RECORD 1995				TRANSIENT
GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER	*JULY 4 (BC)				PR.REC. JULY 12,1987 (RE); AUG 19, 1994
WESTERN KINGBIRD	NO RECORD 1995				PR. REC. JUNE 7,1979 (RK); JUNE 28, 1993 (BC)
EASTERN KINGBIRD	MAY 27 (BBO)			JULY 18 (BC)	BREEDING
HORNED LARK	MARCH 11 (RD)			SEPT 27 (BC)	BREEDING
PURPLE MARTIN	MAY 7 (RD)			JULY 18 (BC)	BREEDS (TOFIELD)
TREE SWALLOW	MAY 2 (BBO)			AUG 20 (BBO)	BREEDING
N. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. MAY 27,1991 (EJ); JUNE 23,1991 (DN); MAY 21,1993 (JF)
BANK SWALLOW	MAY 22 (BS)	JUNE 10 (BBO)	-----	-----	TRANSIENT
CLIFF SWALLOW	MAY 21 (BS)	MAY 28 (RF)	-----	-----	BREEDING
BARN SWALLOW	MAY 9 (BBO)			SEPT 21 (BBO)	BREEDING
GRAY JAY	NO RECORD 1995				ONLY RECORD: OCT 18, 1992 (PH)
BLUE JAY	MAY 10 (BBO)			SEPT 26 (BBO)	TRANSIENT; WINTER FEEDER BIRD
BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE	APRIL 2 (RD)			OCT 13 (BBO)	YEAR ROUND RESIDENT
AMERICAN CROW	MARCH 19 (RD)			SEPT 27 (BC)	BREEDING
COMMON RAVEN	MAY 8 (BC)			OCT 13 (BBO)	TRANSIENT; SIGHTINGS THROUGHOUT YEAR
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	APRIL 16 (RD)			OCT 13 (BBO)	YEAR ROUND RESIDENT
BOREAL CHICKADEE	NO RECORD 1995				TRANSIENT; JULY 31,1991 (ED); OCTOBER 6,1991 (BC); MAY 1992 (EJ); SEPT 14 & OCT 5, 1994
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH	JULY 30 (BBO)			SEPT 25 (BBO)	BREEDING?
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. MAY 12,1990 (DN); SEPT 7,1991 (DN); AUG 25,1992 (CM); AUG 28, 1994
BROWN CREEPER	-----	-----	*SEPT 6 (BBO)	*SEPT 20 (BBO)	PR.REC. '90 (EJ);SEPT 23 '92 (BC); SEPT 24 & 26,1994
HOUSE WREN	MAY 21 (BBO)				BREEDING
SEDGE WREN	NO RECORD 1995				BREEDING
MARSH WREN	MAY 16 (BC)				BREEDING
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	-----	-----	SEPT 8 (BBO)	SEPT 22 (BBO)	PR.REC. '89(BBO), '91(DN), '92(PH), '93(BBO), OCT 1, '94
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET	MAY 4 (BBO)			SEPT 29 (BBO)	TRANSIENT
MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD	APRIL 2 (RD)			JULY 4 (BC)	BREEDING
TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. APRIL 11,1981 (DD)
VEERY	MAY 27 (EJ)				BREEDING
GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH	MAY 21 (BC)	MAY 27 (EJ)			PR.REC. MAY 1985, '86, '91, '92 (EJ); JUNE 5,1992 (SJ); MAY 14 & 15, 1993 (BBO)
SWAINSON'S THRUSH	MAY 7 (BBO)			SEPT 26 (BBO)	BREEDING
HERMIT THRUSH	MAY 8 (BC)			SEPT 24 (BBO)	TRANSIENT; BREEDING?
AMERICAN ROBIN	APRIL 2 (RD)			OCT 13 (BBO)	BREEDING
VARIED THRUSH	NO RECORD 1995				ONLY RECORD: SEPT 26, 1994
GRAY CATBIRD	MAY 27 (EJ)			JULY 18 (BC)	BREEDING?
NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. MAY 14,1975 (DD); JULY 29,1993 (JDx/JB)
BROWN THRASHER	NO RECORD 1995				BREEDING (EJ); PR.REC. 1988(EJ); MAY 20,1991 (EML); MAY 30,1992 (GH)

1995 BEAVERHILL LAKE SIGHT RECORDS

SPECIES	FIRST RECORD	LAST SPRING	FIRST FALL	LAST RECORD	COMMENTS
AMERICAN PIPIT	*MAY 24 (BC)	-----	SEPT 7 (BC)	SEPT 26 (BC)	TRANSIENT
SPRAGUE'S PIPIT	MAY 8 (BC)			JULY 18 (BC)	BREEDING
BOHEMIAN WAXWING	WINTER SIGHTINGS IN TOFIELD				WINTER TRANSIENT
CEDAR WAXWING	JUNE 21 (BBO)			SEPT 26 (BC)	BREEDING
NORTHERN SHRIKE	*MARCH 19 (RD)				WINTER TRANSIENT
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE	NO RECORD 1995				BREEDING?; SEE ATLAS OF BREEDING BIRDS OF ALBERTA
EUROPEAN STARLING	MARCH 19 (RD)			SEPT 26 (BC)	YEAR ROUND RESIDENT
SOLITARY VIREO	-----	-----	*AUG 21 (BBO)	-----	TRANSIENT
WARBLING VIREO	MAY 27 (BBO)			SEPT 17 (BBO)	BREEDING
PHILADELPHIA VIREO	JUNE 27 (BBO)			AUG 16 (BBO)	TRANSIENT
RED-EYED VIREO	JUNE 2 (BBO)			SEPT 13 (BBO)	BREEDING
TENNESSEE WARBLER	MAY 16 (BBO)	JUNE 1 (BBO)	JUNE 29 (BBO)	AUG 30 (BBO)	TRANSIENT
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER	MAY 6 (BBO)	MAY 27 (BBO)	AUG 28 (BBO)	SEPT 27 (BBO)	TRANSIENT
NASHVILLE WARBLER	NO RECORD 1995				PR. RECORD: AUG 1992 & FALL 1994 (EJ) banded
YELLOW WARBLER	MAY 20 (BBO)			SEPT 8 (BBO)	BREEDING
CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER			*AUG 23 (BBO)	PR.REC. '90 (SJ); '91 (EML);AUG 31,1992(EJ); AUG 16 & FALL, 1994 (EJ)	
MAGNOLIA WARBLER	*MAY 27 (EJ)	*JUNE 27 (BBO)	AUG 16 (BBO)	SEPT 22 (BBO)	TRANSIENT
CAPE MAY WARBLER	NO RECORD 1995				TRANSIENT
BL.-THROATED BLUE WARBLER	NO RECORD 1995				ONLY RECORD: OCTOBER 4,1928 (S&S)
YEL-RUMPED(MYRTLE)WARBLER	MAY 14 (BBO)	MAY 30 (BBO)	AUG 2 (BBO)	SEPT 29 (BBO)	TRANSIENT
YEL-RUMPED(AUDUBON'S)WARBLER	NO RECORD 1995				TRANSIENT; BANDED - AUG 19 (SJ) & SEPT 2,1992 (JDG/CM)
TOWNSEND'S WARBLER	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. AUG 10 (JF) & AUG 24,1991(SJ) ; AUG 24,1992 (KH); SPRING 1994 (EJ)
BL.-THROATED GREEN WARBLER					PR.REC. MAY 25,1991 (EJ); SEPT 5,1991 (EJ); AUG 19 (SJ) & FALL 1992 & 1994(EJ); AUG 12 (BC) & 25 (EJ),1993
BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. AUG 24,1989 (SJ); AUG 31,1992 (EJ); FALL 1994 (EJ)
PALM WARBLER	*MAY 6 (BBO)	-----	SEPT 8 (BBO)	SEPT 26 (BC)	TRANSIENT
BAY-BREASTED WARBLER	NO RECORD 1995				TRANSIENT;PR.REC. SEPTEMBER 21,1991 (EML); AUG 31,1992(EJ);FALL 1994 (EJ)
BLACKPOLL WARBLER	MAY 16 (BBO)	MAY 27 (BBO)	AUG 13 (BBO)	SEPT 8 (BBO)	TRANSIENT
BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER	*MAY 17 (BBO)	*MAY 27 (BC)	*AUG 14 (BBO)	-----	TRANSIENT
AMERICAN REDSTART	MAY 27 (BBO)	JUNE 3 (BBO)	AUG 13 (BBO)	SEPT 7 (BBO)	TRANSIENT
OVENBIRD	-----	-----	AUG 16 (BBO)	SEPT 6 (BBO)	TRANSIENT
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH	*MAY 21 (BBO)	*MAY 22 (BBO)	AUG 11 (BBO)	AUG 22 (BBO)	TRANSIENT
CONNECTICUT WARBLER	NO RECORD 1995				NO RECORD BEFORE 1991;PR.REC. MAY 30, 1993 (MSC); FALL 1994 (EJ)
MOURNING WARBLER	*JUNE 4 (BBO)	*JUNE 5 (BBO)	-----	-----	TRANSIENT
MACGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER	NO RECORD 1995				PRE.REC. MAY 25,1992 (GH) & AUG 23,1992 (SJ);AUG 20 & 27, 1993;SEPT 9 1994
COMMON YELLOWTHROAT	MAY 31 (BBO)			SEPT 13 (BBO)	BREEDING
WILSON'S WARBLER	*MAY 27 (BBO)	-----	AUG 28 (BBO)	SEPT 18 (BBO)	TRANSIENT
CANADA WARBLER	NO RECORD 1995				TRANSIENT
SCARLET Tanager	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. MAY 11,1985 (PD)
WESTERN Tanager	*MAY 27 (BC)				TRANSIENT; PR.REC. AUG 16, 1993 (SJ); FALL 1994 (EJ)
ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK	*MAY 22 (BBO)	*MAY 27 (EJ)	*AUG 17 (BBO)	-----	TRANSIENT
INDIGO BUNTING	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. MAY 24,1990 (EJ)

**Index to 1995 Contributors**

- DD - Dick Dekker
- BC - Bob Carroll
- EJ - Edgar T. Jones (banding and observations)
- RD - Ross Dickson (Wildlife Habitat Canada)
- RF - Roy Fairweather
- BS - Bob Storms
- DU - Shorebird Census (Michael Barr)
- SFG - Snow Goose Festival checklist
- BBO - BBO staff (mostly from Census Route and banding records)  
- includes Laura-Jean Blonski, Rechel Amores, Jim Faragini, & Kevin Hento

The following names are referred to in the Previous Records:

- Peter Dunn (PD)
- Warren Finlay (WF)
- Frank Fraser (FF)
- Peter Haddock (PH)
- Kevin Hento (KH)
- Otto Hohn (OH)
- Brian Homby (BH)
- Art Hughes (AH)
- Richard Klauke (RK)
- Cliff Kulak (CK)
- Peter Lepson (PL)
- Gerry Lunn (GL)
- Chel Macdonald (CMc)
- Ed Mah-Lim (EML)
- Brenda McIntyre (BM)
- John McNab (JM)
- Martin McNicholl (MM)
- R. Middleton (RM)
- Cathy Mowat (CM)
- Dave Nadeau (DN)
- Elson Olorenshaw (EO)
- Dodie Pollard (DP)
- Glen Riel (GR)
- Len Shandruk (LS)
- Ron Slagter (RS)
- Petra Stubbs (Rowell) (PS)
- Terry Thormin (TT)
- Eric Tull (ET)
- Jim Wolford (JW)

1995 BEAVERHILL LAKE SIGHT RECORDS

SPECIES	FIRST RECORD	LAST SPRING	FIRST FALL	LAST RECORD	COMMENTS
AMERICAN TREE SPARROW	APRIL 2 (RD)	APRIL 22 (RD)	SEPT 17 (BBO)	OCT 13 (BBO)	TRANSIENT
CHIPPING SPARROW	MAY 9 (BBO)			AUG 17 (BBO)	BREEDING
CLAY-COLOURED SPARROW	MAY 6 (BBO)			SEPT 26 (BC)	BREEDING
VESPER SPARROW	MAY 5 (BBO)			SEPT 26 (BC)	BREEDING
LARK SPARROW	NO RECORD 1995				ONLY RECORD: MAY 18,1991 (TT)
LARK BUNTING	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. MAY 15,1984 (RE); JUNE 15,1991 (EO); MAY 26,1992 (BC)
SAVANNAH SPARROW	MAY 2 (BBO)			SEPT 7 (RD/BC)	BREEDING
BAIRD'S SPARROW	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. MAY,1989 (RE)
LECONTE'S SPARROW	MAY 6 (RD)			JULY 18 (BC)	BREEDING
SHARP-TAILED SPARROW	MAY 30 (BBO)			JULY 18 (BC)	BREEDING
FOX SPARROW	NO RECORD 1995				TRANSIENT; PR. REC. 1 BANDED 1985; 2 BANDED 1989; MAY 14 & SEPT 24, 1994
SONG SPARROW	APRIL 20 (BC)			SEPT 26 (BC)	BREEDING
LINCOLN'S SPARROW	MAY 7 (BBO)	MAY 27 (EJ)	AUG 13 (BBO)	SEPT 26 (BC)	TRANSIENT
SWAMP SPARROW	NO RECORD 1995				BREEDING PR. REC. SPRING & FALL 1994 (EJ), SEPT 14, 1994
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	MAY 4 (BBO)	JUNE 2 (BBO)	SEPT 7 (BC)	SEPT 29 (BBO)	BREEDING
GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW	NO RECORD 1995				ONLY RECORD: APRIL 4,1992 (WF)
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	MAY 6 (BBO)	MAY 27 (EJ)	SEPT 7 (BC)	SEPT 26 (BC)	TRANSIENT
HARRIS' SPARROW	NO RECORD 1995				TRANSIENT; JAN 12,1992 (DN) @ YACIUK FEEDER; OCT 3,1992 (JL)
DARK-EYED JUNCO	APRIL 14 (RD)	MAY 18 (BBO)	SEPT 7 (BC)	OCT 10 (BBO)	TRANSIENT
MC COWAN'S LONGSPUR	NO RECORD 1995				PR.REC. SEPT 12,1977 (MM)
LAPLAND LONGSPUR	APRIL 7 (RD)	MAY 27 (BC)	SEPT 24 (RD)	OCT 15 (RD)	TRANSIENT
SMITH'S LONGSPUR	MAY 15 (DD)	MAY 16 (BC)	SEPT 7 (RD)	OCT 30 (RD)	TRANSIENT; MAY 13, 1982, (RW/MW); SEPT 1991 (DD)
CHESTNUT COLLARED LONGSPUR	NO RECORD 1995				BREEDING?; PR.REC. UNDATED (S&S)
SNOW BUNTING	JAN 29 (RD)	MAY 21 (BC/BS)	OCT 15 (RD)	OCT 22 (RD)	TRANSIENT
BOBOLINK	MAY 21 (BS)	MAY 28 (RF)			BREEDING
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	APRIL 20 (BC)			SEPT 26 (BC)	BREEDING
WESTERN MEADOWLARK	APRIL 29 (RD)			SEPT 26 (BC)	BREEDING
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD	APRIL 22 (RD)			JULY 18 (BC)	BREEDING
RUSTY BLACKBIRD	*APR 22-23 (SGF)				TRANSIENT
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD	APRIL 22 (RD)			JULY 18 (BC)	BREEDING
COMMON GRACKLE	*APRIL 29 (RD)	*MAY 27 (EJ)			BREEDING
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	MAY 7 (BBO)			AUG 11 (BBO)	BREEDING
NORTHERN ORIOLE	MAY 27 (EJ/BBO)			AUG 16 (BBO)	BREEDING
PINE GROSBEAK	NO RECORD 1995				WINTER RESIDENT; PR. REC. JAN 12,1992 (DN)
PURPLE FINCH	MAY 2 (BBO)	MAY 6 (BBO)		*SEPT 28 (BBO)	TRANSIENT
RED CROSSBILL	NO RECORD 1995				ONLY RECORD: 3 BANDED JULY 31,1992 (KH/JDx)
WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL	NO RECORD 1995				WINTER VAGRANT; JAN 12,1992 (DN)
COMMON REDPOLL	*MAY 3 (BBO)				WINTER RESIDENT
HOARY REDPOLL	NO RECORD 1995				WINTER RESIDENT
PINE SISKIN	*MAY 28 (RF)	*JUNE 2 (BBO)			TRANSIENT
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	MAY 27 (EJ/BBO)			SEPT 26 (BC)	BREEDING
EVENING GROSBEAK	*MAY 7 (BBO)				TRANSIENT
HOUSE SPARROW	APRIL 20 (BC)			SEPT 7 (BC)	YEAR ROUND RESIDENT

COMMENTS: \* indicates a single record

PR.REC. - previous records are from the following sources:

- Campbell, L. 1990 Annual Report. Beaverhill Bird Observatory.
- Dekker, D. 1991. Prairie Water. BST Publications, Edmonton. 144pp.
- Dickson, R. 1994 Sight Records Report. Beaverhill Bird Observatory.
- Fairweather, R. 1991 Sight Records Report. Beaverhill Bird Observatory.
- Fairweather, R. 1992 Sight Records Report. Beaverhill Bird Observatory.
- Fairweather, R. 1993 Sight Records Report. Beaverhill Bird Observatory.
- Jungkind, S. 1990. Ten year summary report 1980-1989. Beaverhill Bird Observatory.
- Lister, R. 1979. The Birds and Birders of Beaverhills Lake. Edmonton Bird Club Publication. 264pp. (RL)
- Salt, W.R. and J.R. Salt. 1976. The Birds of Alberta. Hurtig Publishers, Edmonton. 498pp. (S&S)









### Snow Goose Festival

April 22 - 23, 1995

81 Species

Horned Grebe	Northern Harrier	Eastern Phoebe
Red-necked Grebe		
Eared Grebe	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Homed Lark
	Cooper's Hawk	
Am. White Pelican		Purple Martin
Double-crested Cormorant	Red-tailed Hawk	Tree Swallow
Great Blue Heron	Rough-legged Hawk	
Black-crowned Night Heron		Black-billed Magpie
	American Kestrel	American Crow
Tundra Swan	Merlin	Common Raven
Trumpeter Swan		
	Gray Partridge	Black-capped Chickadee
Gr. White-fronted Goose	Ruffed Grouse	
Snow Goose		Mountain Bluebird
Ross's Goose	American Coot	American Robin
Brant		
Canada Goose	Sandhill Crane	European Starling
Mallard	Killdeer	American Tree Sparrow
Green-winged Teal	American Avocet	Savannah Sparrow
Gadwall	Marbled Godwit	Song Sparrow
Northern Shoveler	Greater Yellowlegs	White-throated Sparrow
Eurasian Wigeon	Lesser Yellowlegs	Dark-eyed Junco
American Wigeon	Common Snipe	Lapland Longspur
Canvasback		Snow Bunting
Redhead	Franklin's Gull	
Ring-necked Duck	Ring-billed Gull	Red-winged Blackbird
Lesser Scaup	California Gull	Western Meadowlark
		Yellow-headed Blackbird
White-winged Scoter	Rock Dove	Rusty Blackbird
		Brewer's Blackbird
Common Goldeneye	Great Horned Owl	
Bufflehead	Short-eared Owl	Purple Finch
Ruddy Duck	Downy Woodpecker	House Sparrow
	Hairy Woodpecker	
Bald Eagle		

### Christmas Bird Count, Tofield

December 30, 1995

22 Species

Gray Partridge (26)	Red-breasted Nuthatch (3)
Ring-necked Pheasant (1)	Northern Shrike (1)
Ruffed Grouse (6)	European Starling (6)
Rock Dove (125)	Bohemian Waxwing (184)
Downy Woodpecker (13)	Snow Bunting (75)
Hairy Woodpecker (14)	Pine Grosbeak (44)
Blue Jay (31)	Common Redpoll (23)
Black-billed Magpie (135)	Evening Grosbeak (20)
Common Raven (1)	House Sparrow (456)
Black-capped Chickadee (198)	Dark-eyed Junco (1)
White-breasted Nuthatch (6)	Northern Hawk Owl (1)

(\* Provided for interest but findings not included in actual report as some are from outside specified area)