



# SEPTEMBER 2006 NEWSLETTER

## Sahtu Renewable Resources Board



### WILLOW LAKE DUCK BANDING 2006

The Willow (Bracket) Lake Duck Banding Project just finished it's 12th year. And what a year!!! 2,083 ducks were banded and that included a couple of species that generally live in the Prairies including a Gadwall and two Northern Shovelers. A Black Duck (a very Eastern species) was also captured and banded. Project leader John Bidwell of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service was very pleased with the results this year but noted that the number of Mallards (535) captured this year was down and the number of Pintails (1,007) was up. One of the biggest surprises was recapturing a duck that was banded at Willow Lake 10 years ago! 10 years??? Talk about a lucky duck! The Willow Lake Duck Banding Project is funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, (USFWS) Sahtu Renewable Resources Board (SRRB),

Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), and Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC).



From left to right: Derek Widow (SRRB student), Paul Bernarde (Tulita Renewable Resources Council), John Bidwell (Waterfowl biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service), and Nathan Fredrickson (Pilot, North-Wright Airways Ltd.)



The new crew that arrived on August 18th: Mathew Menacho, SRRB student on the left and Peter Horassi, Tulita Renewable Resources Council Member.

### Norman Wells Small Mammal Trapping Study

ENR conducted the annual Norman Wells Small Mammal Study between August 21-26. This study uses Sherman Live Traps that are not designed to kill the animals. Once captured, they are tagged, recorded and released. Knowing how many small mammals like voles there are helps biologists understand the overall health of the population. So why is this important? Well, if you are a marten, then you need lots of these things to eat. Martens mostly eat red-backed voles and they need to eat 3 of them a day to stay healthy. If you are a trapper, then the number of small mammals will limit the number of marten that you can trap. Lots of voles = lots of martens. This year looks pretty good. 100 traps were set between the pipeline and ski cabin, Norman Wells. They were baited with peanut butter and rolled oats on a paper towel with a slice of potato and some cotton baton for bedding material. Traps were checked every day for 5 days providing 500 "Trap Nights" worth of data. This year, 4 meadow voles and 87 red-backed voles were captured, which suggests a potentially good production year for marten. That's good news if you are a trapper!



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### COMPANIES THAT CARE

The **Sahtu Renewable Resources Board** would like to thank the following organizations for your generous contributions towards the Bosworth Creek Monitoring Project: **Canadian Helicopters** for AStar time to conduct an aerial survey, the Sahtu Regional **Department of Environment and Natural Resources** for core funding, **Fisheries and Oceans Canada** for continued support, and **Taiga Environmental Laboratory of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada** for sample analyses.

### ATTENTION HUNTERS

Moose are in great shape right now. With caribou numbers down, it's a good time to harvest for winter and make dry meat and your favorite kind of stew.



## TRAPPING INSTRUCTOR TRAINING

The Sahtu Renewable Resources Board is looking for interested people to qualify as Trapping Instructors for the school-based back on the land programs. All school-based programs will require qualified instructors. Two instructor training workshops are currently being developed for the Sahtu with the assistance of the Fur Institute of Canada and the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Yellowknife. These workshops will hopefully take place early next year. Anyone interested in becoming a Trapper Instructor for school projects can contact Glen Guthrie at 867-587-2075.

## NORTHERN WILDLIFE STORIES

### MOOSE *By Yvonne Meulenbroek*

Moose are a very important food and clothing resource for the people of the Sahtu Settlement Area. Moose tend to prefer habitats which have existed between fifteen and twenty years after a forest fire, making Tulita one of the more preferable places in the Sahtu.

One of the biggest dangers facing these animals are parasites called Winter Ticks. These parasitic creatures feed on blood and when there



Photo of Ghost Moose by Armin Johnson, INAC.

are enough of them, they cause so much stress to the moose that it

will literally rub the hair off until the white skin is visible. When animals are under this condition, they are called "Ghost Moose." Winter Ticks are moving Northwards, and Ghost Moose have been spotted in the Sahtu in the last couple of years. Here is one poor animal that was photographed last year near Tulita. As you can see it has very little hair and is in very poor physical shape due to stress. This moose probably didn't live through last winter. If you see one of these animals, it is very important that you report it to ENR. We have to track the progress of this parasite in order to help solve the problem.

Photo of Winter Ticks by Glen Guthrie, SRRB.



## HOOTY GETS A HELPING HAND

A flightless young Hawk Owl owes its life to a local resident of Norman Wells. Under the guidance of the Alberta Owl Rehab Centre, Mark Wall took on the task of raising this beautiful little hunter after it was found and given to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Named "HOOTIE", the owl was released under the guidance of the Alberta Owl Rehab Centre. Hootie is expected to stay around Mark's place for about a month and DOT Lake another month.

Remember, it's a good rule to leave baby birds and animals where you find them. Their parents will look after them and they actually have a better chance of surviving. If you see something that looks like it's in trouble, don't pick it up and take it to the Wildlife Office. Leave it where it is and report it to the ENR Wildlife Office or local Officer.

Mark Wall with Hootie the Hawk Owl.

