

## 2008 Owl Survey Summary

Owl surveys were conducted in Clinton Towpath, Liberty Park South and Munroe Falls Home Property as part of the park inventories this year. Approximately one site per 100 acres of land was surveyed in each park for eastern screech owl (EASO), barred owl (BADO), great-horned owl (GHOW), saw-whet owl (NSOW), and long-eared owl (LEOW). There were three sites in the Clinton Towpath and two each in Liberty Park South and Munroe Falls Home. Each site was visited twice a month in January, February and March.

This year a Wildlife Technologies © caller box was used. This caller box does not have wires or an external sound system such as a CD player. The calls are studio grade wildlife calls stored on a microchip inside the caller system. This assures accurate sounds with little or no background noise.

Table I lists the species recorded in Clinton Towpath, Liberty Park South and Munroe Falls Home Property during the 2008 owl calling surveys. The Clinton Towpath area yielded all the owl species common to this region including barred owl, great-horned owl and eastern screech owl. In fact, many of the individual birds responded very well to the caller box. Not only did the bird reply vocally, but many of the birds flew in to the area within meters of the caller box and were observed by staff and volunteers.

Barred owls and great horned owls were documented at Liberty Park south, as well as one call from a northern saw-whet owl in late March. At one survey site as many as four barred owls were calling at one time. At this same site on a different survey night, two great-horned owls were calling back and forth to each other.

Munroe Falls Home property produced few species. Only eastern screech owls were documented during the survey period. In fact, only one individual was heard during one survey in March. No other owls were documented during the entire survey period in 2008.

Table I. Results of the Owl Calling Surveys at Clinton Towpath, Liberty Park South and Munroe Falls Home Property, 2008.

	<b>BADO</b>	<b>EASO</b>	<b>GHOW</b>	<b>NSWO</b>
<b>Clinton Towpath</b>	X	X	X	
<b>Liberty Park South</b>	X		X	X
<b>Munroe Falls Home</b>		X		

The owl surveys are being discontinued as part of the park inventory schedule. However, long-term monitoring for this program will be continue and is scheduled for 2009. Long-term monitoring occurs every three years. Consult Table 2 for the long-term monitoring schedule.

Table 2. Long-term monitoring schedule

	2009	2010	2011
<b>OWLS</b>	X		
<b>HAWKS</b>		X	
<b>COYOTE</b>			X

## Raptor Survey Protocol

- 1) Begin owl survey at approximately 8:00 pm, hawk survey after 9:00 am. Drive to site #1. Turn vehicle motor and lights off. Quietly proceed to calling location. Remain quiet and listen for unsolicited raptor calls for 2 minutes.
- 2) Broadcast vocalizations for first raptor species for 30 seconds, rotating speaker 90 degrees. Listen for 2 minute.
- 3) Repeat step 2 for each of the raptor species being surveyed. Be sure to rotate speaker 90 degrees during each vocalization broadcast.
- 4) After broadcasting the last raptor species, listen for 5 minutes.
- 5) If an auditory or visual response occurs, record the site location in the site column and each individual responding raptor by species in the species column of the data sheet. Use the following abbreviations:

GHO—Great Horned Owl  
EASO—Eastern Screech Owl  
BAOW—Barred Owl  
UNK—Unknown  
LOEO—Long eared Owl  
SAWO – Saw whet Owl

CHA—Cooper's Hawk  
BWH—Broad-winged Hawk  
RSH—Red-shouldered Hawk  
RTH—Red-tailed Hawk  
SSH – Sharp-shinned Hawk  
AK - American Kestrel  
TUVU – Turkey Vulture

- 6) For each individual responding raptor, record the compass direction in the direction column using one of the following headings: N, NE, E, SE, S, SW, W, NW.
- 7) For each individual responding raptor, record the distance as one of the following classes using letter A, B, C, or D.
  - (A) less than 0.5 mile, loud and close
  - (B) 0.5 mile to 1.0 mile, clear and moderately loud
  - (C) 1.0 – 1.5 mile, audible but difficult to distinguish.
  - (D) Visual response, raptor visually observed at calling station.
- 8) Record the date, crew members, temperature, wind direction and speed for each survey on the data sheet as indicated.

## Equipment Checklist

Clipboard  
Data Sheets  
Pencil/Pens  
Flashlight

Map of Calling Stations  
Compass  
Wildlife Caller  
CD of Raptor Vocalizations

Radio  
Raptor ID Books  
Binoculars