

Inland Regional News

Inland Bird Banding Association

Edmonton Bird Banding Workshop

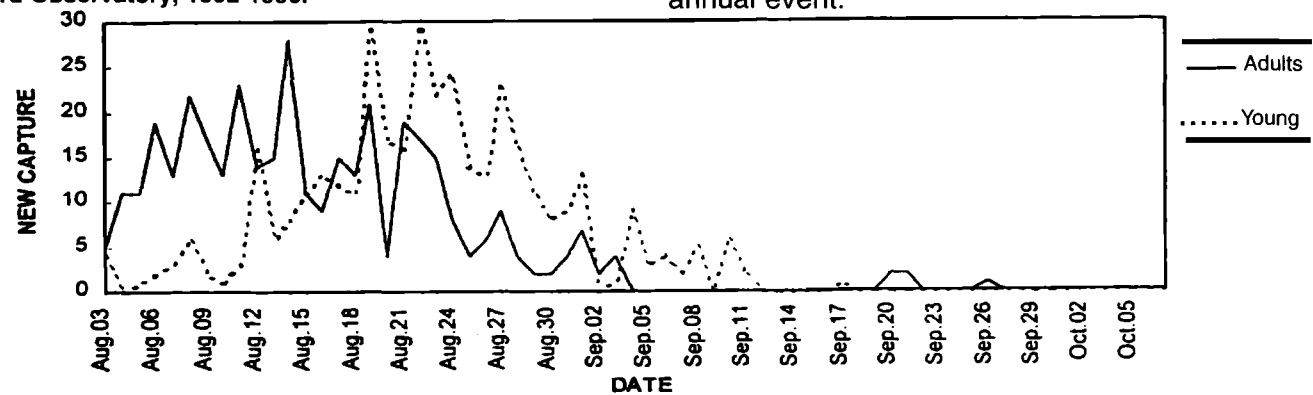
On Saturday, 15 February 1997, Beaverhill Bird Observatory sponsored a bird banding workshop at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. Bird banders from all over western Canada were in attendance to discuss and exchange ideas and learn about other types of bird banding. The morning program consisted of summary reports of migration monitoring programs from Beaverhill Bird Observatory, Calgary, and Last Mountain Bird Observatory.

Bird Studies Canada Research Scientist, Charlie Francis, was the guest speaker for the event. He spoke on a number of topics such as the role of Bird Studies Canada in coordinating the network of migration monitoring stations across Canada, some of the new technology being developed to monitor songbird migration, and how statistics are used in analyzing data from migration monitoring stations.

The afternoon program consisted of a variety of presentations by members in attendance. Topics included details of a 15-year study of Peregrine Falcons in the Canadian Arctic, duck and raptor banding in central Alberta, strategies for separating migrant birds from residents during migration monitoring, distinguishing Mourning and MacGillivray's warblers in the hand, and an interesting account of the trials and tribulations of a pair of Barn Swallows that have nested at Beaverhill Bird Observatory over the past several years.

Last Mountain Bird Observatory's contribution was a comparison of migration patterns of Alder and Least flycatchers (see following note for more details). Stuart Houston concluded the workshop by sharing the wealth of knowledge he has gained, and some of the many adventures from banding 6,000 Great Horned Owls over the past three decades. Judging from the turnout, the workshop was very successful and will, hopefully, become an annual event.

Figure 1.
Fall migration of Alder Flycatchers, Last Mountain Bird Observatory, 1992-1996.



A Tale of Two Flycatchers

An interesting story is developing from Last Mountain Bird Observatory's data on fall migration patterns of adult and young Alder and Least flycatchers. Figure 1 shows that adult Alder Flycatchers migrate earlier than their young. Median dates of passage (that date by which half of the birds had migrated) for adult and immature Alder Flycatchers are 14 August and 23 August, respectively. Least Flycatchers show a similar migration pattern, with the median date of passage for adults being 15 August, and for immatures 20 August.

Unlike the adults of many species of songbirds which undergo molt before or even during migration, the adults of these species molt after reaching the wintering grounds. Therefore, the earlier they arrive on their wintering grounds, the sooner they are able to establish winter territories and molt into their fresh plumage. Young birds, which do not molt, are not in such a rush. Interestingly, late stragglers of both species tend to be adults. Have these birds stayed north to complete their molt?

It has been very exciting to see these migration patterns emerging at LMBO. These results are consistent with other studies across North America involving these species.

From *Black-&-White Warbler* 1(2):1-3. Newsletter of the Last Mountain Bird Observatory.

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Thanks to IBBA

Forest V. Strnad, Chairperson of IBBA's Endowment Committee, passes on the following letter of appreciation from Elaine Meyer, naturalist of Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve, thanking IBBA for a donation of mist nets.

Dear Forest:

I just returned from a birding holiday in south Texas. What a great adventure — Northern Beardless Tyrannulets, Common Paurques and Gray Vireos — just to name a few of the birds we found. Well, back to work and bird watching in cold Wisconsin. It will be an interesting spring with the wintry weather and such. The donation of nets from IBBA has arrived safe and sound. Thank you so much. They will be a wonderful help to us. We have not banded for several months because of the weather. We hope to start again in early May and continue for the summer. The nets will get a workout! Thanks again for the opportunity to receive help from IBBA. As a private, nonprofit organization, the Preserve greatly appreciates your generosity.

Sincerely,
Elaine Meyer
Naturalist GBNP

