

THE LESSER SLAVE LAKE BIRD OBSERVATORY

1994 Preliminary Results

Over the last couple of summers a few BBO members, mostly Stefan Jungkind, as well as Frank Fraser of Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park, had been doing some informal banding and bird monitoring in the Provincial Park. What they found was what seemed to be an area containing a high concentration of migrating birds in the spring and fall, and a composition of summer resident birds that differed from that of Beaverhill Lake. This new birding hot spot would eventually be transformed in the Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory (LSLBO).

Through the informal banding and monitoring the importance and value of the area was demonstrated to the other members of the BBO. A great deal of data on species not normally found in large numbers at the BBO was collected at Lesser Slave Lake. The species found there on a regular basis were American Redstarts, White-throated Sparrows, Mourning Warblers, Canada Warblers and Black-throated Green Warblers. It was time the BBO expanded. This led to the pilot project of a non-for-profit organization working directly with a provincial park, and the subsequent birth of the LSLBO.

For the first official year of the LSLBO two summer students were hired to run the banding programs; Jason Duxbury, who had been part of the staff at the BBO for the last two field seasons, and a new staff member Lisa Zuberbier of Slave Lake. Both of the summer staff ran the station successfully this year while also contributing to the park's interpretation programs throughout the summer.

The site chosen for the banding station is nestled in between the large Lesser Slave Lake and Marten Mountain, the highest point in the Pelican Hills. These two obstacles may funnel the birds through the site during migration. Not only songbirds were seen on migration, but Northern Harriers, Merlins, Kestrels and even a Peregrine Falcon was spotted this spring. The song bird species mentioned above are actually the summer resident birds. Other species seen in migration were Tennessee Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Palm Warbler, Cape May Warbler, and White-Crowned Sparrow to name only a few. Two exciting observations of the station this year were of a Varied Thrush and probably the most western documentation of the expansion of the Chestnut-sided Warbler range. A Caspian Tern sighted in 1992 and 1993 was not seen this year unfortunately.

After a late start in the spring, due to some last minute organization, the station banded 676 birds of 34 species and observed 110 species in the area (May 14 - June 9). In the summer (June 10 - July 30) the station banded 456 birds of 24 species, while observing 87 species. Finally, during the fall migration (July 31 - ????) the station banded ??? birds of ?? species and observed ??? species in the

area. Early in the fall migration, the staff was unable to set up all of the nets because there were so many birds (up to 12 birds/net hour!) Due to the late start in spring, it is unknown if the birds were flying through the area as much as they were in the fall. Return captures at a new site are fairly rare, yet the station managed to catch 6 birds that were banded at the same site in 1993. In the fall the station caught ? birds returning to the site. One of these was a Wilson's Warbler that was banded at the same site in 1993 and was caught in the spring this year.

The LSLBO is located right in the middle of the park on the lake shore. Access to the site is very easy as the road is short, tends to hold up better than the road to the BBO in bad weather, and goes right to the site itself. Another major plus is the location within a gem of a provincial park. There are plenty of other things to do for those tired of watching birds or for family members of those who can never get enough of the birds. There are very nice campgrounds, both regular camping and group use, a large lake that supports great fishing and water sports, and beautiful beaches with the whitest, natural sand found in Alberta. Those coming to see this wonderful place must also realize that it is considered wilderness and that both Black Bears and a Grizzly Bear were seen in the area.

So when planning on your next summer's get-a-way, you may want to consider the little know birding hot spot of Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park. It is only 3 hours away from Edmonton, so please come and help out at the LSLBO, just come to say Hi to the summer staff, or just come to see some wonderful birds!

Jason Duxbury
LSLBO Field Staff 1994

only migration monitoring and only up to Aug 8

Quantity	A.O.U.	Mnemonic	Species
1	3320	SSHA	Sharp-shinned Hawk
2	4020	YBSA	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
1	4120	YSFL	Yellow-shafted Flicker
1	4560	EAPH	Eastern Phoebe
4	4630	YBFL	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
137	4661	ALFL	Alder Flycatcher
163	4670	LEFL	Least Flycatcher
44	5580	WTSP	White-throated Sparrow
5	5600	CHSP	Chipping Sparrow
11	5610	CCSP	Clay-colored Sparrow
4	5810	SOSP	Song Sparrow
9	5830	LISP	Lincoln's Sparrow
1	5840	SWSP	Swamp Sparrow
2	6070	WETA	Western Tanager
6	6190	CEDW	Cedar Waxwing
10	6240	REVI	Red-eyed Vireo
1	6270	WAVI	Warbling Vireo
14	6360	BAWW	Black-and-white Warbler
2	6460	OCWA	Orange-crowned Warbler
195	6470	TEWA	Tennessee Warbler
6	6500	CMWA	Cape May Warbler
112	6520	YWAR	Yellow Warbler
43	6550	MYWA	Myrtle Warbler
30	6570	MAWA	Magnolia Warbler
1	6720	WPWA	Western Palm Warbler
6	6740	OVEN	Ovenbird
3	6750	NOWA	Northern Waterthrush
9	6790	MOWA	Mourning Warbler
24	6810	COYE	Common Yellowthroat
28	6850	WIWA	Wilson's Warbler
83	6860	CAWA	Canada Warbler
317	6870	AMRE	American Redstart
2	7350	BCCH	Black-capped Chickadee
2	7490	RCKI	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
41	7580	SWTH	Swainson's Thrush
9	7610	AMRO	American Robin

plus 2 Blackpoll
 plus 2 West. Wood Pewees
 = 1332 total

Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory Oral Report

- Jason Duxbury

(Annual written report to follow)

Introduction:

This is a hard copy of the LSLBO year end summary given by Jason Duxbury at the BBO annual meeting November 26, 1994.

The Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory station was operated in 1994 as an expansion of the Beaverhill Bird Observatory. The station was formalized after a few years of informal migration monitoring and bird banding by BBO members (since 1992). Its main purposes are to monitor small landbird migration and summer resident bird populations. The site is located on the east shore of Lesser Slave Lake, in Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park (figure 1), which is approximately 300km north by northwest of Edmonton, Alberta.

The area seems to be one containing a high concentration of migrating birds in the spring and fall, and a composition of summer resident birds that differed from that of Beaverhill Lake (see below).

The site chosen for the banding station is nestled in between the large Lesser Slave Lake and Marten Mountain, the highest point in the Pelican Hills. These two obstacles may funnel the birds through the site during migration. Not only songbirds were seen on migration, but Northern Harriers, Merlins, Kestrels and even a Peregrine Falcon were spotted this spring. The songbird species seen in migration were Tennessee Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Palm Warbler, Cape May Warbler, and White-crowned Sparrow to name only a few.

The LSLBO is located right in the middle of the park on the lake shore. Access to the site is very easy as the road is short, tends to hold up better than the road to the BBO in bad weather, and goes right to the site itself. Another major plus is the location within a gem of a provincial park. There are plenty of other things to do for those tired of watching birds or for family members of those who can never get enough of the birds. There are very nice campgrounds, both regular camping and group use, a large lake that supports great fishing and water sports, and beautiful beaches with the whitest, natural sand found in Alberta. Those coming to see this wonderful place must also realize that it is considered wilderness and that Black Bears were seen in the area.

For the first official year of the LSLBO two summer students were hired to run the banding programs; Jason Duxbury, who had been part of the staff at the BBO for the last two field seasons, and a new staff member Lisa Zuberbier of Slave Lake. Both of the summer staff ran the station successfully this year while also contributing to the park's interpretation programs throughout the summer.

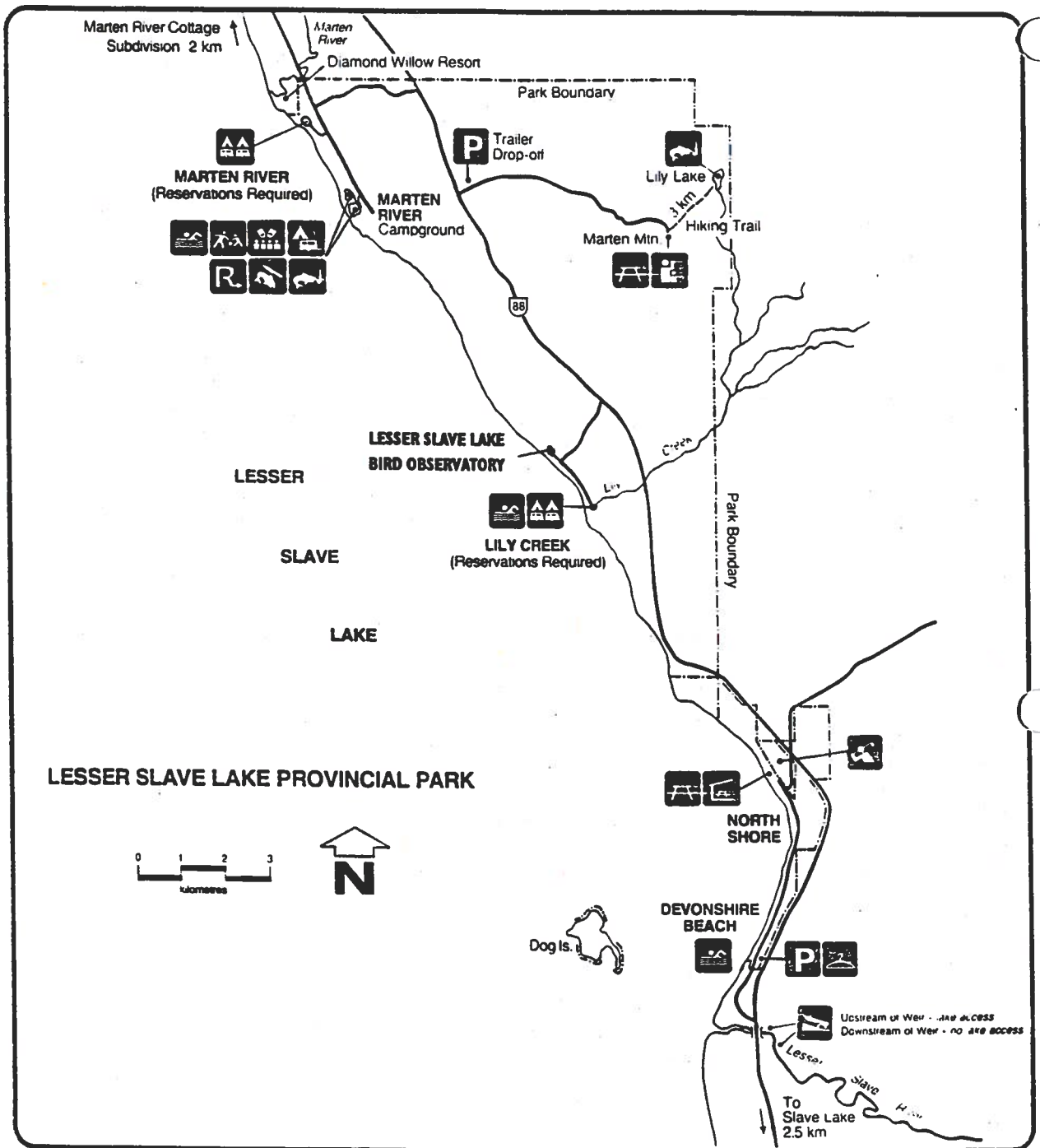


Figure 1. - Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park
(Taken From Park Pamphlet)

Banding

Migration Monitoring:

Various net lanes were used over the field season (Fig. 2). There were some different net lane sites used in the spring (net lanes 21 and 24) that were changed in the fall (net lanes 4 and 15). This was done in order to find the best net lane sites before any standardization takes place. At the beginning of the migrations only a few nets could be set up because of the numbers of birds being caught. As the migrations slowed down the number of nets increased, but never exceeded 10 in number.

Spring - 676 birds of 34 species were banded and 111 species were observed in the area
(recorded from May 14 - June 9)

Fall - 1823 birds of 46 species were banded and 97 species were observed in the area
(as recorded from July 31 to September 11)

Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS):

Three new MAPS stations were started in 1994 and their locations are given in figure 3. Each station contained 10 net lane sites and 9 points for point counts (Figure 4a, b, c).

456 birds of 24 species were banded, while 87 species were observed during the summer (June 10 - July 30)

Retraps:

103 retraps during Migration Monitoring
70 retraps during MAPS

We only caught 6 birds that were banded previously to 1994, and all of those were banded in 1993.

One Wilson's Warbler, banded in 1993, was caught in both spring and fall migrations!

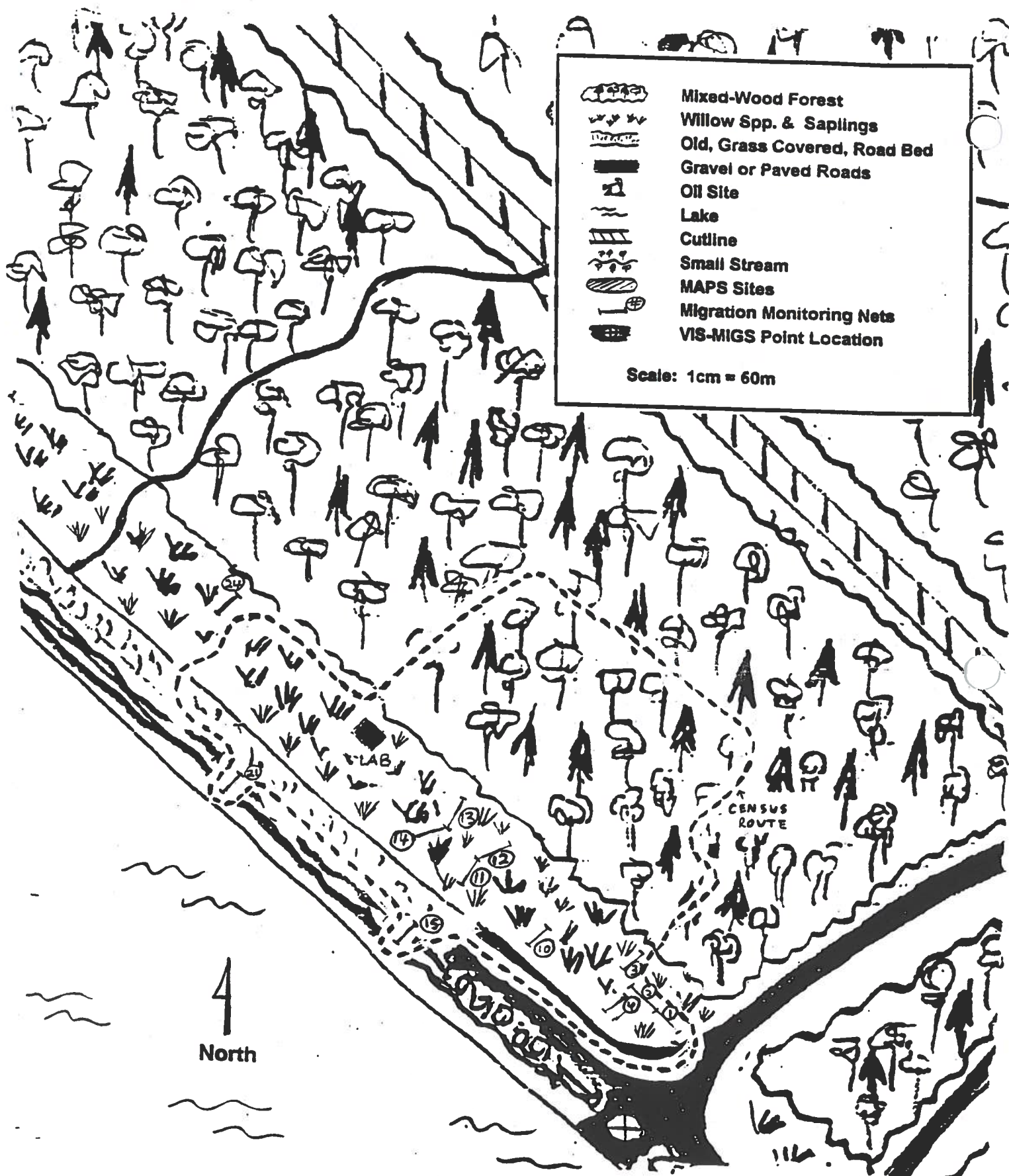


Figure 2 - Migration Monitoring Net-Lane Locations and Census Route

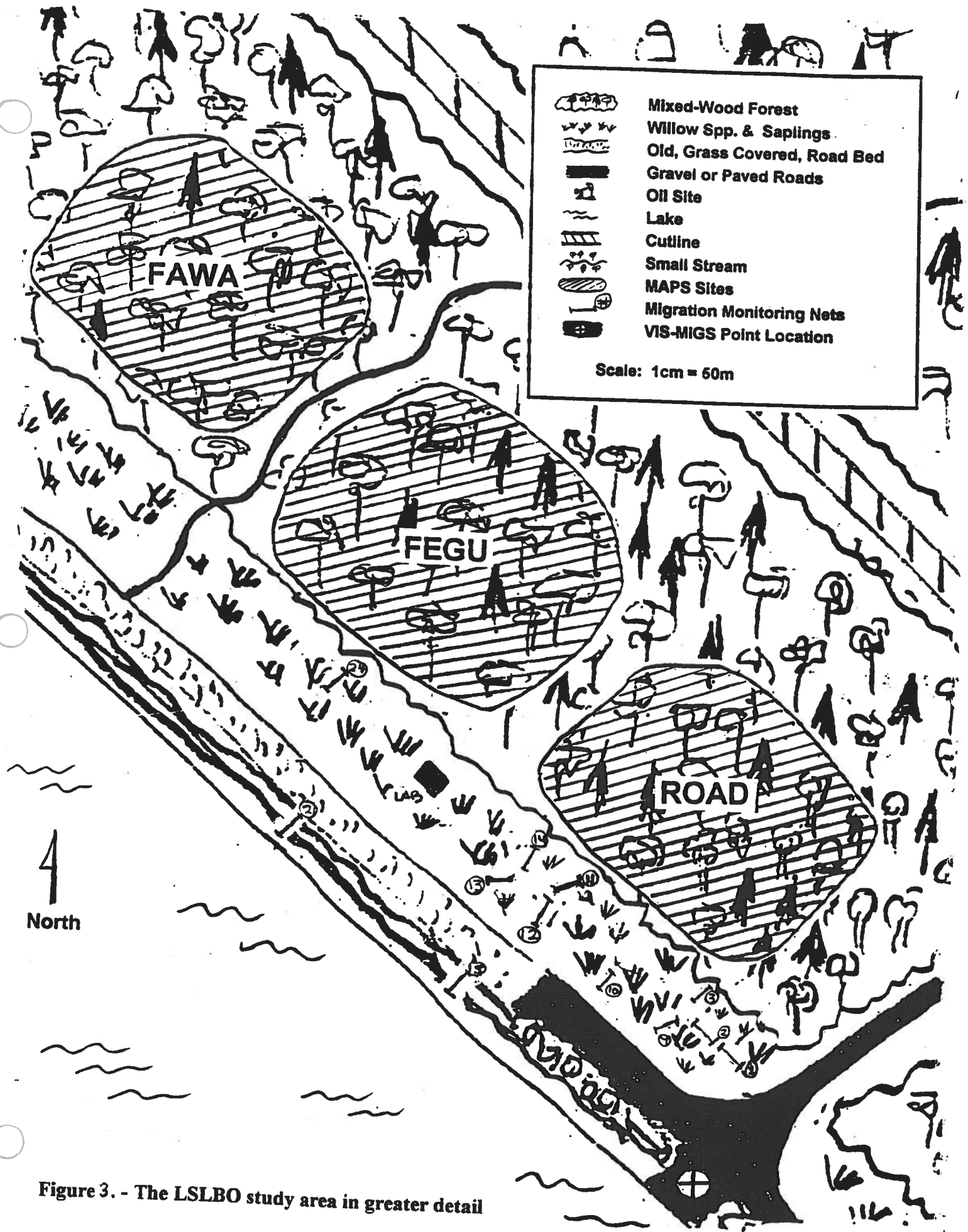


Figure 3. - The LSLBO study area in greater detail

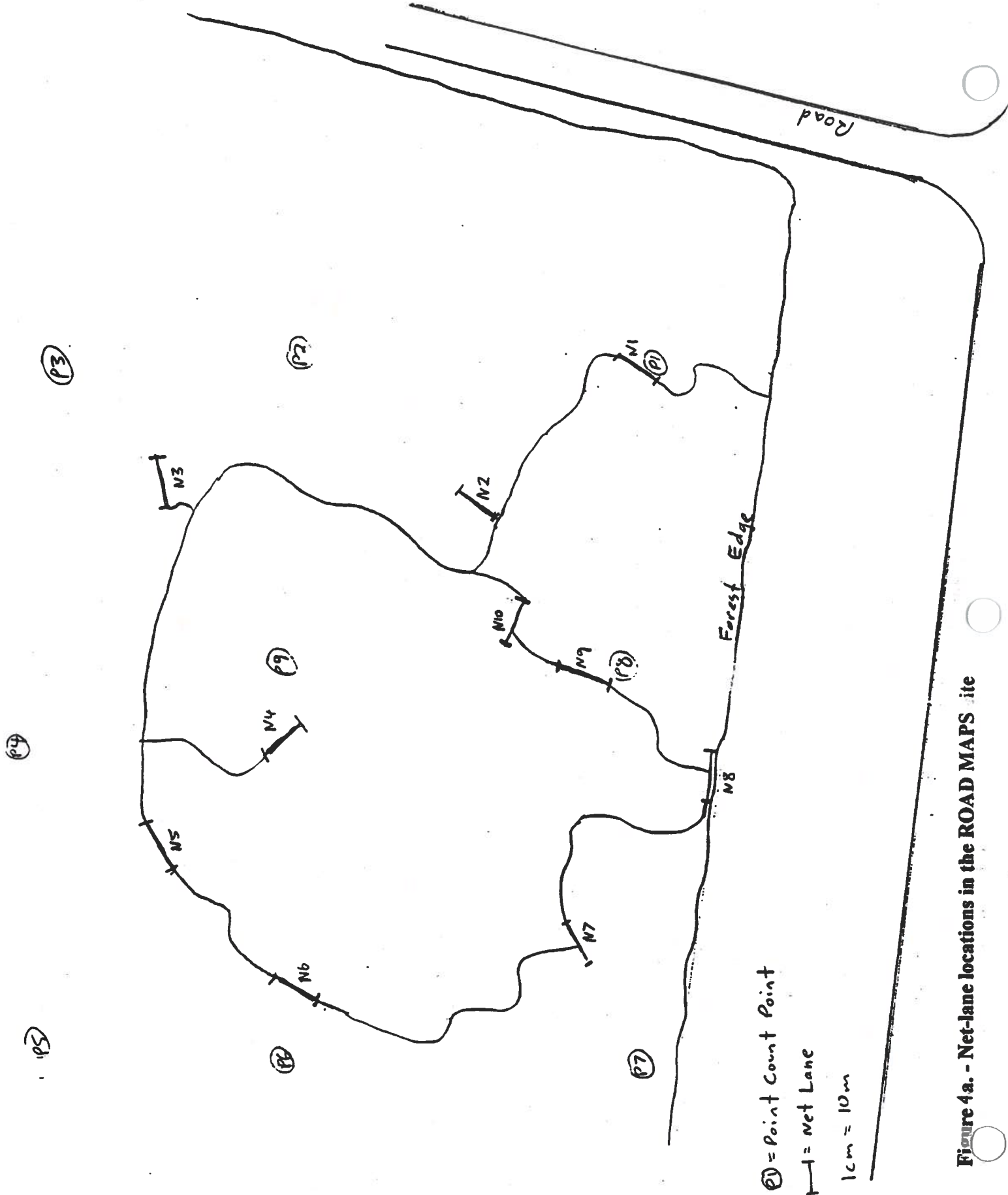


Figure 4a. - Net-lane locations in the ROAD MAPS site

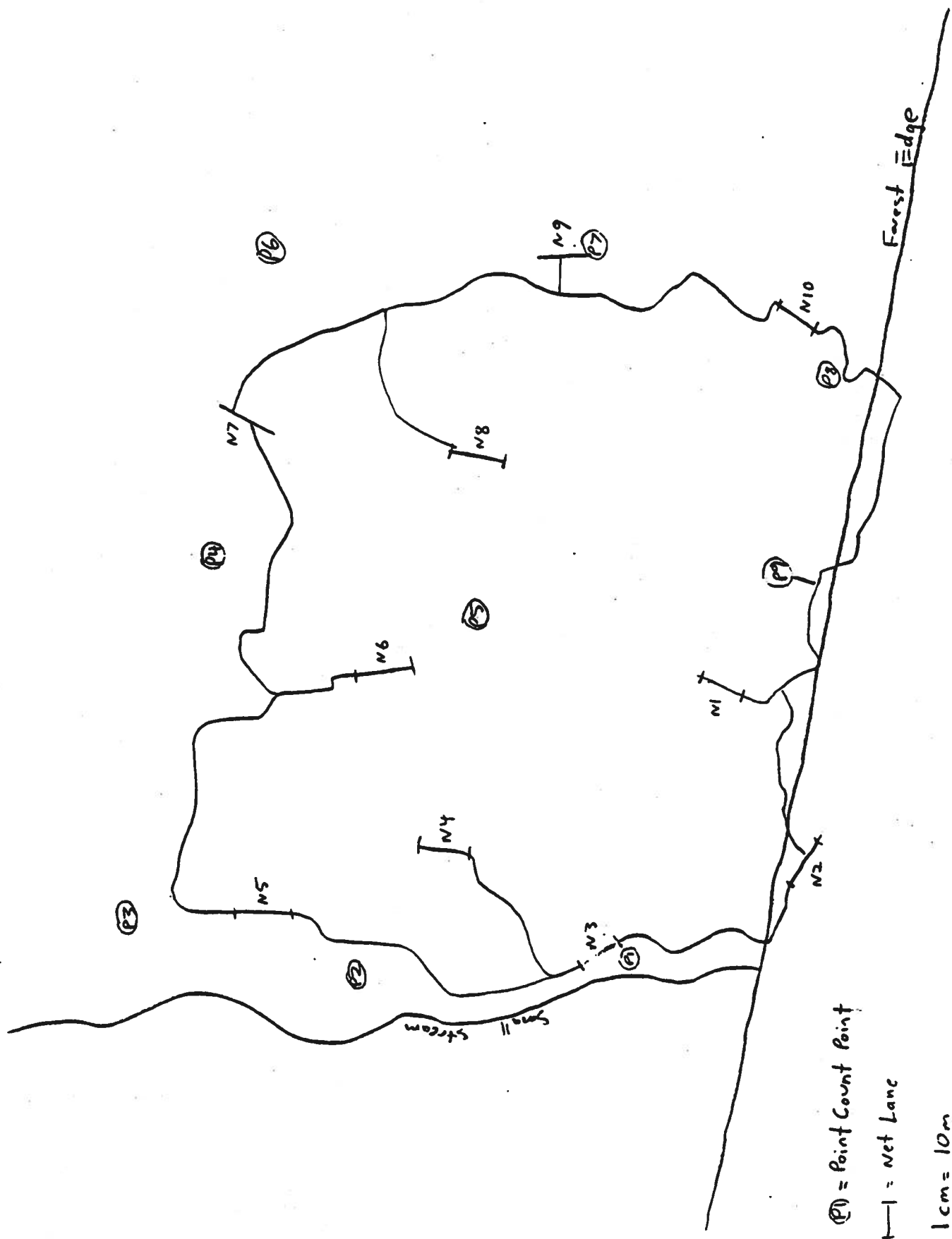
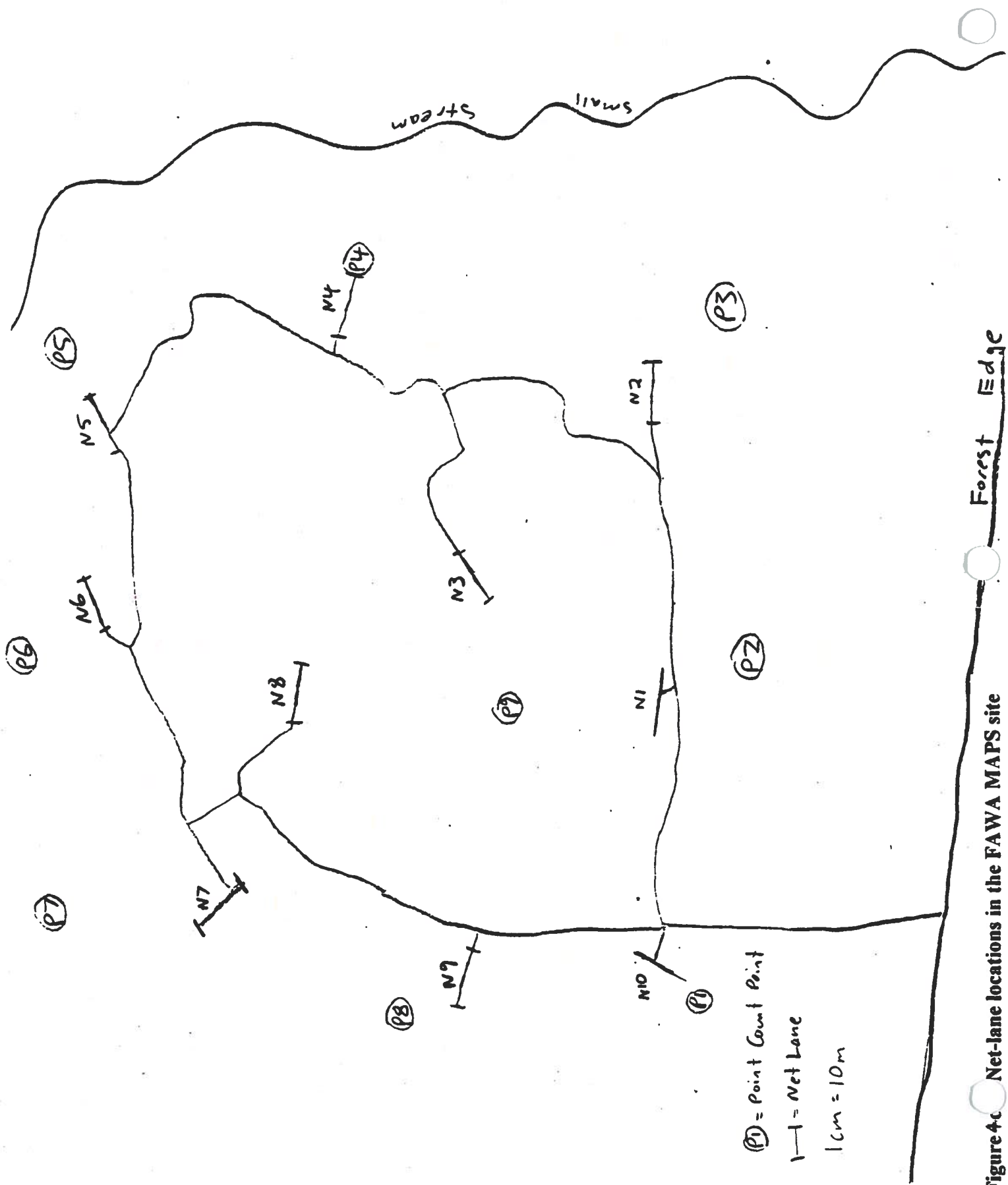


Figure 4b. - Net-lane locations in the FEGU MAPS site



Interesting Birds:

Interesting Bandings:

Sharp-shinned Hawks
Northern Flicker
Western Wood Pewee
Blue Jay
Boreal Chickadees
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglets
Hermit Thrush
Gray Catbird
Western Tanager
Rose-breasted Grosbeaks
Philadelphia Vireos
Solitary Vireo
Chestnut-sided Warblers*
Palm Warblers
Cape May Warblers
Yellow-rumped Warbler Hybrid
Oregon race Dark-eyed Junco
White-crowned Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Swamp Sparrows
Purple Finches

A Wilson's Warbler retrap that was banded in 1993 then retrapped in both spring and fall migrations in 1994.

2955 birds of 51 species were banded

Busiest day had 102 birds caught with 8.5 net hours on 4 nets = 12.7 birds/net hour!

* Possibly the most western extension of the Chestnut-sided Warbler range documented.

Interesting Sightings or Audible Observations:

White-fronted Geese
Snow Geese
Swan sp.'s (Seen by Ranger Hayduk in October)
Double-crested Cormorants
White-winged Scoters
Surf Scoters
Bald Eagles
Northern Goshawks
Peregrine Falcon
Barred Owls
Pileated Woodpeckers
Belted Kingfishers
Eastern Kingbird
Olive-sided Flycatcher (Heard)
Horned Larks
Water Pipits
Gray Jay Juvenile with 2 Blue Jays
Winter Wren (Heard)
Varied Thrush (Heard)
Common Grackles
Black-throated Green Warblers
LeConte's Sparrows
Fox Sparrow

121 species were observed

Beaverhill Lake - Lesser Slave Lake Contrasts:

Go to Beaverhill Lake to Consistently See:

Eared Grebes
Horned Grebes
Most Waterfowl
Wading Birds
Shorebirds
Northern Harriers
Downy Woodpeckers
Least Flycatchers
Tree Swallows
House Wrens
Marsh Wrens
Warbling Vireos
Yellow Warblers
Clay-colored Sparrows
Savannah Sparrows
LeConte's Sparrows
Sharp-tailed Sparrows
American Goldfinches
Bobolinks
Red-winged Blackbirds
Yellow-headed Blackbirds
Baltimore Orioles

First Tennessee seen in Spring - June 15
First Tennessee "blip" in Fall - Aug 8

**Go to Lesser Slave Lake to Consistently
See:**

Common Loons
Western Grebes
Common Goldeneyes
Common Mergansers
Red-breasted Mergansers
Spotted Sandpipers
Common Terns
Forster's Terns
Bald Eagles
Barred Owls
Northern Flickers
Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers
Swainson's Thrushes
Alder Flycatchers
Boreal Chickadees
Ruby-Crowned Kinglets
Golden-Crowned Kinglets
Red-eyed Vireos
Black-throated Green Warblers
Magnolia Warblers
Mourning Warblers
American Redstarts
Canada Warblers
White-throated Sparrows
Swamp Sparrows
Western Tanagers

First Tennessee Seen in Spring - May 16
First Tennessee Seen in Fall - July 20

Biggest Least Flycatcher Wave - May 24 :
65 banded

Equipment and Infrastructure

Regarding equipment there are a few things to mention. First, the nets that we received down in Guatemala were far superior to the AVINET nets. The birds were far easier to extract and seemed to sustain less damage. I seemed to notice as well that the AVINET nets caught more bees and wasps than did the other nets, with the wasps chewing holes into the nets. We did lose a AVINET net, probably beyond repair, to some sort of predator during one of the MAPS sessions.

The net lanes were somewhat different to those at Beaverhill in that there were more deadfall, plants and water underneath some of the nets and thus they had to be raised higher than at Beaverhill. One good aspect was the ground in most places was very soft so a spike and sledgehammer were not required. Although, one net lane combination was on a path to get into the forest and seemed to get packed down to become solid enough that a spike and hammer would be convenient.

Other worries would be running out of bands due to high capture rates as well as not having nearly enough bird bags. In preparation of each migration we should have at least:

2000 size 0's
500 each of sizes 1 and 1B
100 each of sizes 1A, 2
and 5 each of sizes 3, 3A, 3B and 4

For the MAPS program we should have:

500 size 0's
200 each of sizes 1 and 1B
If the larger sizes are required, the migration bands can be used.

As for bird bags, we could easily use another 30-40 bags. If it is possible, it would also be highly beneficial to have enough poles to leave them at each of the MAPS sites during the summer; 40 more poles would cover the MAPS sites, 20 more on top of that would cover all MAPS sites and Migration Monitoring sites, and 20 more than that will be needed if another MAPS site is created. The moving of the nets and poles from site to site ate up a great deal of time. This wasted time could be severely reduced if we only had to move the nets without the poles. Another improvement for next year would be to acquire an electronic scale like that of the BBO.

Washroom facilities were finally provided after around a months wait. A requested picnic table to be used to band at was personally transported by myself and my vehicle (A picnic table was delivered by the park staff at the site, however it arrived in the last week of July). Finally, we were told that we would have a building to use as a banding lab built by the end of June, which, when that did not occur, was then supposed to be built by the end of July. It was then supposed to be an already built building to be delivered by the time I was to be done my summer employment

in the park. It never arrived, and we banded mostly on the tailgate of my truck for the summer. Stefan was gracious to donate to the LSLBO an mosquito shelter to surround a picnic table which was to provide shelter from the insects and weather. Unfortunately, the shelter attracted more insects inside than were outside and in the end was stolen from the site.

The provision of a summer residence for myself by the park was a bonus, even though the drive to the site every morning was a inconvenience that I had not been used to due to the situation at the BBO. However, it was rent free, it had power and running water of which the latter two seemed like luxuries!

Slave Lake Visitors - 1994

170 people (not including BBO personnel)

That broke down into:

- 67 Slave Lake Locals (included here are park staff)
- 56 People from various campgrounds in the area
- 44 Edmontonians
- 2 People from South Dakota looking for a Mourning Warbler
- 1 Ranger from Pembina Provincial Park

BBO personnel that turned out to help/work:

Stefan Jungkind
Steve Lane
Jim Faragini
Josh Bilyk
Rachel Amores
Carla Palaschuk

The Most Visible:

- 1st) Park Ranger Cheryl Dash - 18 visits
- 2nd) Park Ranger Karen Hayduk - 9 visits
- 3rd) Park Interpreter Andrew Lukat - 6 visits

The best turnout by a local volunteer = 3 visits (Marion Whitby)

1994 OPERATING SEASON

PARK STAFF HOURS AT LSLBO

Park Rangers - $5 \times 2 \times .5 = 5.0$

Andrew L. - $3 \times 3 \text{ (BO)} = 9.0$

- $6 \times 7.25 \text{ (Demo)} = 43.50$

Frank F. - $3 \times 7.25 \text{ (Demo)} = 21.75$

- $7 \times 7.25 \text{ (Supv. \& Admin.)} = 51.0$

Total Hours: 129.0

BBO STAFF HOURS FOR INTERPRETATION

Jason - $9 \times 1.0 \text{ (Demo*)} = 9.0$

- $4 \times 2.0 \text{ (Hike)} = 8.0$

- $2 \times 2.0 \text{ (Major)} = 4.0$

- $2 \times 5.0 \text{ (EP**) } = 10.0$

Lisa - $7 \times 1.0 \text{ (Demo*)} = 7.0$

- $9 \times 2.0 \text{ (Hike)} = 18.0$

- $5 \times 2.0 \text{ (Major)} = 10.0$

- $4 \times 7.25 \text{ (EP**) } = 29.0$

Total Hours: 95.0

Stefan Jungkind,
5103 108A Ave.
Edmonton, AB, T6A 1R1
ph: (403) 465 2370
~~September 12, 1995~~

Marion Whitby, chairperson, LSLBO

Dear Marion,

Following our meeting on September 8, here is an outline of my estimation of costs involved in operating the LSLBO satisfactorily for the 1996 field season. I have also included a sketch of the type of agreement I would be looking toward to be able to continue running the research activities at the station in future years, some comments on the BBO by-laws and a list of reasons why I feel the LSLBO subcommittee should consider incorporating as a non-profit society at the earliest opportunity and start negotiating with the BBO executive to take over running the field station at Lesser Slave Lake starting in 1996.

I have spoken to Doug Collister from the Calgary Bird Banders Association, and he will try to fax you a copy of their bylaws if the executive board there agrees. I am still attempting to communicate with LPBO and the organization at Delta (Manitoba).

As I indicated to you by phone, the best day (almost the only day) for me to come to a meeting in Slave Lake this fall is Tuesday, October 24. Please let me know soon if that is going to work.

Looking toward next year, if all goes well with funding and letter of agreement between myself and LSLBO, I could consider confirming my own availability for the following dates so far:

April 4 - 8, set up lab

April 21 - 24 start field season at lab

May 5 - 8 get field assistants started

May 20 run my Baillie Birdathon there along with those who wish to join me

May 21 - 24 supplement field activity and assist in preparations for Songbird Festival

May 25 - 26 participate fully in the Songbird Festival. This would be the best time to schedule it and I would be available to attend the whole thing!

Yours sincerely,

Stefan Jungkind

cc Frank Fraser

Field activity - research requirements (optimal):

Two Field Assistants - 18 weeks, 40 hours per week - to accomplish the bulk of the migration monitoring during May, early June, late July and August and all of the MAPS program (three stations, mid-July to early August).

Additional experienced (bird banding and field identification capabilities) manpower to be contracted, temporarily employed or offered per diems or honorariums in the case of volunteers/executive members to cover April and September (one person per day) and to fill in the gaps left by the field assistant's schedules in a way that ensures that migration monitoring is accomplished by at least two persons every day from May 1 to June 10 and every day from July 15 to August 31 and that a third person is obtained for May 20 - June 2 and July 22 - August 24 (the peak migration times).

Financial requirements - personnel

My recommendation is for a rate of \$9 per hour for the senior Field Assistant position (this would have to be filled by someone who is already fully trained) and \$7 per hour for the assistant (this would likely be someone who would require substantial training). The rates for additional field personnel would be flat rates (regardless of what the payment is termed) of \$80 per day for the "Bander in Charge" if the Senior Field Assistant is not present and \$60 per day for anyone assisting either the Senior Field Assistant or the "Bander in Charge".

This would work out as follows:

Senior Field Ass. - \$9 X 40 hrs X 18 wks = \$6480 + 10 % (UIC CCP etc.) =	\$7128
Field Assistant - \$7 X 40 hrs X 18 weeks = 5040 + 10 % (UIC CCP etc.) =	\$5544
Travel expense - \$37.50 per week X 18 wks X 2 persons =	\$1350
 "Bander in Charge" - Spring - 40 person-days X \$80 per day =	\$3200
- Fall - 80 person-days X \$80 per day =	\$6400
Assistant - Spring - 26 person-days X \$60 per day =	\$1560
- Fall - 61 person-days X \$60 per day =	\$3660

Total field personnel costs would be **\$28842.**

Financial requirements - additional research activity costs

Lab and equipment upkeep (primarily mist-net replacement)	\$1500
Insurance	\$600
Administration costs (phone, printing etc.)	\$400
Field supervisor (contracting someone to coordinate field personnel etc.)	\$1000
 Total	 \$3500

The grand total for the field operations (not including the cost of running the organization or any costs associated with the interpretive programs) would be **\$32342**

Funds received in 1995 that we might reasonably expect to receive in 1996 also are:

Baillie Fund contract	\$3000
CWS contract	\$3000
SEED	\$2500
STEP	\$1800
Songbird Festival	\$500

Total	\$10800
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This leaves a shortfall of around \$20000. My recommendation is to approach Alberta Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Inventory department or Alberta Wildlife Management Enhancement Fund for a grant/contract for \$10000 and try to raise the remainder through local major and minor corporate sponsorships.

In my opinion, the absolute minimum requirement for field personnel necessary to continue the field operations as a valid monitoring station would be two field assistants (at \$8 and \$6 per hour for 16 weeks with no travel pay) and a reduced supervisor contract to oversee them. This would amount to:

Senior Field Assistant (\$8 X 40 hrs X 16 = \$5120 + 10 %)	\$5632
Field Assistant (\$6 X 40 hrs X 16 = \$3840 + 10%)	\$4224
Additional manpower (primarily for supervision) \$60 X 10 days	\$600
Supervisor contract	\$400
Insurance	\$600
Lab and equipment maintenance (using old heavily used nets)	\$400
Administration	\$200

Total	\$12056
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This would allow continuation of the project but it would be very unsatisfactory in my opinion.

To accomplish the above, I wish to propose the following possibility for my own involvement:

~~An agreement (contract) between myself and the LSLBO that I would~~
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- 1) Raise a minimum of \$20,000 through grant applications and corporate sponsorships (ie write the proposals for the LSLBO to submit) including those described above.
- 2) Oversee and train the employed and contracted field personnel for the summer.
- 3) Prepare the financial records for the employees and take care of any paperwork required for the employment and contracts.
- 4) Prepare and submit reports required by the granting agencies etc., submit banding records to the Bird Banding office, provide timely reports for the newsletter and a final year-end report on the field activity that would constitute a major portion of the Annual Report.
- 5) Accomplish a minimum of 50 days of field work between April 1 and Oct 1. (with the option of "sub-contracting" up to 30 of these days out to other qualified field personnel)
- 6) Ensure that the field station is properly set up for the research activity (not including major renovations, some of which still have to be done) and procure necessary items as needed with funds provided from the LSLBO (outside of this agreement).
- 7) Receive a total of \$5000 from the LSLBO as financial compensation for the time spent on the project. This figure could be revised upward or downward proportionately to the amount of funds raised. However, in order to go ahead with major fundraising attempts, I would need to be guaranteed a minimum amount of \$1000 to accomplish all of 2) to 6) above but with only 10 days of field work being required in 5), regardless of the amount of funds raised in 1), unless no paid field personnel are active at the station in 1996.

As far as legality is concerned, perhaps you would be able to discuss the following questions with a suitable lawyer in Slave Lake (as we discussed at our meeting on Sep. 8):

- 1) In order to have the above agreement considered by the LSLBO, would I have to refrain from signing the incorporation documents, and/or refrain from serving on the board of directors at any time prior to having the agreement described above presented to the LSLBO board of directors (obviously I would have to either refrain from voting on the issue or resign from the board of directors at the time of presenting the agreement to them).
- 2) Upon forming the LSLBO society, it would be nice to have myself, Frank Fraser, Steve Lane, Lisa Zuberbier and Jason Duxbury formally acknowledged as "founding members" of the LSLBO, regardless of whether or not any of us sign the incorporation documents or sit on the initial board of directors - are there any legal ramifications of this? Although many others have participated and assisted generously, it is primarily the involvement of these five people (along with the LSLBO subcommittee in Slave Lake) that has shaped the formation of the LSLBO so far.
- 3) Even if the LSLBO society is set up in a way to try to obtain charitable status in the future, would it be possible to allow for paying experienced "volunteers" travel costs and/or a per diem to participate for a full day in the field activity at the Field Station even if they are on the board of directors?

Comments on the BBO bylaws:

1) Objectives could be adjusted as follows:

a) Under 2), change "major emphasis on Beaverhill Lake area" to "major emphasis on the Lesser Slave Lake area."

b) Change 3) to "To direct monitoring of birds using the area for breeding or for migrating through, and to direct studies of other aspects of natural history at Lesser Slave Lake and to publish the results of such activities." (the underlining is just to highlight the change)

c) Change 5) to "To direct educational and interpretive programs that promote an appreciation for natural history with a special emphasis on the Lesser Slave Lake region."

d) Items 1), 4) and 6) could be left as is.

2) In the By-laws, change

a) Item 4.04 (second par.) to read "Eight members shall constitute a quorum ..."

b) Item 5.01 (first par. to read "...supervised by a Board of at least seven directors"

c) Item 5.02 changed accordingly.

d) Section 6 to include only the following named executive positions (i.e. delete 6.05, 6.06 and 6.07):

Chairperson; Vice-chairperson; Secretary; Treasurer; Past chairperson

"The remaining members of the board shall oversee

i) Research activities

ii) Buildings and grounds

iii) Fundraising

iv) Publications

v) Educational & Interpretive Programs

vi) Public Relations

vii) Liaison with other organizations."

(brief generalized descriptions for each item would be required)

It is important to separate the running of the organization as an organization from the running of the activities and projects of the organization because the former cannot be done for financial remuneration in a non-profit society whereas the latter should have the possibility of being done by people for financial remuneration if that is what it takes to get it done satisfactorily (as has become the case for the BBO in my opinion).

Reasons for establishing the LSLBO as an independent organization at this point.

1) For local pride and support - so far, to my knowledge, only three people out of the LSLBO supporters in Slave Lake have taken memberships with the BBO as requested. If the LSLBO is unable to take advantage soon of the present interest in the station to obtain commitment (memberships are the most tangible evidence of this), the interest is likely to dwindle away.

2) Better communications and more efficient decision making - the requirement of having all actions of the LSLBO subcommittee approved by the BBO executive (or as in most of the situations this summer, the BBO chairperson since no BBO executive meetings have been held since May) has resulted in many unnecessary delays in obtaining equipment and other items required to run the field station.

3) The ability to send out newsletters, reports and announcements for upcoming events in a timely fashion - the summer newsletter for the BBO which was to have the spring summary from LSLBO in it (sent to the editor in July) is over two months late because, according to Doug Collister the editor, he has yet to receive any report from the BBO field station which was due in July! In addition, both the 1993 and 1994 Annual Reports from the BBO have yet to be published. Both have summaries of LSLBO activities in them!

4) The ability to raise funds successfully - two of the most important successful grant applications for the LSLBO (the 1994 ASRPW application which resulted in \$6000 last year and \$5000 this year, and the 1995 Ecotrust which resulted in \$15000 this year) were approved only grudgingly by the BBO executive! A third grant application (to Alberta Wildlife Management Enhancement Fund) prepared by Frank Fraser and myself on behalf of LSLBO, BBO and a banding station in Calgary was deleted at the request of BBO chairperson Petra Rowell. She claimed that it would have been unsuccessful even though in my own personal contact with two persons closely connected to the decision making for that grant, they had indicated to me that it would stand a very good chance to succeed. Petra then made her own grant application to the Wildlife Management Enhancement Fund for a project that involved BBO alone. That grant application was unsuccessful.

5) The ability to pay field personnel what they are worth when sufficient funds are available - this year there was serious resistance from one BBO executive member to having the LSLBO pay its senior field assistant at a higher rate than the BBO senior field assistant was being paid. In 1994, the same person (Geoff Holroyd - chairperson at that time) accused Frank Fraser and myself of irresponsibility for not taking into account the need for paying the Senior Field Assistant for LSLBO more than what the BBO senior Field Assistant was being paid because of the different situation! It would be unwise to tie pay rates at LSLBO to those at BBO in case insufficient fundraising for the BBO field station on the part of the BBO executive forces BBO pay rates to be lower than desirable.



6) The ability to have a bank account and post office box number in Slave Lake - I simply do not understand the BBO executives' resistance to this important matter.

7) The lack of a need to rely on "BBO expertise and experience" - so far, most of the BBO expertise and experience contributed to the LSLBO has been either from me personally or from persons contacted directly by me (with the exception of the LSLBO operations manual prepared by Jason Duxbury and the BBO treasurer's involvement). Most of these persons have indicated an interest in continuing involvement with the LSLBO regardless of whether it is a separate organization or not.

8) The ability to make use of the field data collected to the best interests of the LSLBO - I am concerned about the attitude of proprietorship toward the data collected at LSLBO exhibited by current BBO chairperson Petra Rowell as indicated by a clause she requested for the Memorandum of Agreement with LSLPP which would establish BBO "ownership" of the data. In my opinion, such attitudes are indicative of an attempt to ride on other people's hard work for ones own ends. I think it is important to operate the LSLBO field station under a separate Master banding permit from the BBO master banding permit to forestall any further attitude of this nature and also to ensure timely submission of banding data to the banding office. BBO banding records have been excessively late in reaching the banding office in recent years, due in my opinion to the poor handling of field personnel at the station in the past three years - as the person doing the final preparation of the banding data before submitting it to the banding office I have been exceedingly frustrated at the delay and condition that the computerized records reached me in the past three years even though I have made it clear what needs to be done. This matter is of crucial importance to any Bird Observatory.

9) The freedom to communicate with other organizations independently from the BBO - this year, Steve Lane took the trouble to write a number of letters on behalf of the LSLBO (and BBO) inquiring about how other similar organizations were set up and also soliciting sponsorship from various carefully selected corporations. The BBO chairperson, Petra Rowell refused to sign or send them or even consider them, apparently!

Field Staff Duties at Lesser Slave Lake Bird Observatory for 1995

August 1, 1995

Migration monitoring:

- daily (on work days - see accompanying schedule) from May 1 to June 9 and from July 30 to September 1, and other days that time and weather permit, the staff are to carry out the duties as outlined in A Lesser Slave Lake Manual for Monitoring Bird Migration (BBO, 1994), consisting of:

- a) A minimum of 6 hours of mist-netting at up to 12 selected net-lanes starting at (or within an hour after) sunrise and concluding no later than 1:00 p.m., weather permitting.
- b) Conducting a daily census sometime between sunrise and 2 hours thereafter.
- c) Conducting up to five 10 minute "VIS-MIG" counts evenly spaced over the six hours starting at sunrise as time permits (without compromising mistnetting activity).
- d) Recording any other observations that take place during the day.

Data entry:

- The staff are to use the portable computer and office desk computers to maintain up to date CWS computer banding program files (for at least the fields required for generating banding schedules for submission to the banding office) of the current year's banding data as far as is possible during field time and times of inappropriate weather for field activity.

Interpretation:

- Host interpretive events described below.
- Greet visitors and explain the activity and LSLBO objectives etc. as time permits (without compromising monitoring activity).

Maintenance of Area:

- The staff are responsible for maintaining the immediate area around the study site as required for operating a bird banding site using net-lanes. As well they will keep the lab and area tidy (however, they are not responsible for items and materials being used by volunteers to construct and renovate the building).

Senior Field Assistant Job Duties (in addition to the above):

- Coordinate personnel in the field (volunteers, Parks staff, assistants)
- Make the decisions on setting up and closing down nets according to weather and capture rate etc.
- Train new assistant, Parks staff and any volunteers who wish to learn the migration monitoring. This duty is to be shared by the two staff members when the second assistant is competent in birdbanding.

Schedule of work days:

For Senior Field Assistant (Lisa Zuberbier):

May 1 - 5; May 8 - 12; May 15 - 21; May 24 - June 2; June 7 - 9; June 12 - 22;
June 27 - July 6; July 11 - 20; July 25 - August 3; August 9 - 17; August 22 - Sep. 1.

Contracted days as "Senior Field Assistant":

Lisa Zuberbier - April 29-30, August 18. (3 days)

Steve Lane - August 4-8, September 2-5. (9 days)

Kevin Hento - August 19 - 21. (3 days)

For the second Field Assistant (Colleen Johnston/Sherilynn Lessard):

May 1 - 5; May 8 - 12; May 15 - 21; May 24 - June 2; June 7 - 9; June 12 - 22;
June 27 - July 6; July 11 - 20; July 25 - August 1; August 4 - 10; August 14 - 17.

Contracted days as "Field Assistant":

Colleen Johnston - April 30, August 2-3, August 11-13, August 18. (7 days)

Kevin Hento - August 22, August 28-31. (5 days)

Matthew Smith - August 19-21. (3 days)

Steve Lane - August 23-27, September 1. (6 days)

Interpretive schedule:

Migration monitoring/birdbanding demonstrations will be offered on July 20, 27, August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31. On those days, an extra person (with bird extracting experience) will be provided by the LSLPP for the time period of one hour before the demonstration to the end of the demonstration. In addition, visitors to the park will be invited to view the operations on the Saturdays that Field Assistants are employed or contracted for between July 29 and August 26 with the proviso that the integrity of the data collection takes precedence over explanations to the visitors. No additional manpower will be available from LSLPP on Saturdays.

- Report to Stefan Jungkind as BBO/LSLBO liaison and projects supervisor
- Report to Frank Fraser as LSLPP liaison and interpretive supervisor

Phone and address list:

Lisa Zuberbier - Box 726, Slave Lake, AB T0G 2A0, ph: 849 5827 \$192 by August 19th

Steve Lane - Box 9, Site 210, RR2, Stony Plain, AB T0E 2G0; ph: 963 6084 \$864 by Sep. 6

Colleen Johnston - 804 10th Avenue SE, Slave Lake, AB T0G 2A3; ph: 849 3526 \$336 by Aug 19

Kevin Hento - 10414 27 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6J 4J5; ph: 438 0958 (749 3639 up to August 18) \$432 by September 1.

Matthew Smith - #304 7911 98 Street, Peace River, AB T8S 1C5; ph: 624 8109 \$144 by Aug 22

Stefan Jungkind - 5103 108A Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6A 1R1; ph: 465 2370

Terms of employment:

"Senior Field Assistant" - 40 hours per week for 18 weeks from May 1 to September 1, 1995 for \$9 per hour (plus UIC, CCP and holiday pay as required by law etc.) - through the Edmonton Bird Club.

"Field Assistant" - 40 hours per week for 14 weeks from May 15 to August 17, 1995 for \$6 per hour (plus UIC, CCP and holiday pay as required by law etc.). In addition a travel expense of \$37.50 per week will be payed to the Field Assistant.

Schedule of contracted field personnel:

Equivalent of senior field assistant (must be licensed bird bander) - April 29 - 30; August 4 - 8; August 18 - 21; September 2 - 5. (A total of 15 days).

Equivalent of second field assistant - April 30; August 2 - 3; August 11-13; August 18 - September 1. (A total of 21 days).

Cost involved:

Equivalent of senior field assistant $15 \times \$64 = \960 .

Equivalent of second field assistant $21 \times \$48 = \1008 .

FRANK FRASER

Summary of field activity at
LSLBO 1994-1995.

	1994	1995
Spring migration		
days of banding	15 days (May 22 - June 9)	38 days (Apr 28 - June 9)
net hours	679.5 net hrs	2402 net hrs
birds banded	596	915
species banded		
other captures	104	134
capture rate	103.02 cap/100 net hrs.	43.7 cap/100 net hrs.
species banded	32 species	51 sp
" observed.	111 species	128 sp.

MAPS

	1994	1995
days of banding	15 days (June 10 - Jul 30)	22 days (June 12 - Aug 3)
net hrs	900 net hrs	1088 net hrs
birds banded	283	213
other captures	150	126
capture rate	48.1 cap/100 net hr	31.2 cap/100 net hr
species banded	27 species	18 sp.
" observed	87 sp.	67 sp.

Fall migration

Hi Frank,
I came across
this in my
files.

	1994	1995
Fall migration		
days of banding	29 days (Jul 27 - Sep 11)	52 days (Jul 17 - Sep 24)
net hrs	1064 net hrs	2550 net hrs
birds banded	1857 banded	2392 banded
other captures	116 other captures	220 other cap
capture rate	185.4 cap/100 net hrs	102.4 cap/100 net hrs
species banded	48 sp. banded	58 sp.
observed	97 sp. observed	107 sp. observed

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