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A Note on Hummingbird Banding in Saskatchewan

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middle weighted hoop is attached to the doubled veil material on the inside of the trap thus avoiding tangling concerns by a trapped hummingbird. Four lines are used to raise and lower the weighted hoop. A second set of lines suspend the bottom hoop from the top hoop.

Instead of using sliding weights on the strings used to make the middle hoop drop, I filled the middle hoop with very fine beach sand. Holes are drilled into the top hoop with brass furls inserted to permit the backing line to slide easily as it raises and rapidly lowers the walls of the trap. I used a fly fishing line that is strong, light and abrasion resistant as the backing line to hang the middle hoop.

The hoops were strung with the backing line, veil material cut to desired depth and length, netting cut to size for the top and bottom hoops, the whole assembly was put together using a craft hot glue gun. Actual construction can be done in a day.

In summary, the modifications are (1) 7 mm OD diameter hoop inserted between the weighted and bottom hoops; (2) sand used as weighting material in the middle hoop; (3) backing line for fly fishing for lines; and (4) small mesh netting for the top and bottom of the trap (which I had first seen as part of Cathie Hutcheson's passive banding traps).

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A Note on Hummingbird Banding in Saskatchewan

I have banded Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at several sites in the boreal and deciduous forest regions of southern Saskatchewan: 27 birds were caught at 5 sites in 2014, 129 birds caught at 7 sites in 2015 and 225 birds caught at 10 sites in 2016. Hummingbirds were captured using a modified Hall Trap (the modification is a fourth light-weight hoop below the weighted loop that brings down the trap sides when the drop string is released).

No birds have been recaptured from my 2014 banding, most likely because I did not revisit those banding sites. All 2015 banding sites were new; I banded 127 hummingbirds and had 3 repeats. In 2016, I captured 225 hummingbirds which including 14 repeats and 2 returns from 2015; additionally, recaptures of 5 hummingbirds banded at neighboring sites within 233 m of their original capture. While the individuals hosting my trapping efforts at the two Martins Lake sites were of the opinion that "their hummingbirds" did not go to the other banding site, I found that hummingbirds did visit both sites, which are located 232.5 m (763 ft, as measured using Google Earth), as documented by the capture of 1 female and 2 males at the other Martins Lake site than originally banded. Recaptures also showed movement between Pike

Lake Provincial Park-B and Pike Lake Provincial Park-A but the separating distance is just one cabin lot.

Banding in 2014 occurred between 7 Aug and 31 Aug with 3 AHY M, 9 AHY F, 3 HY M, and 12 HY F banded. In 2015, banding occurred between 26 May and 27 Aug, with 39 AHY M, 43 AHY F, 28 HY M, and 19 HY F banded. In 2016, banding occurred between 1 Jun and 25 Aug with 57 AHY M, 107 AHY F, 37 HY M, and 24 HY F banded. In 2014, 55.5 % of captures were of HY birds. This high percentage of HY birds might be accounted for by the short (24 days) period of banding very late in the breeding season. The proportion of HY birds was 36.4% in 2015 and 27.1% in 2016. The low proportion in 2016 may be partly accounted for by an extremely windy 24 hr period in late June 2016 at many banding sites. At the Chelan banding site, I had banded 16 AHY birds (6 males and 10 females) on 24 Jun, before the storm, and only five AHY birds were captured after the storm including three birds captured on my last banding day at Chelan.

While the above summary reports on only three years of banding results, it shows great annual variation in proportion of HY birds captured. Of the 375 hummingbirds banded between 2014 and

2016, only 7 were repeat or encounter captures or 1.86% return of birds at or very near the original banding site. No big surprise to hummingbird banders.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to those individuals who hosted my banding activities

and who permitted me into their lives and yards every second week for four hours of banding starting predominately at 0800 hours.

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Table 1. Hummingbird banding sites in Saskatchewan giving location, banding effort and numbers of birds banded and recaptured.

Banding Site	1' blocks	Year	Days	Hours	Birds Banded	Recapture Notes
Christopher Lake-A	53-33 N 105-48 W	2016	5	10	16	1 repeat
Christopher Lake-B	53-32 N 105-49 W	2016	4	8	11	
Christopher Lake-C	53-33 N 105-50 W	2016	6	24	13	1 repeat
Prince Albert	53-17 N 105-39 W	2016	5	21	18	4 repeats
Kilwinning	53-06 N 106-34 W	2015	4	10	7	1 repeat
Macdowall	53-01 N 105-59 W	2014	1	6	9	
Martins Lake-A	52-59 N 107-00 W	2015	4	12.5	19	
		2016	3	11	12	1 repeat, 2 encounters from Martins Lake-B
Martins Lake-B	52-59 N 107-00 W	2015	2	8	35	
		2016	8	31.75	68	1 repeat, 1 return, 1 encounter from Martins Lake--A
Krydor	52-49 N 107-11 W	2014	1	3	2	
Porcupine Plain	52-39 N 103-12 W	2015	3	13	14	1 repeat
		2016	6	26	24	2 repeats
Chelan	52-36 N 103-23 W	2016	5	15.5	22	
Greenwater Provincial Park	52-30 N 103-30 W	2015	4	12	10	
Rose Valley-A	52-17 N 103-51 W	2014	1	4	5	
Rose Valley-B	52-17 N 103-54 W	2014	1	2	2	
Saskatoon	51-58 N 106-30 W	2015	7	25.5	17	
		2016	7	25.5	28	3 repeats, 1 return
Pike Lake Provincial Park-A	51-53 N 106-48 W	2016	6	22.5	10	1 repeat, 2 encounters from Pike Lake PP-B
Pike Lake Provincial Park-B	51-53 N 106-48 W	2015	8	22.5	24	1 repeat
Broadview	50-22 N 102-35 W	2014	2	6	9	

New longevity record for Harlequin Duck more than 20 years

Harlequin Ducks (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) belong to the sea duck tribe (Mergini). They are specialized in feeding and nesting along fast-flowing streams and rivers. The western North American population breeds on streams from northern Wyoming to Oregon through Idaho, Montana, and Washington, throughout British Columbia and the mountainous areas of Alberta, and north into the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Yukon and Alaska (Robertson and Goudie 1999). In winter they exploit intertidal habitats along the Pacific Coast, from northern California northwards through Alaskan waters (Palmer 1976).

Harlequin Ducks are similar to other species of sea ducks in that they have delayed sexual maturity, low annual production, high annual adult survival, and a long life span (Goudie et al. 1994). Life span may be longer for males than for females, as females generally have lower summer survival likely due to higher predation risk while nesting, whereas adult males and females have similar winter survival rates (Cooke et al. 2000). The documented longevity for Harlequin Ducks was only 10 years in 1999 (Robertson and Goudie 1999), but postulated to be 15-20 years (COSEWIC 2013). Harlequin Ducks are not as commonly