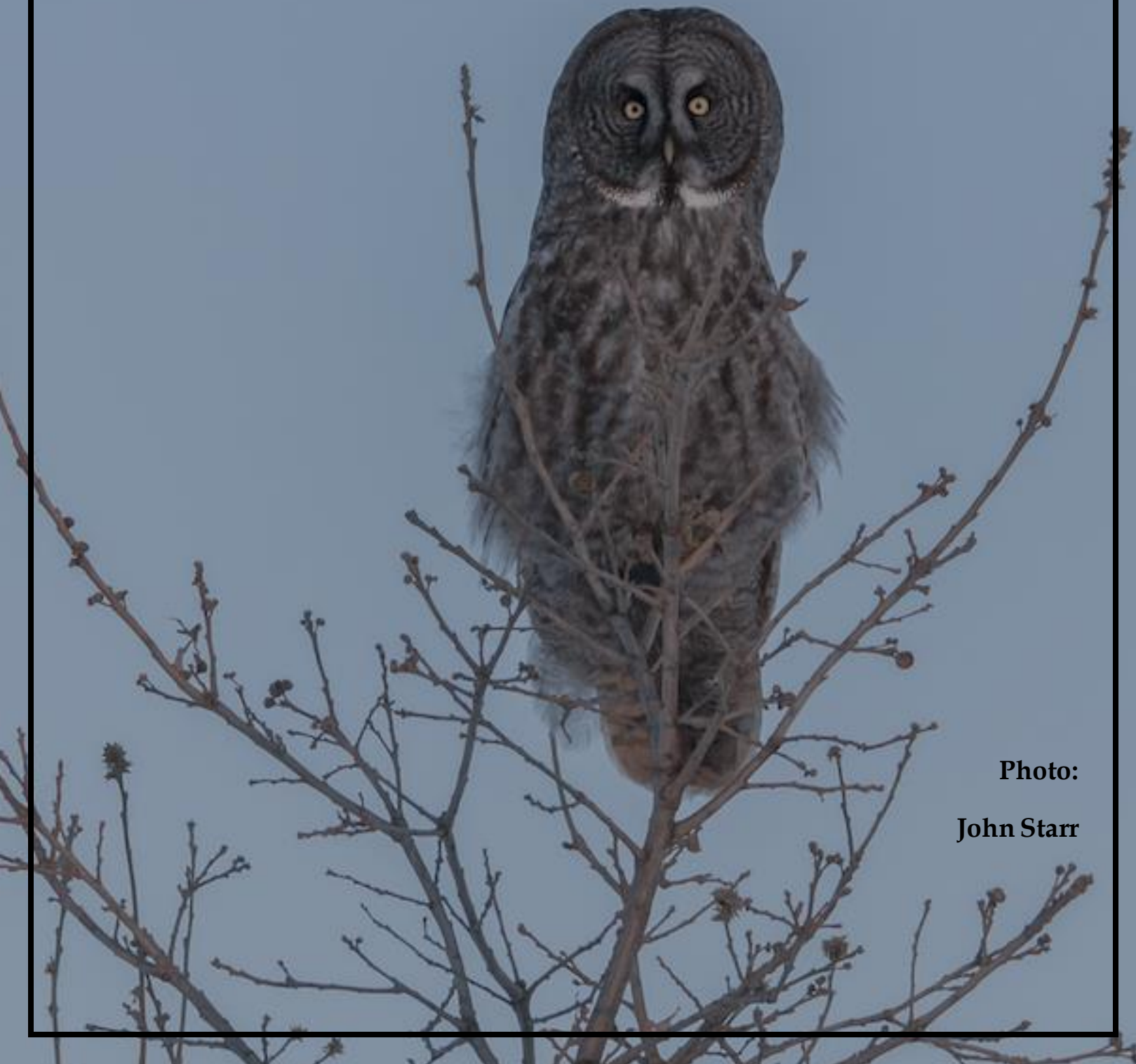


# Manitoba Nocturnal Owl Survey

## 2014 Annual Report



**Photo:**

**John Starr**

This 2014 Manitoba Nocturnal Owl Survey Annual Report is dedicated to thousands of volunteers contributing to the Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas (2010 to 2014), including all of the Manitoba Owl Surveyors! The atlas effort involved the training of many new birders. Patsy and I had the privilege of introducing several new birders to the owl surveys over the years, and in 2014 a young person was keen to try. This is her story. *(Note the English version follows and is my rather imperfect translation of her words).*

Ma Semaine de Relâche - par  
Brooklyn Cherniak (âge 9)

Pendant la semaine de relâche je suis aller chez Jim and Patsy Duncan's. Ils est Spécialisé sur les chouette. J'ai tenu son garçon hibou a oreilles longues qui s'appelle Nemo. Cette drôle per-ce-que Nemo ont fait les bruit de les femme pour j'ai faim! J'ai aussi vu deux de son chouette rayée. Il y a un petit film aprappaux de un de les voyage au son ferme près de Balmoral.

Trent minutes après le coucher de soleil ma mère, Jim, Patsy, et moi ont allé sur notre rue pour faire le enquête sur les hibou a Manitoba. Chaque 1.6 kilomètre ont arête et écouter pour les différent hibou. J'ète écrite sur le



enquête le vent, le distance, le neige, le bruit, et les hibou.

La premier arête ont na pas entendus un hibou, le deuxième ont n'as pas entendus un hibou, ni le troisième, quatrième, cinquième, et tous les autre, mes ont a vue beaucoup de autre

magnifique chose comme les lumière boréal, les constellations, les satellites, les avions, en fait j'ai vu un étoile tomber!

Mon souhaite été de voir un autre hibou cette soir, on a comicer de conduire à Jim et Patsy's maison. a le quatrième arrête ont a vu un grand hibou a cornes! Quand ont a arriver au Jim's maison il a dit j'étais le plus jeune de faire le Manitoba nocturnal owl survey! Il a donné deux pancarte de un chouette rayée pour moi et mon ami Matthew. C'est nuit est dans ma haute cinq!



### My Spring Break - By Brooklyn Cherniak (age 9)

During spring break I went to Jim and Patsy Duncan's. They specialize in studying owls. I held their male long-eared owl called Nemo. It was funny because Nemo made a noise like a hungry female owl! I also saw two of their barred owls. There is a small film of one of these owls journey to their farm near Balmoral.

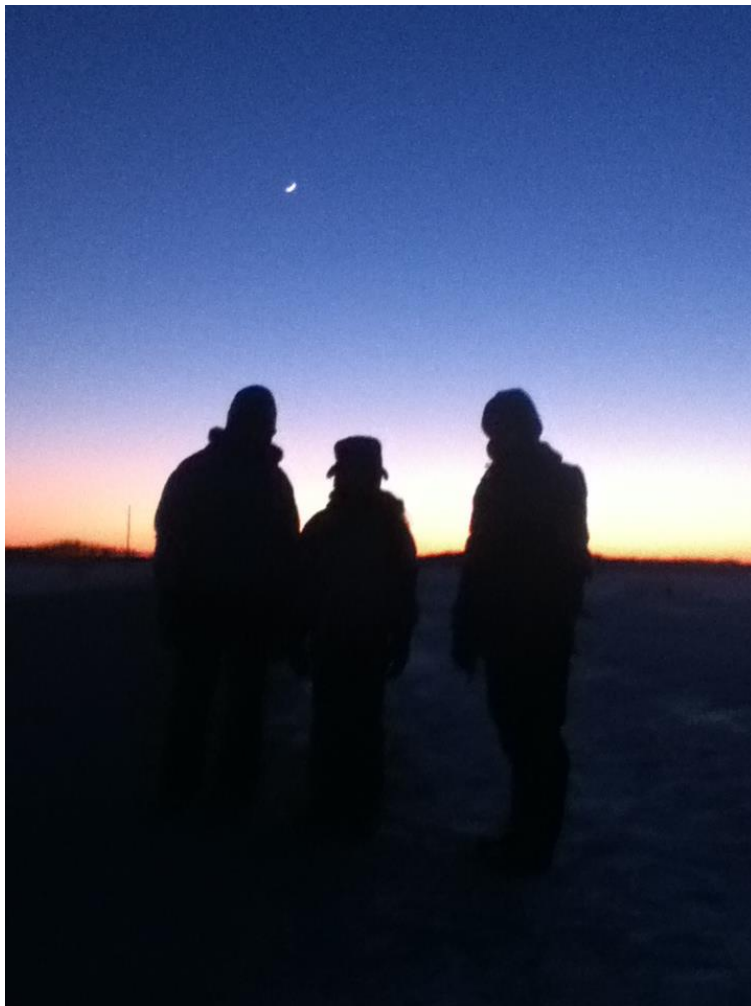
Thirty minutes after sunset my mother, Jim, Patsy and I left for our owl Manitoba Nocturnal Owl Survey route. Each 1.6 km we stopped and listened for different owls. I wrote down the wind speed, the distance between stops, snow, noise, and owls detected.

We did not hear any owls at the first stop, or the second, third, fourth, fifth or at any stops but we saw lots of other things like magnificent northern lights, constellations, satellites, and

aircraft and in fact I saw a falling star!

My wish was to see another owl that evening, and we left to drive back to Jim and Patsy's house back along the survey route. At the fourth survey stop we saw a great horned owl! When we

arrived at their house Jim said I was the youngest person to do a Manitoba nocturnal owl survey! He gave me two barred owl posters of a barred owl for me and my friend Matthew. This night was my high five!





## 2014 Nocturnal Owl Survey Highlights

In March and April 2014 Manitoba completed its 24th annual volunteer nocturnal owl survey. A big thank you to the 100 volunteers who surveyed over 77 routes covering over 1,224 km. An estimated total of 178 individual owls of eight owl species were detected for an overall detection rate of 0.155 owls per km, an increase from last year.

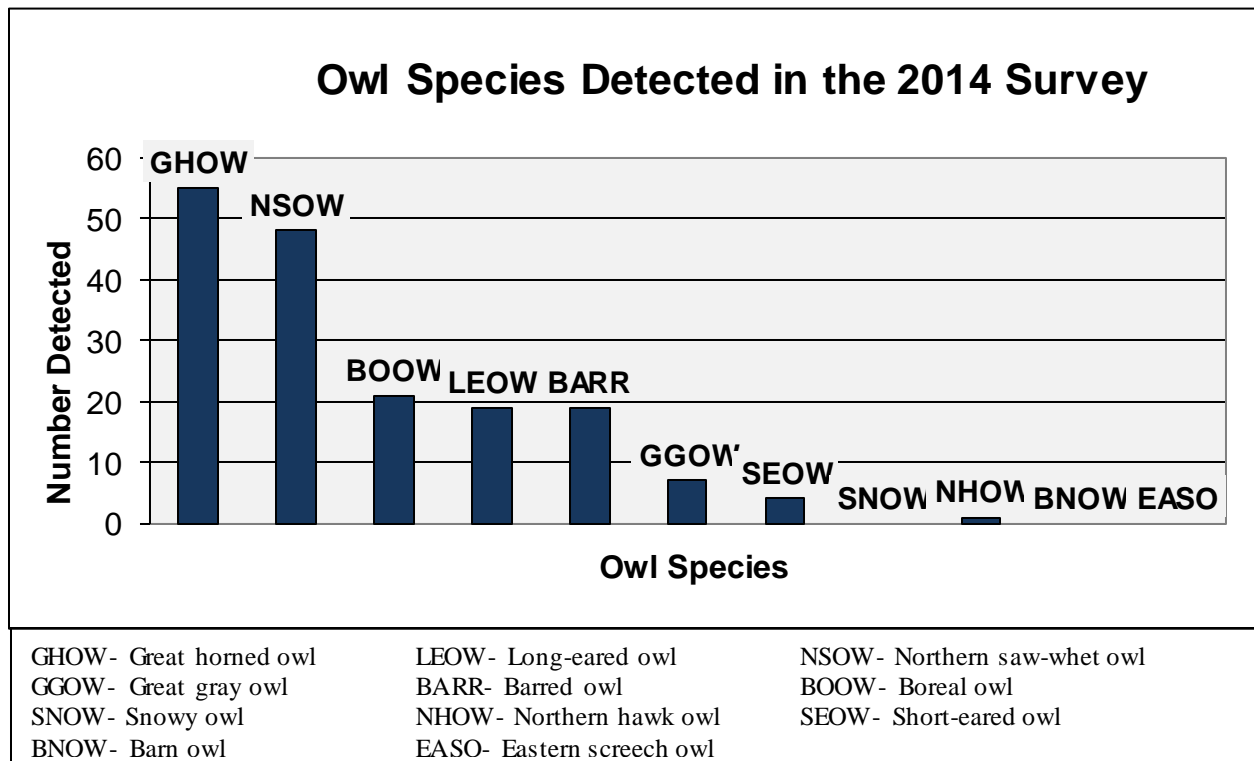


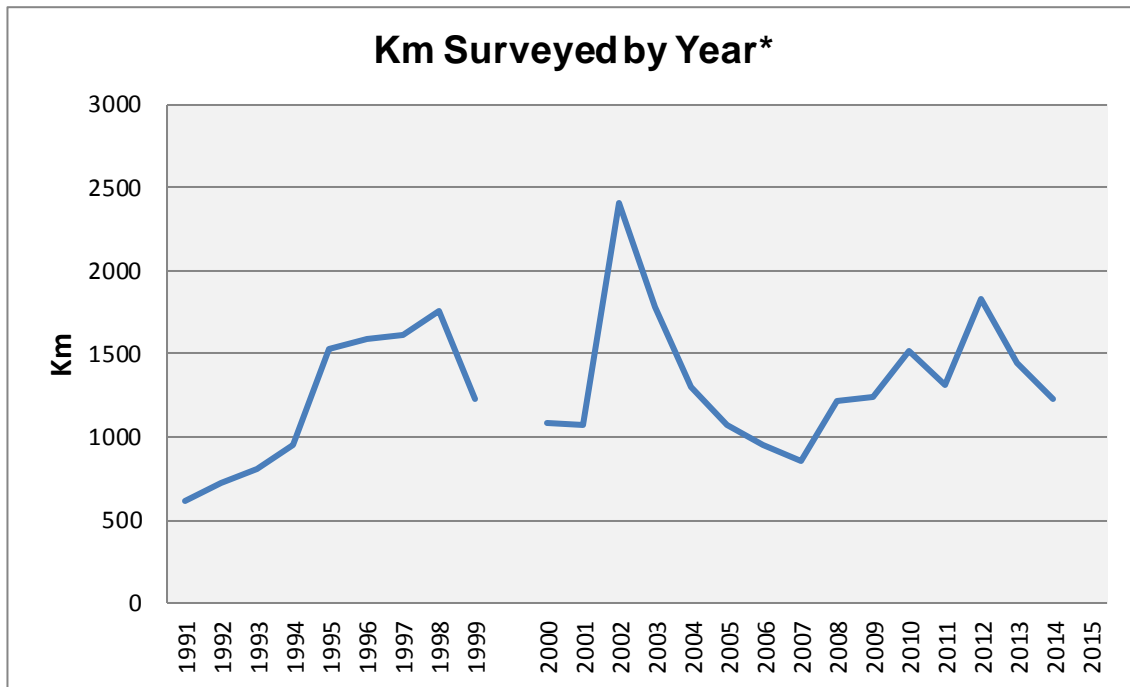
Great Horned Owl, Photo by John Starr

Great Horned Owls (n=55) were, as usual, the most commonly detected species in 2014, followed by 48 Northern Saw-whets, 21 Boreal Owls, 19 Long-eared Owls, 19 Barred Owls, 7 Great Gray Owls, 4 Short-eared Owls, 1 Northern Hawk Owl and 4 ‘unknown owls’. Tables and graphs of cumulative information follow.

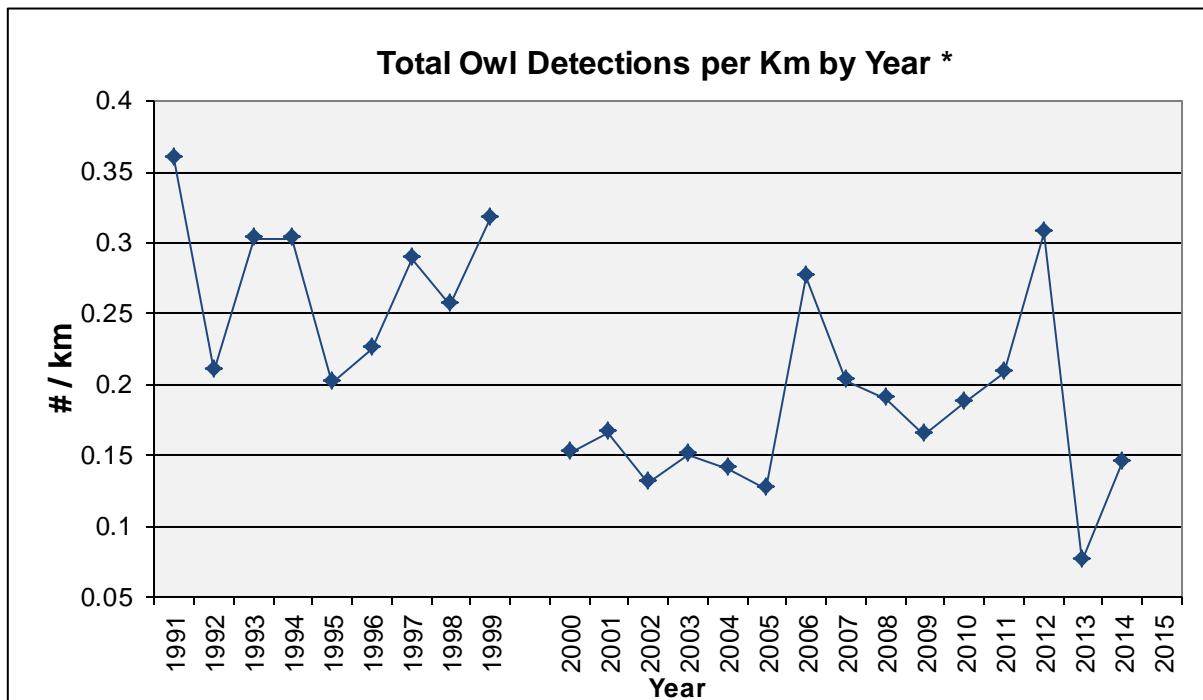
Year*	# Volunteers	Distance Surveyed (km)	# Routes	Total Owl Detections	# Owl Detections per km
2000	106	1,085	57	165	0.15
2001	91	1,070	57	180	0.17
2002	198	2,403	115	315	0.13
2003	162	1,776	107	267	0.15
2004	150	1,304	94	183	0.14
2005	102	1,067	74	135	0.13
2006	91	946	65	262	0.28
2007	68	856	52	170	0.2
2008	78	1,213	73	144	0.19
2009	92	1,237	77	204	0.17
2010	94	1,514	94	254	0.19
2011	103	1,318	84	274	0.21
2012	102	1,830	114	397	0.21
2013	93	1,448	89	110	0.08
2014	100	>1,224*	>77*	>178	0.16

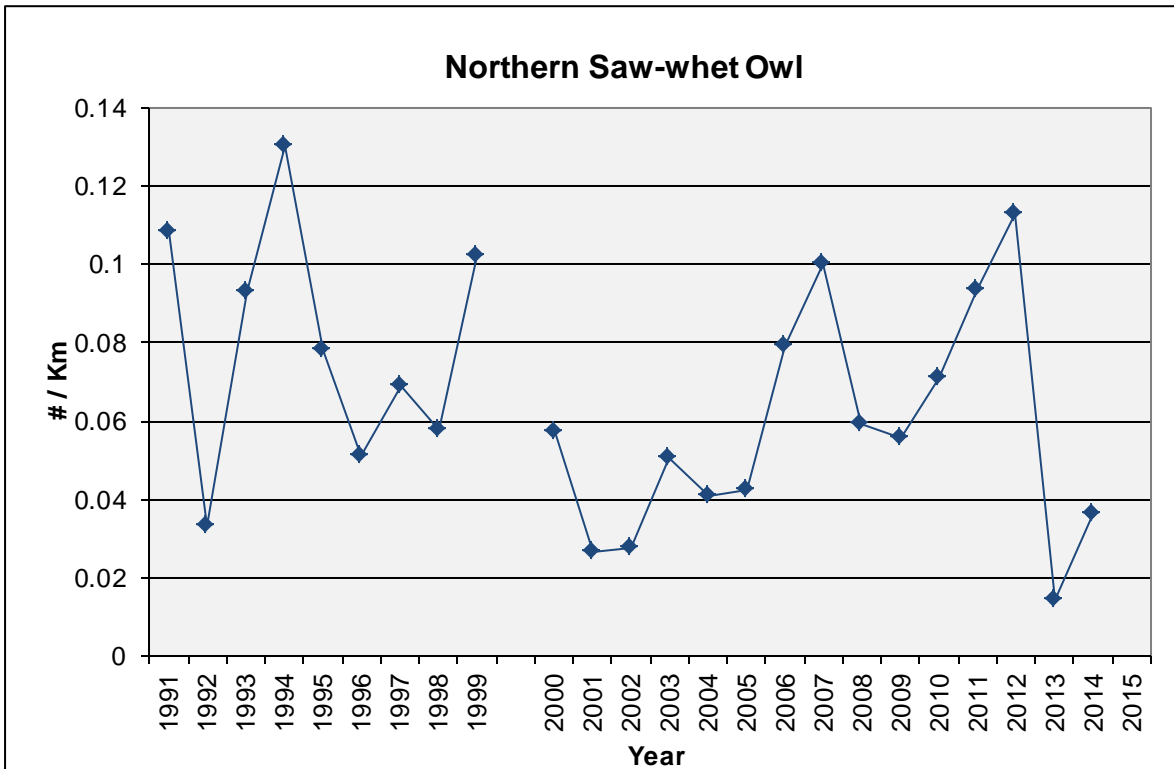
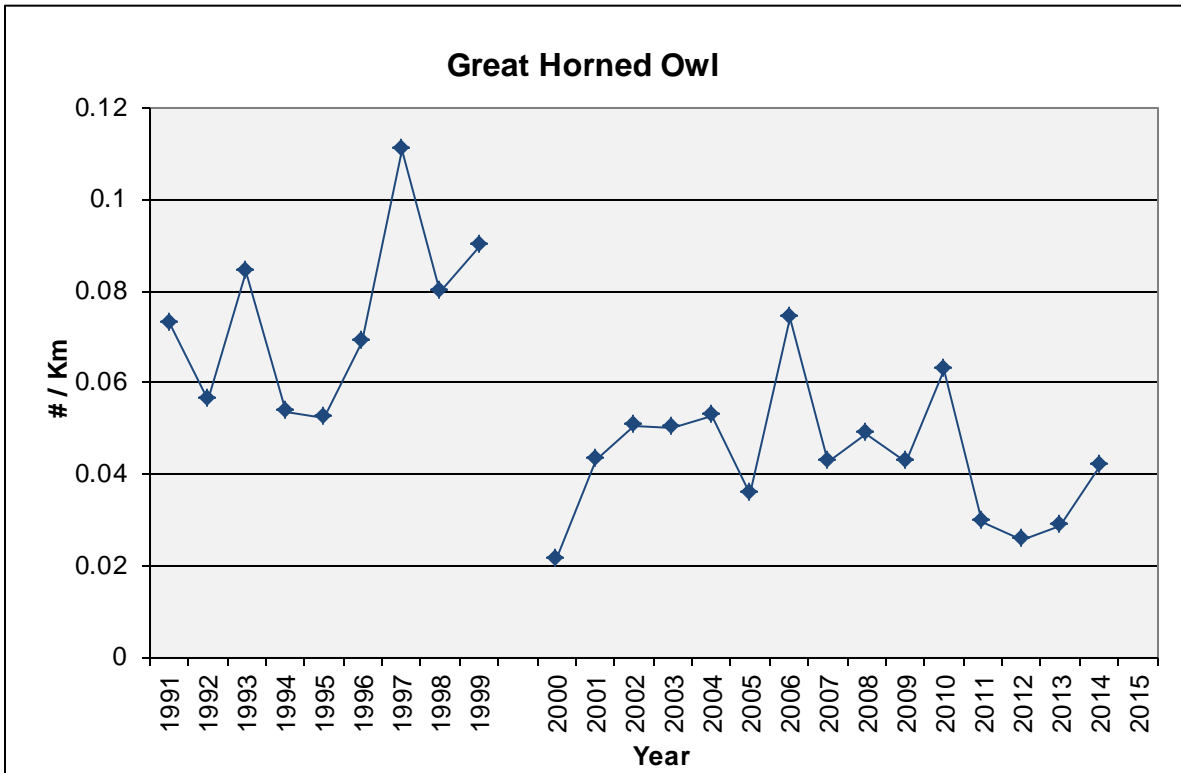
\*Survey started in 1991, some 2014 route data received too late for inclusion in this report.



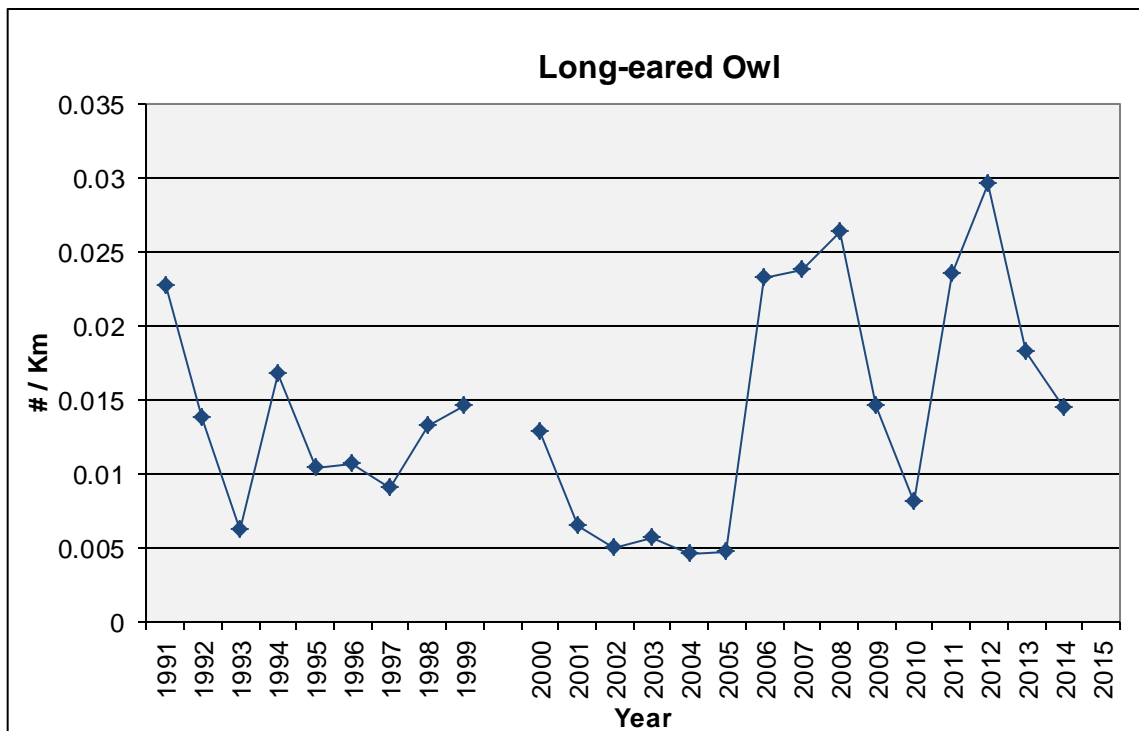
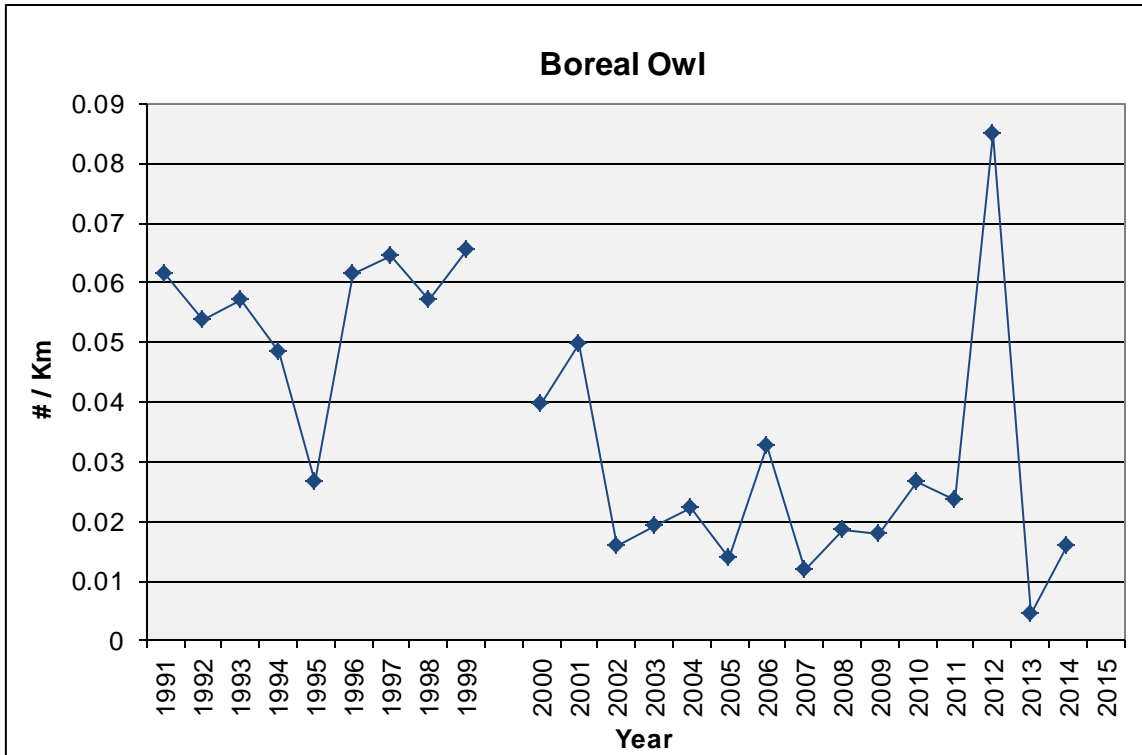


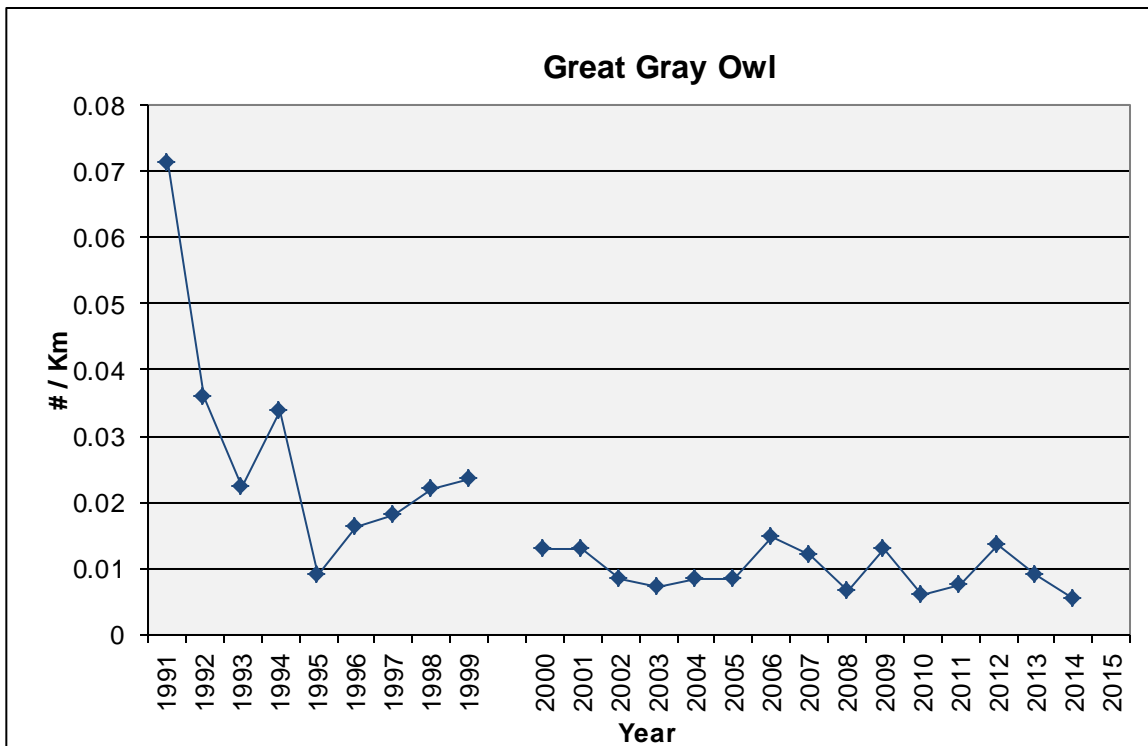
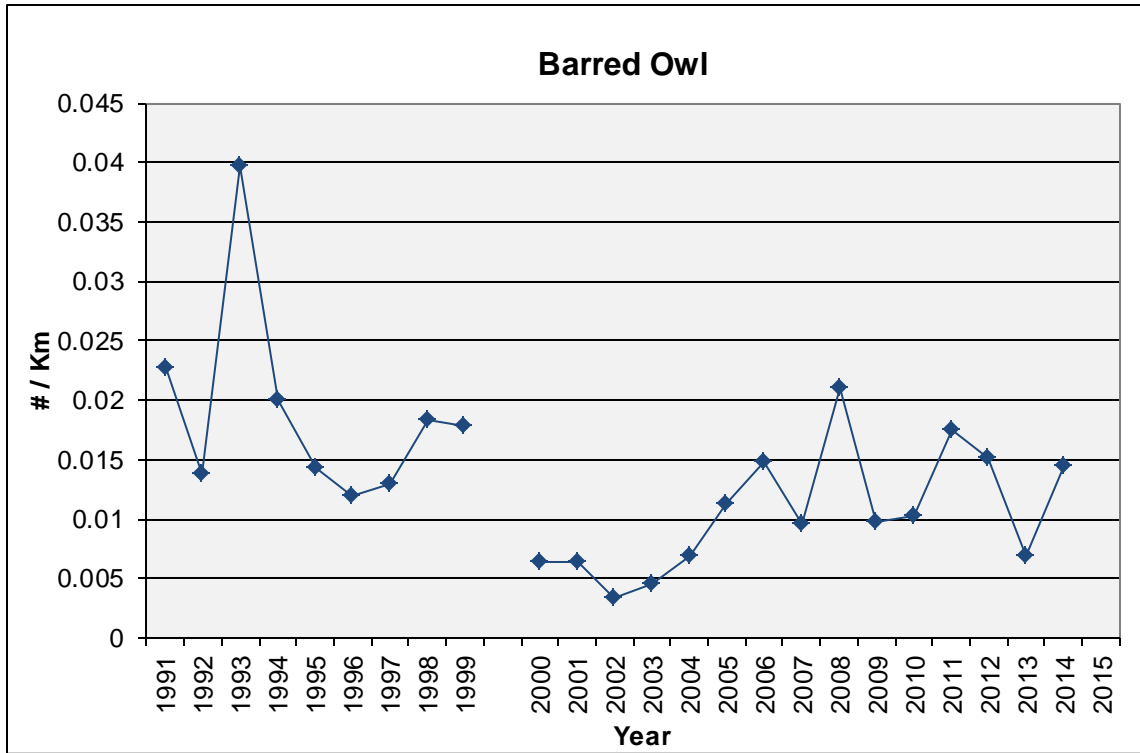
- Note that the survey methods changed in 2000 hence the broken line graph.











A preliminary tally of owl surveyor participation information was prepared in 2013 for citizen science presentations in Winnipeg, MB, and Duluth, MN. Over a 23 year period (1991-2013) over 620 different volunteers had participated in the owl survey. Individuals conducted from 1 to 42 surveys, with an average of 3.7 routes per person, but the participation data was skewed (mode 1, median 2 routes per person). Many (44%) volunteers participated in only one year. This information, however, needs to be quality controlled and is best considered “Unpublished Data” at this time. It is our intention to develop and implement a questionnaire to better understand the motivation of Manitoba’s owl survey volunteers to improve citizen science programs.



Northern Saw-whet Owl, by John Starr

## A Special Thank You

The 2014 owl survey once again contributed significant data to the Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas. If you would like more information on the bird atlas, please visit the website [www.birdatlas.mb.ca](http://www.birdatlas.mb.ca). Thanks to photographers John Starr and Joanne Smith for the use of their beautiful owl pictures, to Brooklyn Cherniak for her article and pictures, and to Doug Collicutt for his continued support hosting owl survey information and documents on the Manitoba Nocturnal Owl Survey at: [http://www.naturenorth.com/summer/creature/owl/owl\\_new/owl2005.html](http://www.naturenorth.com/summer/creature/owl/owl_new/owl2005.html)

It would be impossible to collect such widespread information on owls without the help of survey volunteers year after year. So hats off to all the volunteer surveyors and assistants in 2014 listed below:

Bridget Antze, Christian Artuso, Jeannette and Stewart Astleford, Ron Austin, Carol Baete, Ron Bazin, Mike Bell, Dean Berezanski, Robert Berger, Colin Blyth, Scott Blyth, C-Jae and Kevin Breiter, Bruce and Nancy Bremner, Neil Butchard, Tim Byers, Sandy Campbell, Bonnie Chartier, Brooklyn and Marcey Cherniak, Lewis Cocks, Barrie and Cathy Creran, Linda Curtis, Cal Cuthbert, Peter Douglas, Jim and Patsy Duncan, Bev Dunlop, Alvin and Owen Dyck, Adolf Ens, Samantha Fischer, Gary Franzmans, Maureen Frolick, Diane and Rob Gagnon, Donna Gamache, Brooke Hanson, Cheryl Harris, Harry Harris, Heather Hinam, Walfried Jansen, Lars Jansson, Vince Jimenez, Jackie Joyal, Joel Kayer, Brian Kiss, Nicola Koper, Georgina Larson, Raymond Larson, Christian Lavergne, Josee Lavergne, Derek Leask, Lauren Letexier, Sheena Letexier, Sharon Lidbetter, Jessica Lockhart, Frank Machovec, Jaquie Machovec, Erin McCance, Kate McCormick, Alex McIlraith, Ally Menzies, Marilyn Meyer, Al Mickey, Barret Miller, Lorelie Mitchell, Leah Montsion, Dara Morden, Mercedes Mueller, Colin Murray, Jonathan Neal, Robb Nickel, Charlotte Pedwell, Morley Pedwell, Ryan Porteous, Shane Pratt, Amelia Reid, Dave Roberts, Cora Romanow, Alex Sanderson, Erin Schroeder, Ken Schykowski, Bob Shettler, Rosalie Sigurdson, Joanne Smith, Eileen Stapleton, Jo Swartz, Peter and Sharon Taylor, Dave Uhryniuk, Mark Van Rosmalen, Liis Veelma, Jody Watson, Margaret Yorke, and Jake Zetterstrom.



For more information contact James Duncan at the address below. If you participated in the 2014 owl survey and your name is not included above, please send data sheets to James Duncan at:



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Boreal Owl, Photo by Joanne Smith