

Manitoba's Owl Survey



Stuart Oikawa

Annual Report 2009

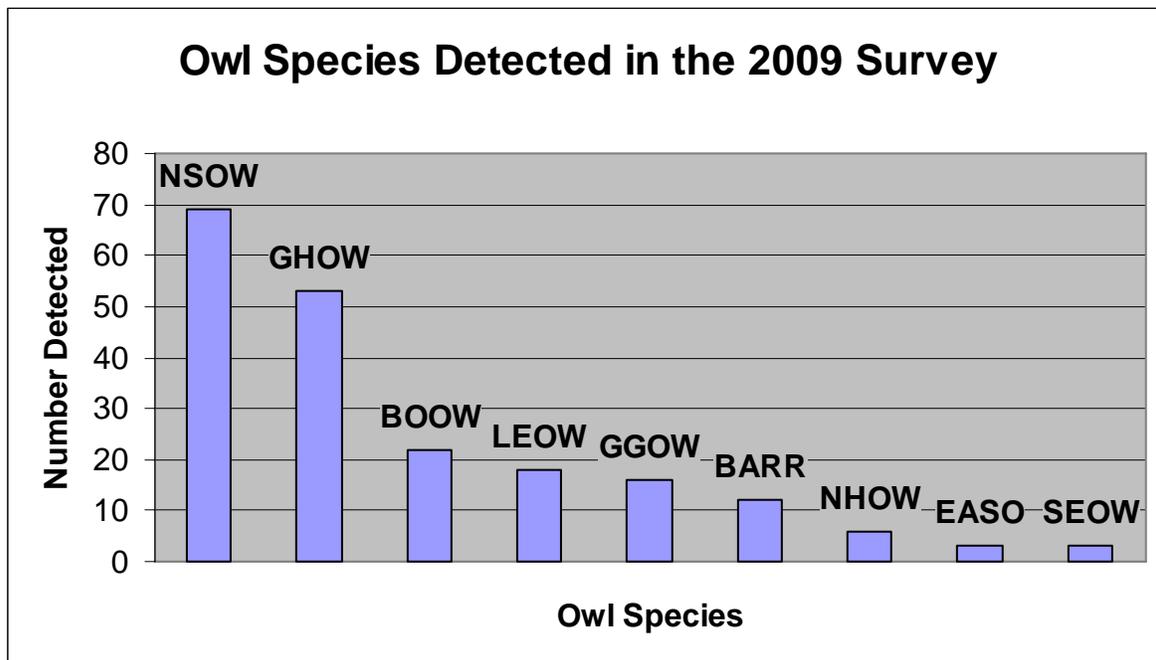
Manitoba's Nocturnal Owl Survey

2009 Annual Report



Get your flashlights ready – another Manitoba nocturnal owl survey season is about to begin! In 2009, ninety-two people volunteered to spend hours in the cold at night listening for owls when sane humans were home in bed. It is this energy and enthusiasm for owls and this survey project that spurs us on. I am pleased to share 19 years of owl survey data in this newsletter.

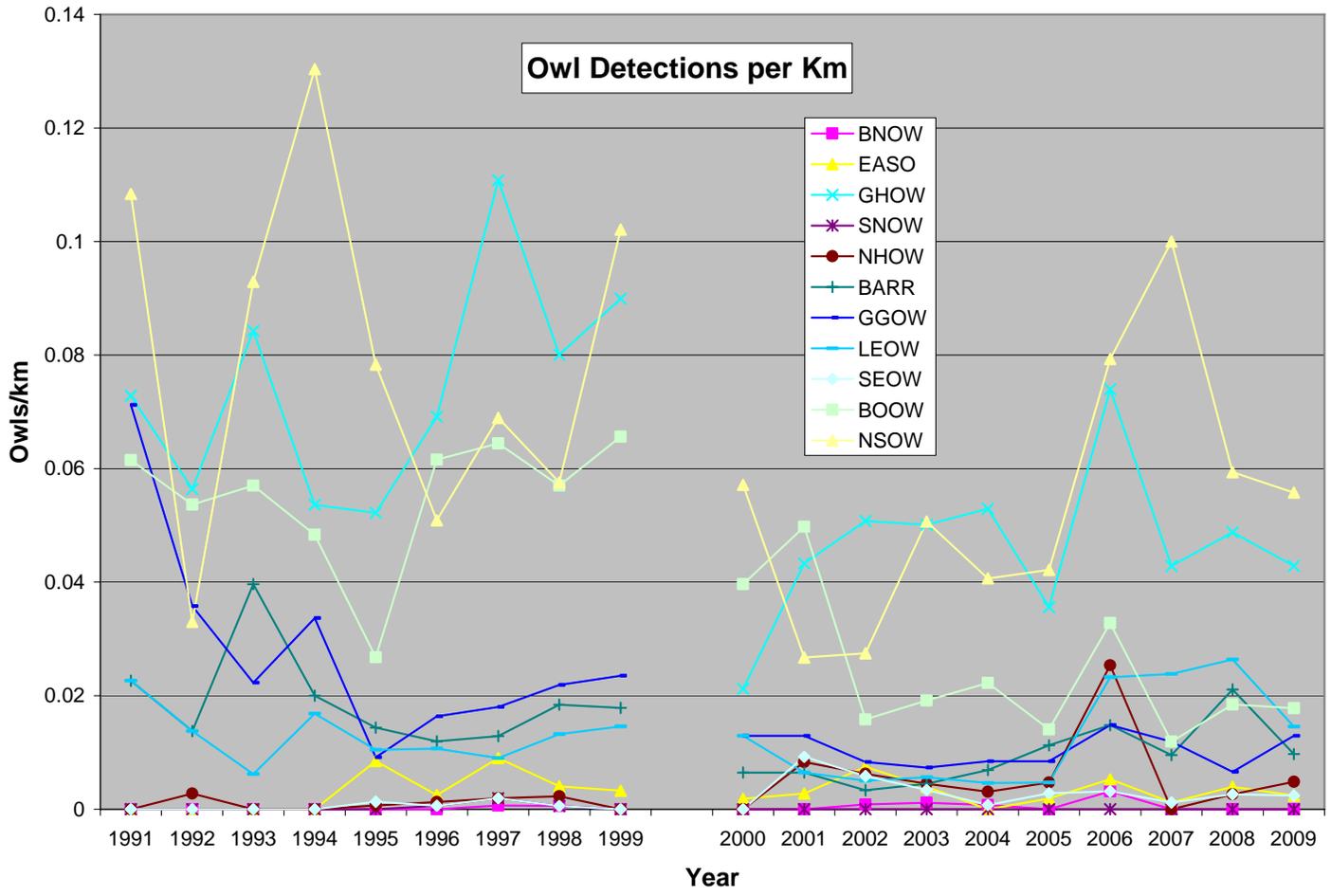
Results



NSOW – Northern Saw-whet Owl
GHOW – Great Horned Owl
BOOW – Boreal Owl
LEOW – Long-eared Owl
GGOW – Great Gray Owl

BARR – Barred Owl
NHOW – Northern Hawk Owl
EASO – Eastern Screech Owl
SEOW – Short-eared owl

Owl Detections per Km



NSOW – Northern Saw-whet Owl
BOOW – Boreal Owl
LEOW – Long-eared Owl
GGOW – Great Gray Owl
SEOW – Short-eared owl
SNOW – Snowy Owl

GHOW – Great Horned Owl
NHOW – Northern Hawk Owl
BARR – Barred Owl
EASO – Eastern Screech Owl
BNOW – Barn Owl

Year	# Volunteers	Distance Surveyed (Km)	# Routes	Total Owl Detections	# Owl Detections per Km
2000	106	1085	57	165	0.15
2001	91	1070	57	180	0.17
2002	198	2403	115	315	0.13
2003	162	1776	107	267	0.15
2004	150	1304	94	183	0.14
2005	102	1067	74	135	0.13
2006	91	946	65	262	0.28
2007	68	856	52	170	0.20
2008	78	1213	73	144	0.19
2009	92	1237	77	204	0.17



As promised in the 2008 Survey Report, here is my favorite Owl Hoot Cookies recipe! These are great for snacking on during cold survey nights!

Interesting fact: Hoot Owl Cookies were the brainchild of Natalie Neal, the first junior contestant ever to win a grand prize in the Pillsbury Grand National Bake-off in 1955.

Natalie's original Halloween Hoot Owl Cookies ...
2nd Grand Prize Winner in the Pillsbury Bake-off®, many, many years ago...

Ingredients:

2 ½ cups sifted all purpose flour
2 teaspoons double-acting baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
¾ cup of butter
1 cup firmly-packed brown sugar
1 unbeaten egg
1 teaspoon of real vanilla
1 ½ squares (1 ½ ounces) unsweetened chocolate
¼ teaspoon baking soda
Chocolate chips
Whole roasted salted cashew nuts (I use slivered almonds)



- * Sift flour, baking powder and salt in a bowl.
- * In a separate bowl, work the butter, gradually adding the sugar and creaming it well. Blend the egg and the vanilla into the sugar mixture and beat well.
- * Melt the unsweetened chocolate in the top half of a double boiler. Remove the pan from over the hot water and set aside to cool.
- * Add dry ingredients gradually into the egg/butter mixture and mix well to form a ball of dough.
- * Remove 2/3 of the dough to a floured board.
- * Stir the 1/4 teaspoon of baking soda into the chocolate and blend chocolate mixture into the dough that remains in the bowl. Chill this chocolate dough in the refrigerator for 1/2 hour.
- * Roll out half of the light-colored dough on your board to a 10 x 4 inch strip.
- * Shape 1/2 the dark dough into a roll 10 inches long; place the dark dough roll onto the strip of light dough. Mold the sides of the light dough around the dark; wrap this in aluminum foil and chill in the refrigerator.
- * Repeat this process. Chill both aluminum-covered rolls of dough about two hours.
- * Remove aluminum foil and cut rolls into slices about ¼ inch thick; place two slices together on greased baking sheet or on a parchment-line baking sheet and press the slices together to resemble an owl's face. Pinch the outside corners of each slice to form "ears". Place chocolate chips, upside-down in the center of the dark circles to make "eyes"; press a whole cashew nut with the pointed side down between the slices to form the "beak".
- * Bake in a moderate oven (350 degrees) for 8 to 12 minutes, just long enough for the cookie's light-colored rim to become slightly brown. Remove cookies from the baking sheets immediately and place on racks until completely cool. Makes about 4 dozen cookies.
- * Cookies can be wrapped, single layer style, in aluminum foil for storage.

Manitoba Owl and Related Activity Updates



Graduate research Todd Whiklo has completed his first field season on the breeding biology of the Barred Owl in Manitoba. Thanks in part to your efforts he was able to locate 41 territories. Further investigation of these sites led to the documentation of 6 nest sites. Prior to Todd's study, only one natural nest site has ever been recorded in Manitoba ...**ever!** Todd's field study continues in 2010 with ongoing financial support from the Sustainable Innovation Fund (Manitoba Conservation), Manitoba Hydro, the Manitoba Model Forest, and the Chambers – Colomb Student assistantship (Manitoba Wildlife Federation).

Alex Froese has started her graduate research on recovering populations of Burrowing Owls in Manitoba using both wild and captive bred owls. Alex's early collaboration with other Burrowing Owl researchers in North America, and staff at the Assiniboine Park Zoo, involved testing of geolocator units and harnesses. These units will help track the dispersal and migration of these endangered owls.



The Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas has launched! Your efforts on the owl survey will contribute to this ambitious five-year project that will engage citizens in documenting the distribution and abundance of all breeding birds throughout the entire province of Manitoba. This important initiative is a collaboration of many partners who share a passion for environmental monitoring. The Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas is run largely by volunteers and they are always looking for people who would like to be involved as citizen scientists or in other capacities. Please consider helping out. Visit <http://www.birdatlas.mb.ca/> for more information on the atlas project, or call Dr. Christian Artuso at 204-945-6816 or Bonnie Chartier at 204-945-7758.

Acknowledgements

A thank you to all the volunteer surveyors in 2009 including Garth Andrew, Christian Artuso, Jeannette Astleford, Stewart Astleford, Cheryl Bailey, Ross Bailey, Vaughn Barkman, Mel Belluk, Dean Berezanski, Rob Berger, Ellen Blain, Jason Boychuk, Bruce Bremner, Nancy Bremner, Adam Brown, Stan Burt, Tim Byers, Sandy Campbell, Bonnie Chartier, Lewis Cocks, Cal Cuthbert, Dave Doucette, Brooke Duncan, Jim Duncan, Patsy Duncan, Bev Dunlop, Alvin Dyck, Don Dyck, Gloria Dyck, Kyle Elliott, Richard Eruick, Diane Gagnon, Rob Gagnon, Donna Gamache, Luc Gamache, Melanie Guigeno, Jennifer Gustafson, Harry Harris, Heather Hinam, Walfried Jansen, Lars Jansson, Ken Kingdon, Rudolf Koes, Khristine Koster, Cliff Lane, Andre Lansard, Elizabeth Lansard, Georgina Larson, Raymond Larson, Sharon Lidbetter, Frank Machovec, Jacquie Machovec, Kurt Mazur, Alex McIlraith, Patti McIntyre, Bonnie McLeod, David McLeod, Marilyn Meyer, Albert Mickey, Lorelie Mitchell, Darryl Neustate, Henry Oleschak, Danielle Papin, Charlotte Pedwell, Morley Pedwell, Les Pelletier, Albert Peter-Pries, Barbara Pettinger, Raymond Pettinger, Ryan Porteous, Benjamin Pries, Mark Reed, Bob Regula, Amelia Reid, Dave Roberts, Marianne Schutz, Nienke Schutz-Kolster, Ken Schykowski, Bob Shettler, Merlin Shoemith, Rosalie Sigurdson, Dan Stirling, Peter Taylor, Sharon Taylor, Ken Tilling, Abby Torchia, Dave Uhryniv, Piet van Dijken, Liis Veelma, Katherine Ward, Lindsey Wiebe, and Margaret Yorke. Many surveyors more than one route, some as many as six!

If you participated in the 2009 owl survey and your name is not included on this list perhaps your data sheets were not received. If this is the case, please contact Jim Duncan.

I would also like to thank the following:

- Doug Collicutt continues to host Manitoba owl survey information and associated documents on his wonderful website www.NatureNorth.com – thanks Doug!
- Stuart Oikawa and other photographers graciously permitted the use of their owl images in this report.
- Patsy Duncan, my wife and co-founder of the Manitoba Owl Survey, for her continued assistance with the survey. Thanks also to our son Connor and daughter Brooke for indulging their parents' owl obsession. Thank you so very much!

Many thanks to all of you for making this survey and report possible!

For more information on the Manitoba Nocturnal Owl Survey please contact

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