

BIOL 380/480 (Group): What can long-term data tell us? 20 years of northern saw-whet owl banding data

Historical data sets, such as bird banding records, are invaluable for understanding how species and populations are shifting over time. Banding portals have a required set of information to be uploaded with each banding record, but sometimes banders keep track of other features on certain species. Marten Stoffel, who has been banding northern saw-whet owls (NSOW) for over 20 years, has been keeping track of various other features, such as eye colour. How eye colour and other banding measurements track with age, health, and weather, is not well described in NSOW. For this project, we are seeking multiple students who will work together to digitize the 20-year dataset and then ask independent questions that we can investigate with the data. This project will allow students to learn the importance of keeping clear, detailed field records and build skills in group data entry, manipulating large datasets, R analysis, and written and oral communication.

The magnitude of this project will depend on whether the student is looking to conduct BIOL 380 or BIOL 480 and will be conducted in WINTER 2027.

If you are interested, please contact Dr. Ivy (catherine.ivy@usask.ca) and Dr. Grieves (leanne.grieves@usask.ca) and include a brief description of why you are interested in the project. You can find more information about the Ivy Lab [here](#) and the Grieves lab [here](#)!