

PROGRESS REPORT

Raptor Survey Huron Mountain Club

Phase II

An In-depth Study of the Barred Owl

Summer 1980

Submitted by:

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INTRODUCTION

The northern barred owl (Strix varia Barton) is frequently encountered in northern hardwood-conifer forest throughout much of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. However, it is not believed to be as common as it is in the Huron Mountain Club property. This study was started to determine first how dense the population actually is within the property owned by the Club.

METHODS

The purpose of this project was to determine the presence of barred owls through surveys which were conducted during June. The survey procedure consisted of driving all roads in the Club and stopping every half mile and playing a recording of a barred owl on a portable predator caller. When an owl was located, the recording was repeated for up to half an hour to see if a female was also present. The site was then marked with a piece of yellow flagging.

When the survey was completed, we attempted to capture the birds to mark them.

The procedure used to capture birds was either of two methods. First, we recorded the voice of the individual owl using a parabolic microphone and a tape recorder. The tape was then played back to the owl. The owl became excited and would fly at the speaker, which was located in front of a mist net, and the bird would be caught in the net.

The second procedure was to place a stuffed owl in front of a mist net and play a recording of the pair of owls in an adjoining territory. This would usually cause the bird to attack the intruding "owl" and, in the process, be caught in the net.

When a bird was caught, it was banded with a U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service band and a color band. Measurements taken on a bird included single wing length, total wing spread, tail length, and weight of the bird.

In addition, four birds were fitted with radios so that they could be followed.

RESULTS

Results of the June survey indicated that birds were located as follows:

Main Road -	1 pair near 2nd Pine Lake by a small borrow pit; three-quarters of a mile - 2nd pair.
Ives Lake Road -	Breakfast Rolle pair - near Lily Pond; Paul Drive pair.
Conway West -	Pair at road - junction with Club road.
Conway East -	Pre-Drury pair - half between Al Drury house and sugar operation. Drury pair (actually M. C. Bennett Drive). Post-Drury pair - near gravel pit by Collins cabin.
Rush Lake Road -	Mt. Ida road pair; How Lake pair; Rush Lake pair; Skeet field pair.
Mountain Lae Road -	Boathous turn-off; Norways; Steep cut; Rush Lake boathous road.
Ravens Roost Road -	Turnaround area; 1 mile from gate.
Salmon-Trout Road -	Guardhouse pair - Christy Pool road.
Upper Falls Road - (Section 9 road)	Bachelor 1 mile from Ives Lake road.

Loop Road - One mile from chicken farm; Canyon
Lake turn-off pair; aspen opening
pair; bachelor - Ives Lake cabin area.

The follow birds were captured:

June 17, 1980 - Conway west pair - band #877-58720
color - orange

June 25, 1980 - Breakfast Roll pair - band #877-58702
color - green

June 30, 1980 - Christy Pool - band #877-58703
color - yellow

July 1, 1980 - Mid-Raven Roosts Road - band #877-58704
color - orange-yellow - later removed.

July 2, 1980 - Skeet field - band #877-58705
color - white-orange.

July 6, 1980 - Main road - 2nd Pine Lake - band #877-
58706 - color - red - later removed.

July 8, 1980 - Main road - 2nd Pine Lake - band #877-
58707 - female caught.

July 13, 1980 - Rush Lake boathouse turn-off - band
#877-58708 - color - red - radio
151.075.

July 14, 1980 - Loop road - 1 mile from chicken farm
band #877-58709 - color - green-yellow
radio - 150.900.

July 17, 1980 - Main road - north pair - band #877-
58710 - color - yellow.

July 23, 1980 - Guardhouse pair - Salmon-Trout road -
band #877-58711 - color - green -
radic - 150.950.

July 23, 1980 - Raven Roost turnaround - band #877-58712 -
color - yellow.

July 27, 1980 - Upper falls bachelor - band #877-58713 -
color - orange - radio - 151.025.

July 28, 1980 - Mountain Lake boathouse road - band #877 -
58714 - color - red.

July 29, 1980 - Steep Cut pair - band #877-58715
color - green.

July 31, 1980 - Paul road pair - band #877-58716
color - green.

August 6, 1980 - Howe Lake pair - band #877-58717
color - none.

YOUNG

This year we located young owls at:

1. Breakfast Roll pair - 2 young
2. Paul Road pair - 1 young
3. Loop road pair - 1 young
4. Guardhouse pair - 1 young
5. Rush Lake boathouse - 2 young

RESEARCH TO BE CONDUCTED 1980-81

1. I plan to continue to follow the four radioed owls this fall and early winter until the radio quit operating.
2. Next spring I will resurvey the Club to determine if we still have pairs at each of the locations used this year.
3. An attempt will be made to catch all remaining owls (one from each pair) so that each pair is marked.

4. Nests will be located and observed through the early spring and summer.
5. At least 6 more owls will be radioed so that they can be followed.

BUDGET

1. Dr. Sloan - time donated	0
2. Student Assistant	\$2,000
3. Radios, nets, equipment needs	<u>\$1,000</u>
	\$3,000
Requested from Huron Mountain Wildlife Founda- tion for 1981	\$3,000