

MONITORING SOUTHERN ALBERTA'S BIRDS AND MAMMALS

Join us to increase our knowledge of the mammals and birds in this unique part of Alberta

The ABMI (an arm's length, non-profit scientific organization) and Lethbridge College are spearheading a new effort to collect data on mammals and birds in the foothills of southern Alberta. The goal of this initiative is to increase our understanding of the population sizes and preferred habitats of species in this special region of our province.

Key to the success of this effort is the participation of private landowners, like you, in the region. For over a decade, the ABMI has worked with private landowners as part of our provincial-scale monitoring program. As a result, we're familiar with the needs and concerns of landowners in this province. We hope this factsheet will peak your interest in joining this effort, while answering some of your questions about this new initiative.

THE PROGRAM

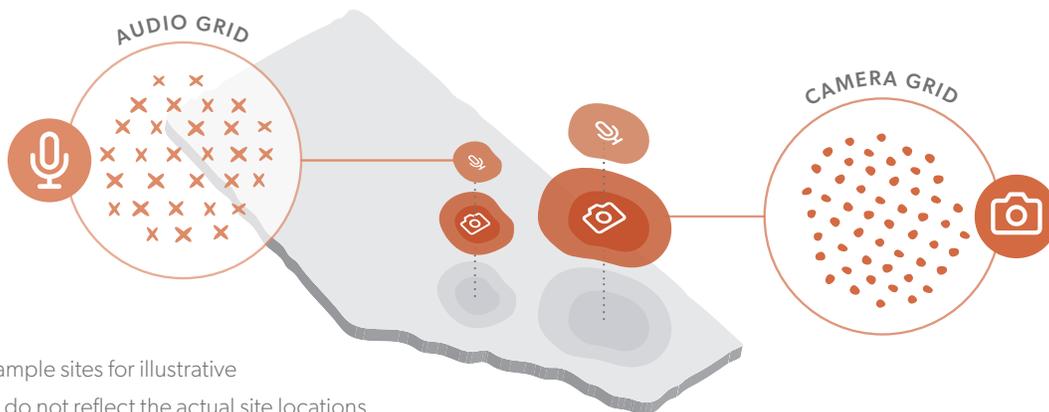
The program — we're calling it "Monitoring Southern Alberta's Birds and Mammals"—is designed to collect data on mammal and bird species by using wildlife

cameras and autonomous recording units (ARUs). ARUs record bird songs and other vocalizing species. By installing a camera or ARU (or both) on your property, the photographs and/or recordings collected will allow us to determine which species are found where and better understand their behaviour.

The plan is to deploy these cameras and ARUs in two separate areas within the region (Figure 1). One area has been picked to target parks and natural areas, while the other has been chosen to represent residential development, agriculture and other human-dominated landscapes. This will allow us to understand the preferred habitats of birds and mammals in the region, and how they might be interacting with these environments.

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Figure 1: Survey design for monitoring southern Alberta's birds and mammals



* These are example sites for illustrative purposes and do not reflect the actual site locations.

BENEFITS TO YOU

As a partnering landowner, you'll get a complete list of species that we detect on your property. Furthermore, all of the images and/or recordings collected on your property will be provided to you on your very own password-protected website, allowing you to view and interact with all of this rich information.

It might also interest you that the data generated by this project will feed into the ABMI's larger provincial effort to understand Alberta's species. The ABMI has been surveying Alberta's biodiversity for more than 10 years and has produced species-habitat models for almost 1000 species in our province. A made-in-Alberta success story, the ABMI runs the largest biodiversity monitoring program in the world in terms of the size of the area we cover and the number of species we monitor. With your help, this work will continue to build a legacy of biodiversity information for generations to come.

THE DATA

We've worked with land stewards all across the province and we understand the concerns some landowners have about protecting their property and privacy. As a partner,

Figure 2: Policy for hazing private site locations

If you choose to keep your information private, the sensor coordinates will appear as a general, central location within the monitored area.

This will have no association with your property.



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As a partner, you will have the opportunity to decide whether or not you want to share the locations of the wildlife cameras and ARUs on your property.

you will have the opportunity to decide whether or not you want to share the locations of the wildlife cameras and ARUs on your property. If you prefer to keep your information private, the data collected on your property will be shared using a 'hazed' public location (Figure 2). This location will have no association with your property whatsoever, and would prevent someone from being able to link data to your specific property.

We view Alberta's landowners as essential partners in monitoring our province's biodiversity. If you choose to participate in this program, you will not be required to sign a contract and will have no legal obligations. You will always have the option to opt-out of the program should you choose to. That said, we operate on the principle of establishing trusting, respectful relationships with landowners and are confident that once you get to know us, we will be able to work together to better understand the species that call this unique part of our province home.



Figure 3
Example image captured from a camera sensor.