

LESSER SLAVE LAKE BIRD OBSERVATORY

The Warbler



LSLBO No. 5

SUMMER 2004

Dear Supporters of the Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory,

If you are receiving this newsletter, you are a supporter of the Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory! We thank you for your continued support in a great organization. There are many people that do 'behind the scenes' work with and for the Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory (LSLBO). The LSLBO is concentrating its energies in two areas: research and planning. As summer moves on, so does the planning for the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation (BCBC).

The BCBC is a joint venture between the Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory and Alberta Parks and Protected Areas—Alberta Community Development. The BCBC was chosen as one of the Alberta Government Centennial Projects. In total, the Alberta 2005 Centennial Initiative will provide more than a quarter of a billion dollars to support partnership, community and government-owned and operated capital projects. The \$1.6 Million dollar project in Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park is well on it's way.

In this special edition of The Warbler, we will bring you up to speed on what our planning team, consultants, volunteers and the many others that are making this great Centre a reality have been doing for the past few months. We'd also like to share with you exciting bird banding news, new programs and an overview of the 10th Annual Songbird Festival.

Enjoy and Happy Birding,

Amy

Amy Wotton
Manager
Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory

NESTED IN THIS ISSUE:

Message to supporters	1
Planning of the BCBC	2
The Building	3
Programs	4
Fundraising Update	5
Songbird Festival	6
Banding News	7
Special Thanks	8

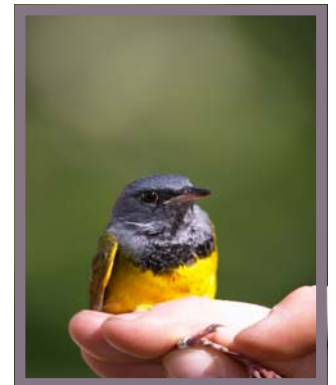


Photo taken by Mark Harrison

“I LOVE IT WHEN A PLAN COMES TOGETHER!”

Liz Garratt
Planning Consultant

As with any new venture, considerable planning is required to ensure that the long-term vision and goals are supported through short-term planning and action. The Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation is no exception.

A concept plan was completed in February 2003 establishing the conceptual framework for the proposed Centre. The Steering Committee together with the consulting team laid the foundation for the Centre's vision and name, site and facilities and an operational strategy.

In January 2004 a Relationship Strategy was completed which identified the potential types of relationships to be developed as well as identifying the various groups, companies and individuals with whom to explore relationships. This exercise brought to light the sheer size, complexity and dynamic nature of this environment. This was exciting, as it became evident that many diverse groups (industry, academic researchers, government, NGO's) are working towards similar goals and outcomes and share our larger vision. At this point we recognized an opportunity existed for the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation to serve in a

supportive, co-operative capacity to other initiatives that share our vision.

As we continue to build our business plan, we remain focused on:

- Bird conservation
- the Boreal Forest
- Sustainability and Conservation – Integrity of our Forest
- Research, Migration Monitoring, and Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship
- Education
- Understanding the goals, programs and needs of others groups and initiatives working towards shared goals and determining “our” fit in this greater movement towards sustainability

The business plan will be completed in September 2004.

The Steering Committee that is helping to make this possible include:

Frank Fraser—Parks and Protected Areas
Reg Arbuckle—Ducks Unlimited
Dr. Susan Hannon—University of Alberta
Dr. Fiona Schmiegelow—University of Alberta
June Markwort—Parks and Protected Areas
Archie Landals—Parks and Protected Areas
Chris Bruntlett—Parks and Protected Areas
Loney Dickson—Canadian Wildlife Service
Moline Fraser—Northern Lakes College
Pat Buttler—Butler&Krebs
Stefan Jungkind-Lesser Slave Lake Bird Obs.
Peter Moore—Lesser Slave Lake Bird Obs.
Luigi Morgantini—Weyerhaeuser Canada



The BCBC A Dream That is Fast Becoming a Reality

Robert. W. Deacon
Chairperson

The design and development stage of the Manasc Isaac architectural process has been completed. Our next meeting will be held on

JobCorp. There was more site preparation than anticipated but with the assistance of Dan Plourde and Augie L'Hirondelle from Job Corp all facets of the project were completed, including rough in for services. The planned installation date of July 13 will be met if all goes well at the Winalta end.

There has been a tremendous amount of input and enthusiasm from all the involved parties – Alberta Infrastructure's Bong Estoque and



July 6 to review the 70% complete drawings and to make recommendations for minor changes. We will meet again on July 20 for review and acceptance of the 95% complete drawings. Allowing for any minor changes the contracts for construction will be tendered on July 29 with the closing date on Sept. 2. We are planning for an early October groundbreaking ceremony with the building scheduled for occupancy in early spring.

The staff and volunteer manufactured residence tender has been awarded to Winalta Homes of Edmonton. Jamie Payne of Parks and Protected Areas has prepared the site for the building with the cooperation of Alberta

Peter Chapman as well as the NGO members of the design team. The LSLBO would like to acknowledge that support and thank everyone involved.

We are also happy to report that at the BCBC project is, at this point, on time and on budget.

Spring Top 5 List

1. Swainson's Thrush	272
2. Chirping Sparrow	96
3. Myrtle Warbler	77
4. Clay-colored Sparrow	63
5. Yellow Warbler	51

Total NEW banded birds 1133

Developing Partnerships in The Community— Boreal Forest Discovery Camp

Ronda Groom
Fundraising Director

We live, work and play in the Boreal Forest....but do we understand the environment that sustains our lives? The Lesser Slave Forest Education Society and Northern Lakes College offers a summer Camp to help youth develop that understanding. The Discovery Camp enlists the help of forestry companies, societies, like the bird observatory, government departments and research programs to make the science of the boreal forest fun and exciting. Activities like hiking, exploring, forestry field trips, bird

viewing and study, bird games, frog study, bears, looking at funny bugs help the campers develop an appreciation for all the

flora and fauna of the forest. Each youth between 9 and 13 experiences the environment while learning new skills and



making friends. The LSLBO is proud of the accomplishments of the Lesser Slave Forest Education Society, Northern Lakes College and the small role we play in this dynamic program. We look forward to developing more involvement and more relationships like this one.

Penn State University Welcomed by LSLBO

Amy Wotton
Manager

The Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory was proud to host a group of seven students and a science professor from Penn State University – Fayette Campus during the month of May. With assistance from Northern Lakes College (NLC), the LSLBO and Penn State University explored the boreal forest for nearly two weeks. This is the first time that the LSLBO has offered a course to an educational institution as large as Penn State University. The students were given a boreal forest course with emphasis on songbirds, the boreal forest and eco-tourism.

For most of the students it was their first time in Canada. The students spent one day at NLC listening to lectures and presentations focusing on such things as bear and wildlife awareness, flora and fauna of the boreal forest, and of course the research of

the LSLBO. They were also guests at the Lesser Slave Forest Education Society dinner.

The students spent approximately 50% of their time at the Lily Creek banding lab learning to identify songbirds, watching bird banding demonstrations and discovering the importance of the research that the LSLBO conducts in the boreal forest.



The LSLBO looks forward to hosting another group of students from Penn State University and other educational institutions next spring.

Fund Raising Update

Ronda Groom
Fundraising Director

July is upon us and your fund raising volunteer would like to start thanking our awesome supporters for 2004. This year has seen us consolidate some research relationships and develop some new industry and community relationships. The contributors of cash for the programs operated at Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory are listed in order of donations:

- **Manning Diversified Forest Products**
- **Alberta Conservation Association**
- **West Fraser Timber Co.**
- **Prov. of Alberta Employment Programs**
- **Weyerhaeuser Canada**
- **ATCO Electric**
- **TOLKO Industries Ltd.**
- **Alberta Parks and Protected Areas**
- **Gov. of Canada- Employment Program**
- **Canadian Wildlife Service**
- **Canadian Nature Federation**

Parks and Protected Areas have also made substantial in kind donations to the LSLBO. The staff at the Slave Lake and Valleyview offices are truly appreciated by the organization, though we probably don't express that often enough.

We are still awaiting word on a **TD Friends of the Environment** contribution and will apply to **Alberta Ecotrust** in the fall of 2004.

Funds from **Alberta Lotteries** have contributed to the planning component of the Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation. Part of the business plan was

funded by dollars from Alberta Lotteries. This process is helping us define who to approach for future programs and how to create stability for the research and monitoring functions of the LSLBO.

In addition to raising funds from contributions, we also have our own fund raising events and more and more we rely on membership fees for our operation. Have you purchased your LSLBO membership yet? Each individual membership does make a difference.



As you read this and decide you want to become a member contact the office at 849-7117 or put a cheque in the mail at LSLBO, Box 1076, Slave Lake, Alberta. T0G 2A0. A family membership is only \$25.00 and the effects will be lasting.

We look forward to hearing from you individually and working with you as companies, non government agencies, governments, education institutions and individuals.

Fall Migration is fast approaching! If you are interested in volunteering with the LSLBO bird banding and monitoring programs please call the LSLBO office at 849-7117. We look forward to seeing you!

10th Annual Songbird Festival—A Huge Success!

Adam Cheadle
Visitor Services Specialist
Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park

The Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory (LSLBO) kicked off its summer season with one of the most successful Songbird Festivals ever on the weekend of June 5 & 6, 2004 in Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park. This was the LSLBO's 10th Annual Songbird Festival and according to LSLBO Chairperson Bob Deacon the festival was, "Unequivocally the best Songbird Festival we have ever had." This also seemed to be the prevailing attitude of the 500 participants who took part in this year's festivities.

The combination of entertaining and educational programs and the dedication, enthusiasm and skill of the LSLBO and Alberta Parks and Protected Areas staff and volunteers were the real ingredients that contributed to the overall success of this years festival. On behalf of the LSLBO and Alberta Parks and Protected Areas I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff and volunteers who worked so hard in contributing to this years festivities.

Next year's festival promises to be bigger and better than ever with the opening of the brand new Boreal Centre for Bird Conservation at the 11th Annual Songbird Festival. We hope to see you there for all of the fun and excitement of the 11th Annual Songbird Festival .



We hope to see everyone back again next year. This time bring a friend!



Everyone enjoyed the Pancake Breakfast!



The Bird House Building was a huge HIT!



Thank you Beaverhill Bird Observatory for bringing your beautiful Saw-whet Owl for a visit.



Photo by Mark Harrison

The Lily Lake Hike was fun and informative.

Exhibits and Displays

The most notable part of any building is the bathrooms and the interpretive displays. The BCBC seeks to have highly imaginative, interactive displays open next summer. We are currently in the planning stages. Have ideas? Give us a call 849-7117

EXCITING NEWS FROM LILY CREEK BANDING LAB



Amazing! This is the only word to describe the birds that flew into the mist nets at the LSLBO. On June 4, banders Richard Krikun and Tyler Flockhart were delighted to see a second-year male Chestnut-sided Warbler. It was captured on the last net round, this individual was the first bird of this species captured since the fall of 2000.

To the shock and delight of the banders, on June 6 near the end of the banding day, a second-year male Lazuli Bunting was captured and banded. This is the first time this species has ever been recorded at the Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory, although a possible sighting in the town of Slave Lake a few days earlier of this same species is currently being investigated.



Thank you to Raymond Toal for the beautiful pictures. Right place at the right time!

Links for the Birds

2004 Alberta Birding Reports	http://www.web-nat.com/bic/albcal_1.html
Alberta Conservation Association	http://www.ab-conservation.com/
Beaver Hill Bird Observatory	http://www.beaverhillbirds.com
Big Country Tourism	http://www.biglakecountrytourism.com/
Bird Studies Canada	http://www.bsc-eoc.org/
Canadian Nature Federation	http://www.cnf.ca/
Ducks Unlimited – Western Canada	http://www.ducks.ca/conserv/wbf/index.html
Federation of Alberta Naturalists	http://www.fanweb.ca
Important Bird Areas of Canada	http://www.ibacanada.com/
LSLBO	http://www.lslbo.org
National Audubon Society	http://www.audubon.org/
Wildbird General Store	http://www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/wildbird/

Thanks to...



IMPORTANT BIRD
AREAS OF CANADA



LES ZONES IMPORTANTES
POUR LA CONSERVATION
DES OISEAUX AU CANADA



Public Service Commission
of Canada

Commission de la fonction publique
du Canada

Canada



Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory
P.O. Box 1076
Slave Lake, AB T0G 2A0
Canada
(780) 849-7117
Fax: (780) 849-7122
www.lslbo.org
Email: birds@lslbo.org