



## 2022 Annual BARCA Report

### Summary

The year 2022 can be considered a successful one as we continued to develop our field projects while growing the organization. We received our first large grant from Capital Power to start the Genesee Bird Project, a program that will see us inventorying both diurnal birds of prey and owls while continuing to monitor breeding American kestrel, cavity nesting owls, and songbird populations within the footprint of the Genesee Generating Station. We continued to monitor Northern saw-whet owl nest boxes in the Seba Beach area, as well as on private lands North of Edmonton and at Lady flower Gardens. Our fall owl banding at Lady Flower Gardens was a great success - we managed not only to band a good number of owls, but attracted many nature and bird enthusiasts. We were very pleased to see new members joining BARCA, managing to capture the interest of not only the bird enthusiasts from the general Edmonton area, but as far as Calgary and Fort McMurray. Many of these new members joined us during our field activities, while others offered support for the continuing development of the organizational structure. There was an increased media presence through website updates and numerous posts on our social media platforms, registering more than 13,000 visits to our website, Facebook page, and Instagram profile.



## The Genesee Bird Project

The contribution from Capital power enabled us to spend 20 days in the field. We used this time to learn more about the land, monitor kestrel nest boxes, foster orphaned raptors, conduct roadside surveys, and expand the network of nest boxes.

A summary of the activities:

- Conducted two nocturnal owl surveys with 16 sites surveyed, detecting four Northern saw-whet owls and one Barred owl
- Coordinated three roadside raptor surveys with 42 sites surveyed, detecting 50 individuals of eight species
- Began collecting habitat data around each kestrel box
- Organized three stick nest searches before the forests leafed out. We completed 30 kms of transects and documented 22 nests: three Great horned owls, three Common ravens, two Red-tailed hawks, and two Canada geese
- Collaborated with Medicine River wildlife rehabilitation and used two of our known Great horned owl nests to foster three orphaned young owls
- Continued to monitor the 19 American kestrel boxes, documenting use and nesting success of these birds
- By the end of the year we cleaned/relocated/repaired all of the existing boxes, totalling 88 box visits
- Expanded our kestrel box network by placing six new boxes in a new habitat category - open pastures along fence lines. We also built and placed 20 boxes suitable for small cavity-nesting owls. We started our cavity-nesting songbird project by building 50 bluebird-type nest boxes and placed them in five different habitat types along fence lines
- Deployed our first nest basket to replace a fallen stick nest which was home to a pair of Great horned owls

## Northern Saw-whet Owl Box Monitoring

The year 2022 was again a poor year for Northern saw-whet owl breeding. We continued to monitor our nest boxes at the Parkland Conservation Site (9), Seba Beach (2) and Lady Flower Gardens (3). Each box was checked twice, no nesting detected. We also visited approximately 25 nest boxes, placed on private lands north of Edmonton, with only one box occupied by owls.

## Fall Owl Migration Monitoring at Lady Flower Gardens

This year, we managed to work out the administrative kinks encountered in previous years, and for the first time, we organized consistent owl banding at this site. Between September 15th and October 28th, the nets opened every Thursday and Friday, despite important damages inflicted to our nets by Northern flying squirrels. A total of 72 visitors joined us for the 12 banding evenings, for some of them this being their first experience with owls and banding. We operated for 81 net-hours, successfully capturing and banding 30 owls. We are happy to report two foreign recaptures: we caught one owl previously banded in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, while one of our birds banded in 2021 was recaptured at the Mackenzie Bird Observatory in Mackenzie, British Columbia.



## Membership, Website, and Social Media

As of December 31, 2022, we had 18 members, who totalled more than 350 hours of volunteer work for the society.

Our website ([www.barcaalberta.org](http://www.barcaalberta.org)) became officially active in April, and since, it has attracted 2028 new visitors and 955 returning visitors. Our social media updates @barcaalberta attracted 7338 Facebook visitors while the Instagram posts reached 3500 people. We are constantly working on adding new content and material to keep our members and followers engaged.

## Financial Statement

We closed the year 2022 with a positive balance, our income being greater than our expenses. We would like to thank the generosity of our sponsors, donors, members, and volunteers for their important contributions to our success.

<b>Income</b>	
Balance from 2021	199.00
Memberships	310.00
Donations	320.00
Grants	56,103.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,932.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Administration	757.93
Stipends	39,040.00
Projects	7426.39
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,224.32</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>9,707.68</b>
<b>In-kind donations</b>	<b>10,836.00</b>

## **Acknowledgement**

We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to the following individuals and organizations. None of our activities would have been possible without their generous contributions.

### ***Sponsors/Donations***

Capital Power, Holly Lillie, Karissa Sparling, Olivia Toth, and Shinsie Loen Tiempo

### ***Collaborators/Volunteers***

Lady Flower Gardens, Medicine River Wildlife Centre, Nature Alberta, Wild North, Amanda Geiger, Ethan Denton, Janos Kovacs, Juliet Morse, Laureen Echiverri, Linda Hartum, Mike Greeney, Morgan Vercholak, and Toby-Anne Reimer

### ***Board members***

Brian Nicolai, Dave Ealey, Melissa Chisholm, Rick Morse, and Zoltan Domahidi

