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Forwarded To DCO



*Roma Shaughnessy volunteer and supporter of the of the TLBO
Photo credit: Sachi Snively*

**Prepared
Snively**

by Sachi

For the Cariboo Regional District,

On behalf of the Tatlayoko Field Station Society



Utilization of Funding:

Your grant of \$1000 enabled the Tatlayoko Lake Bird Observatory (TLBO) to execute a pilot extension of our Northern Saw-whet Owl Monitoring program from October 1st-15th. The funds were exclusively utilized to pay the wage of our Assistant Bander Sachi Snively who acted as the lead Owl Bander for the duration of the pilot project. The goal of this pilot project was to ascertain if the peak of the "migration" of this species occurs in October and if so to evaluate the merit and feasibility (principally with regards to weather) of the possibility of extending our owl monitoring program in the future.

Project Success:

Although somewhat hampered by weather, namely wind and on two occasions rain, the project was a success on several levels. First, we banded 79 owls over the course of six sessions for an average of 13 owls per night which is 10 above our eight-season average of three/night. Of these 79 owls two were subsequently recaptured at Rocky Point Bird Observatory (RPBO) located on the southern tip of Vancouver Island near Metchosin. In a straight line this represents a 374-kilometre flight but based on the route that we expect them to take it is more like a 450-kilometre flight which one owl completed in eight days while the other took nine to complete the journey. These foreign recaptures provide very important information on connectivity and begin to answer questions that we have about their migration routes and timing.

Our Saw-whet Owl program is exceedingly popular with the public and we had 33 visitors over the course of the six nights. Our October 1st session was the only one where no members of the public were present. All visitors were expected to adhere to current COVID-19 protocols whilst visiting the station, so as to maintain a healthy and safe experience for all. Our monitoring operation also provides volunteers the opportunity to learn the skills associated with bird banding that they can then go on to use in t

of the pilot who all came from the Cariboo, from as far away as Quesnel and Williams Lake and as near as the valley proper and Eagle Lake.



*Owl bander Sachi Snively (left) and volunteer Courtney Jones (right).
Photo credit: Mae Frank*

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Based on the results of this pilot project, the TLBO will aim to extend our Saw-whet Owl banding program up to October 15th in future years.

Project Benefits:

The Saw-whet Owl program provides an excellent opportunity for outreach, education and conservation awareness. One of the TLBO's goals is to inspire and nurture the Public's appreciation and deepen their understanding of our avian friends via education and hands-on experience. We place a special emphasis on the younger generations as they are key to the continuation of important projects like the TLBO and other conservation and research initiatives across the globe. This is validated by the fact that of the 33 visitors 20 were from the younger cohort, namely children who live in the area and go to school in Tatla Lake. The impact

that this experience has on the youth is very evident as often the same families will return each fall, year after year to attend our Saw-whet Owl program.



Bander Sachi Snively talking volunteer Courtney Jones through the banding process). Photo credit: Mae Frank

CRD Public Recognition:

The generous contribution from the Cariboo Regional District (CRD) that was used to run this program was recognized through our online blog platform (<https://tatlayokobirds.wordpress.com/>); in a write up that will be featured in the Moccasin Telegraph which is a local publication produced by a community member of the Tatlayoko Valley; in an article in the William's Lake Tribune (to be submitted soon); in our year-end report which will be available at the above blog site and finally; verbally, as visitors and volunteers alike were told how the extension of our program was funded. Again, we would like to thank the CRD for your generous contribution and for enabling the TLBO to further our work in the Tatlayoko Valley.