

SPEAKER SESSIONS: 2024 Snow Goose Festival

We welcome the following speakers / presentations at the 2024 Snow Goose Festival. Speakers sessions are FREE of charge, and will be held in the Tofield Arena Meeting Room.

Saturday, April 27: 12 Noon

Impact of Avian Flu on Waterfowl

Margo Pybus, Wildlife Disease Specialist, Ab Fish and Wildlife.

In Spring 2022, avian influenza virus showed us something never before seen in North America. Large numbers of wild birds, and some wild mammals, died as a result of infection with a virulent form of the virus. It was a deadly genetic variant that spread rapidly all across Canada and the US. This presentation provides a short review of the outbreak in 2022/23, updated with what occurred in 2023/24.

Saturday, April 27: 1:30 pm

Snow Goose Management issues

Mark Boyce, Prof of Ecology, Univ of Alberta

Sunday, April 28: 12 Noon

40 years of monitoring at the Beaverhill Bird Observatory

Jon Von Arragon, Assistant Biologist, Beaverhill Bird Observatory

The Beaverhill Bird Observatory was established in 1984 to monitor the movements of local birds through coordinated bird banding. In the 40 years since then, the BBO's research has expanded to include over 20 different monitoring programs, with each one shedding new light on the importance of Beaverhill Lake for local wildlife. Jon's presentation will provide an overview of the different research programs at the BBO, as well as some of the exciting new conclusions being reached as a result of these efforts.

Jon first visited the BBO when he was in high school and quickly became captivated with bird banding, and he has been involved with the station ever since.

Sunday, April 28: 1:30 pm

Remarkable Recovery of the Trumpeter Swan

Nick Carter, Professional Writer, Photographer and Naturalist

The musical, horn-like call of the trumpeter swan is a beautiful feature of Alberta's wilderness. There was, however, a time when the trumpeter swan had very nearly disappeared from our wetlands and pastures. What caused this magnificent bird's decline, and what does its future as a species look like in our province?

Nick Carter is a writer, photographer, and naturalist from Edmonton. From birds and bugs to flowers and fossils, Nick is always seeking out the natural wonders of this province and sharing his enthusiasm with others.