

Beaverhill Bird Observatory's Geoff Holroyd Young Ornithologists' Workshop

The Beaverhill Bird Observatory (BBO) is initiating a new education program - the **Geoff Holroyd Young Ornithologist Workshop**. The goal of this week long workshop will be to provide Alberta teenagers interested in birds with a practical, working knowledge and aesthetic appreciation of birds other wildlife and their conservation. The Workshop will run from **Saturday, July 31 to Saturday, August 6, 2016**. Up to 8 participants, ages 15-18 years, will be selected. They will be provided with the opportunity to learn bird banding and identification skills from experienced bird banders at our banding station east of Tofield, Alberta. While applicants do not have to be top notch birders, they have to share a keen interest in birds and conservation. The BBO will cover all direct costs of the workshop including tents, food, travel for field trips, and professional instruction, but recipients are responsible for their transportation to and from the banding station and sleeping bags.

Participants will be immersed in the daily, hands on work of field ornithology while they learn about the BBO's migration monitoring program and participate in the running of a banding lab. They will improve their bird identification while being trained in the skills and art of handling and banding birds, aging and sexing techniques, bird behaviour and the life histories and conservation concerns of species. The students will be tenting and sharing camp duties, another necessary skill for a field biologist. Field trips to surrounding areas, nocturnal work and talks by experts on natural history topics will be offered in the afternoons and evenings.

Geoff Holroyd is the current Chair of the BBO and a co-founder of the BBO, the oldest banding station in Alberta and second oldest in Canada. Geoff relates how times spent as a youth at Long Point Bird Observatory were instrumental in developing his birding skills and commitment to working with birds as a career. It is the goal of the BBO to continue in this tradition and offer interested youth the opportunity to become skilled birders and learn about the conservation issues facing local birds and wildlife. The workshop will provide a hands-on experience into the world of migrating birds and share with others who are passionate about monitoring, studying and conserving birds and their habitat.

Applicants can apply by sending the completed Application Form that follows to helentrefry@gmail.com by May 15, 2016. Applications will be chosen by a committee and notified by email by May 30, 2016.

BEAVERHILL BIRD OBSERVATORY'S GEOFF HOLROYD YOUNG ORNITHOLOGISTS' WORKSHOP APPLICATION FORM

Please return this application and all necessary attachments to:
helentrefry@gmail.com (scan and send) or
mail to Helen Trefry, 20102 Twp 512, Beaver County, AB T0B 4J1.
Applications must be received by May 15, 2016. Award winners will be notified by
May 30, 2016.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Age: _____

How many species of Canadian birds are you able to identify (circle one)?

30-50 51-75 76-100 101-125 >125

At what age did you become interested in birds and natural history?

Do you have any other hobbies or sports that you like to participate in? What are they?

Do you have camping experience? If so, explain the extent of your experience.

List any natural history clubs or organizations you belong to and how long you have been a member.

How would you evaluate your physical health? (circle one):

Fair Good Excellent

List any allergies you have (please include environmental, food and drug allergies):

Are there any foods that you avoid:

Parents'/Guardians' Name(s): _____

Parents of successful applicants will be required to sign a release form to allow you to attend.

Phone number(s) where parents/guardians can be reached:

Home: _____

Business or cell: _____

Please attach a letter of support from one adult reference (for example a teacher, scout leader, head of naturalist club). This letter should attest to your ornithological and natural history interest and skills, as well as your ability to work as part of a team. The letter of support needs to include the following:

Name of Reference: _____

Position: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number (s): _____

On a separate page(s), please attach the following:

a) A paragraph about why you want to participate in this workshop.

AND a paragraph telling us why you think birds, and wilderness in general, are important to conserve.