Beaverhill Bird Observatory

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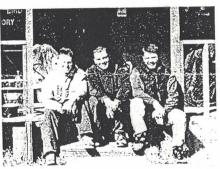
Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Annual General Meeting

November 23, 1999 7:30 p.m. at the

John Janzen Nature Center

Meet the summer's staff and hear about the banding results, interesting sightings, and lab renovations. One position on the board remains vacant for a Fundraiser and we are always looking for new members and volunteers interested in our group.



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Home Sweet Home

adults. Great Horned owls moved in for 2 years, raising 3

young in '97 and 2 young in '98.

by Al DeGroot

On the north end of a ¼ section of rangeland stands a 15-acre mixed woodlot of spruce, aspen and birch. The trees are large and old, the place has never been cut. Near the southern edge of this oasis, stands an 80 foot white spruce which holds a stick nest in it's branches, 50 feet above the moss covered ground. This nest was first discovered in 1992 when it was home to Red-tailed hawks. The following year it sheltered a family of Great Horned owls. The nest was again occupied by Red-tails in '95, but failed, with the death of one of the

It had been 3 years since Red-tails had last nested at the site and since owls do not add any nesting material to the nest, it was showing it's age. By the end of the summer in '98 there was only a small portion of the original platform left. That September the remaining nest was replaced by a wire basket, secured to the trunk and branches of the spruce. The basket was filled with the material of an old magpie nest and the interior bowl was lined with the remains of the original nest.

On March 22nd of 1999 a Great ported owl settled in for the season. The straw as checked again on March 29th, and she as fix ring low on the nest, covering eggs accord to have 2000 21

Home Sweet Home (Con't.)



April 5th came and the nest was empty. The reason was sitting on the branch beside the nest. The Red-tails had arrived and claimed ownership. The owl had been evicted. After adding more branches and sticks to the nest, the hawks settled in and successfully raised 3 young.

With the nest now reinforced with a wire basket, it will be capable of many more years of service to these two species of raptors, at least for as long as the woodlot remains standing.

Beaverhill Area Bluebirds

by Elson Olorenshaw

If you build them they will come!!!

Of course you have to learn to put them in the right habitat.

Bluebird nest boxes that is!!

I started my Bluebird trail north of Beaverhill Lake in 1995 but that year I

could just as well have called it my Tree Swallow trail because 243 young Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) and seven House Wrens (*Troglodytes aedon*) successfully fledged. I then sought professional help and accordingly moved many boxes to grazed pasture locations. This paid off as noted below:

Year		Mountain Bluebirds				Tree Swallows			House Wrens		
		Nests	Renest	Young		Nests	Young		Nests	Young	
1995	2	0	_	0	,	57	243		1	7	
1996		6	0	31		106	497		0	0	
1997		14	2	68		127	695		6	20	
1998		15	11	111		136	708		4	22	
1999		25	7	120		142	694		8	37	

It seems that there is an increase in nesting Mountain Bluebirds (*Siala currucoides*) each year!!! Was this due to my fledged young returning to the same territory to nest? Were the same adults returning to the same boxes? Were any of the adults banded by other trail operators? In order to answer these and many other questions it was decided that I would begin in 1998 to band the fledglings and any adults that I could catch at the boxes. Of course this would be as a subpermittee of the Beaverhill Bird Observatory.

1998 - banded 111 young and six adult mountain bluebirds.

1999 - banded 115 " " 11 " " "

In 1999 an attempt was made to determine if any of the adults near the boxes were bands and it was disappointing to not see one. However, year 2000 is bound to be an improvement and I look forward with keen anticipation to the 35 original bluebird nestings that will surely occur come the month of May.

BBO WISH LIST: Screen door for lab.

Laptop computer.

Single mattresses for bunks.

Books: The Sparrows of the United States and Canada (Risings)

Finches and Sparrows (Clement of all)

Report on the Bander Training Workshop and the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network (CMMN) Meeting at Delta Marsh, MB. September 1999 by Lisa Takats

This fall I was thrilled to attend the 1999 Bander Training Workshop and the CMMN Meeting held at Delta Marsh, about 1 hour outside Winnipeg, Manitoba. This was the second bander training workshop I have attended, and I once again learned much from it. We studied molt limits and the Pyle book for two days, and looked at both dead and live birds. The banding at Delta Marsh picked up as we arrived and they had a good variety of bird species for us to work with. Brenda Dale, Canadian Wildlife Service Edmonton, has been organizing these workshops for a few years now, and has streamlined the event making it a very enjoyable learning experience, as I believe all participants agreed with.

The CMMN meeting was well-attended by designated stations (*), and many others interested in becoming part of the network.

- *Beaverhill bird Observatory, Alberta
- *Delta Marsh Bird Observatory, Manitoba
- *Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Alberta
- *Innis Point Bird Observatory, Ontario
- *Last Mountain Bird Observatory, Saskatchewan

Brier Island Bird Migration Research Station, Nova Scotia

Tadoussac Bird Monitoring Station, Quebec

*Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory, Alberta

*Long Point Bird Observatory, Ontario

*Mackenzie Nature Observatory, British Columbia

*Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory, Ontario

Some of the topics covered included: migration timing and trends, stable isotopes, Latin America training program, animal care, cooperative research, band manager, stop-overs vs. migrants, Canadian Landbird Monitoring Strategy, Partners in Flight, B.C. monitoring, and sexing Yellow Warblers. Bird species seen on my trip include:

American White Pelican Pied-billed Grebe Western Grebe Tundra Swan Canada Goose White-fronted Goose Snow Goose/Blue Goose Mallard Northern Shovelor Gadwall Redhead American Wigeon Lesser Scaup Canvasback Blue-winged Teal Ruddy Duck Bufflehead Wood Duck Northern Harrier Red-tailed Hawk

Northern Goshawk

Sharp-shinned Hawk Merlin American Coot Greater Yellowlegs Sanderling Spotted Sandpiper Solitary Sandpiper Upland Sandpiper American Bittern Double-cr. Cormorant Great Blue Heron Long-billed Dowitcher Forster's Tern Ring-billed Gull Herring Gull Franklin's Call Bonaparte's Gull Rock Dove Mourning Belted Kin Nthn.

Great Horned Owl Northern Flicker Yel.-bellied Sapsucker Hairy Woodpecker Downy Woodpecker Barn Swallow Blue Jay American Crow Black-capped Chickadee White-breasted Nuthtch Red-breasted Nuthatch Brown Creeper Winter Wren American Robin Swainson's Thrush Hermit Thrush Cedar Waxwing European Starling American Redstart Common Yellowthroat Mourning Warbler

Myrtle Warbler Northern Waterthrush Orange-crowned Warbler Palm Warbler Tennessee Warbler Wilson's Warbler Yellow Warbler Fox Sparrow Harris Sparrow Lincoln's Sparrow Chipping Sparrow White-cr. Sparrow White-thr. Sparrow Slate-colored Junco Rusty Blackbird Brewer's Blackbird . Common Redpoll Pine Siskin American Goldfinch House Sparrow

Special thanks to Pat Nolan (Tofield, Alberta) for storing the materials and supplies from the lab!!

Articles of Interest

Duxbury, J., C. Priestley, and J Adamyk. 1999. The luck of the ibis, a new species record for Beaverhill Lake. *Alberta Naturalist* 29(2): 20.

Harper, D.G.C. 1999. Feather mites, pectoral muscle condition, wing length and plumage coloration of passerines. *Animal Behaviour* 58(3): 553.

Rice, C. 1999. Odonates at Beaverhill Lake. Alberta Naturalist 29(2): 37-40.

Websites of Interest

http://www.mb.ec.gc.ca/ENGLISH/LIFE/ENDSPECIES/pfalcon.html

The Prairie and Northern Region's Peregrine Falcon Home Page tracks the amazing journey of Peregrine Falcons in the wild as they travel their annual migration routes across the North American continent.

http://powell.colgate.edu/wda/Beginners_Guide.htm

A Beginner's Guide to DRAGONFLIES which form an important part of Wetland wildlife and they play a significant roll in its general ecology. They are among the most beautiful and spectacular insects flying today and they are also among the most ancient of living creatures.

http://www.enhc.com/

Join the Edmonton Natural History Club! The ENHC has something for everyone who's interested in nature, from the armchair naturalist to the expert willing to share his or her knowledge of the local fauna and flora.

http://www.connect.ab.ca/~snowyowl/

The Birds of Beaverhill Lake - check out the weekly checklists of sightings at the lake.

http://www.ualberta.ca/~jduxbury/BBO/bbopage.htm

The Beaverhill Bird Observatory webpage!!

CONTACTS

Beaverhill Bird Observatory

P.O. Box 1418, Edmonton, Alberta. T5J 2N5 (membership \$10) - Chairperson-Jason Duxbury (433-5730)

Calgary Bird Banding Society

247 Parkside Cr. S.E., Calgary, Alberta. T2J 4J3 (membership \$20) - President-Doug Mollister (246-2697) - Treasurer-El Peterson (271-3741)

Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory

P.O. Box 730, Slave Lake, Alberta. TOG 2A0 - Chairperson-Marion Whitby (369-358

NEXT WILLET ISSUE

Material for the forthcoming newsletter should be sent to: Lisa Takats, editor. The Windle Edmonton, Alberta, T6J 2M6. PHONE 437-3860. FAX 422-9685. Email: lisa.takats newsletter deadline: January 15, 2000. Articles can be on bird banding, birdwatching

\$35-105 A Street, gov.ab.ca, Next