

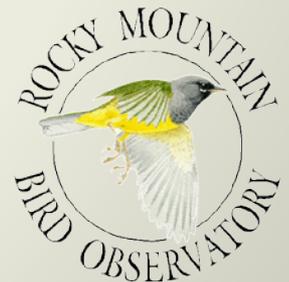
# SMALL OWL BANDING IN WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA



**NGPN I & M staff**

**Nancy  
Drilling**

**Rocky Mountain  
Bird  
Observatory**



*Conserving birds and their habitats*

# Northern Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*)

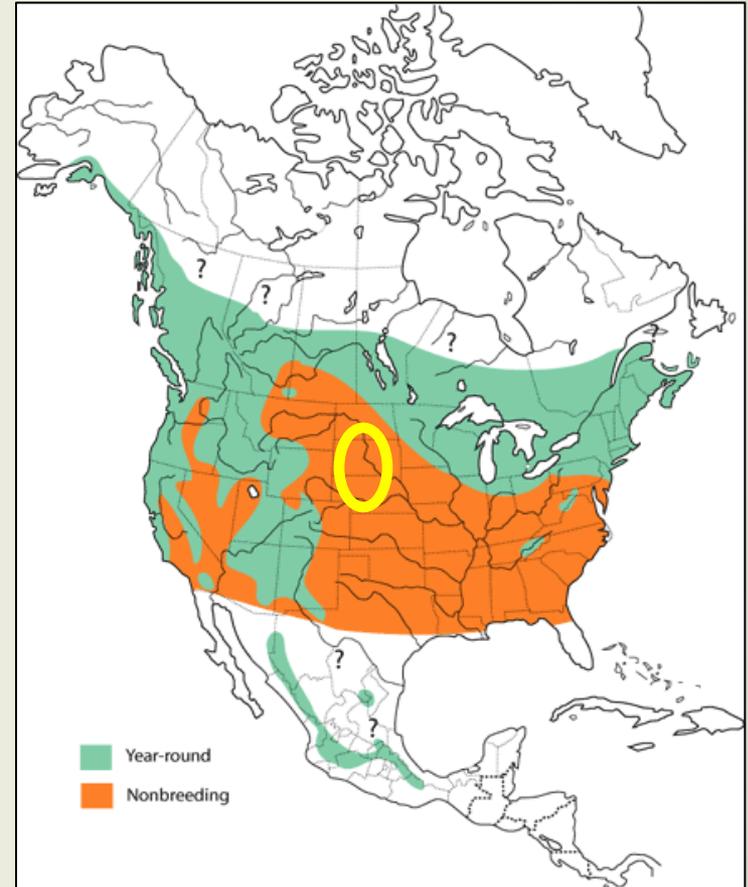
Bill Schmoker



- Coniferous forests
- Some migrate
- Little known
- BH: common, breeder also winter, migrant

## Research Question #1

Residency status of BH populations

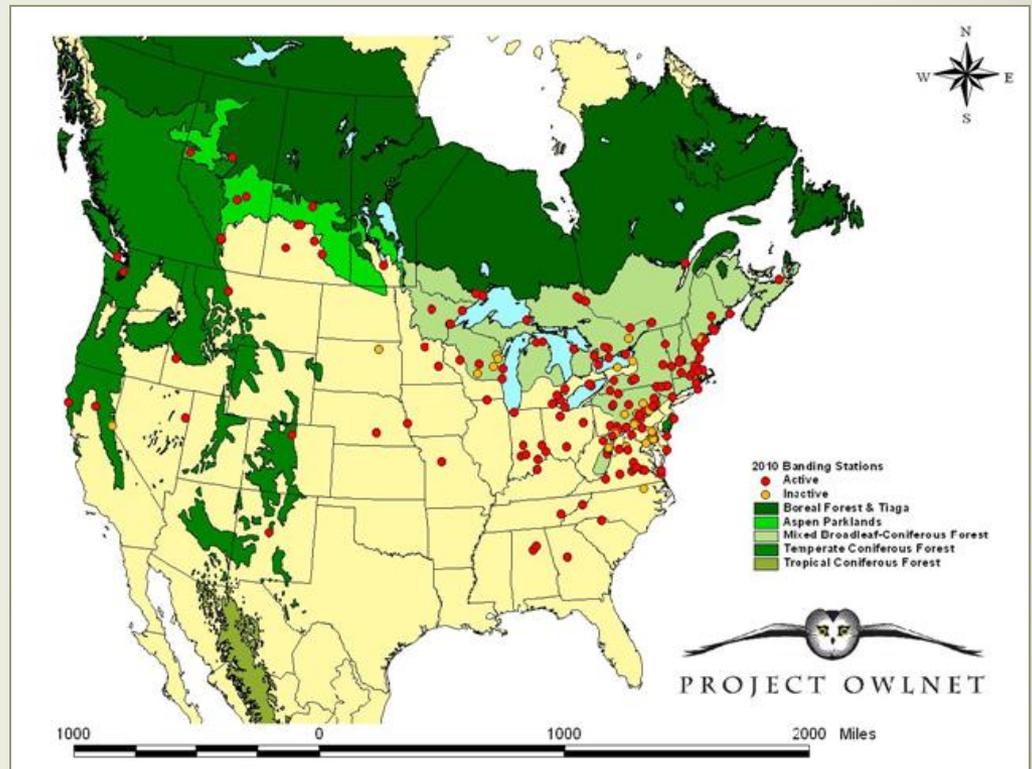


# N. Saw-whet Owl Migration

## Research Question # 2:

1. Migration routes, source of SD owls
2. Role of BH & western SD in mid-continent owl migration

Continental-scale  
monitoring  
network of  
banding stations:  
**Project OwlNet**





# At the Banding Station

- 5 – 12 nets
- Early Oct. – early Nov.
- Four hours/night starting at dusk
- Check every ½ hour



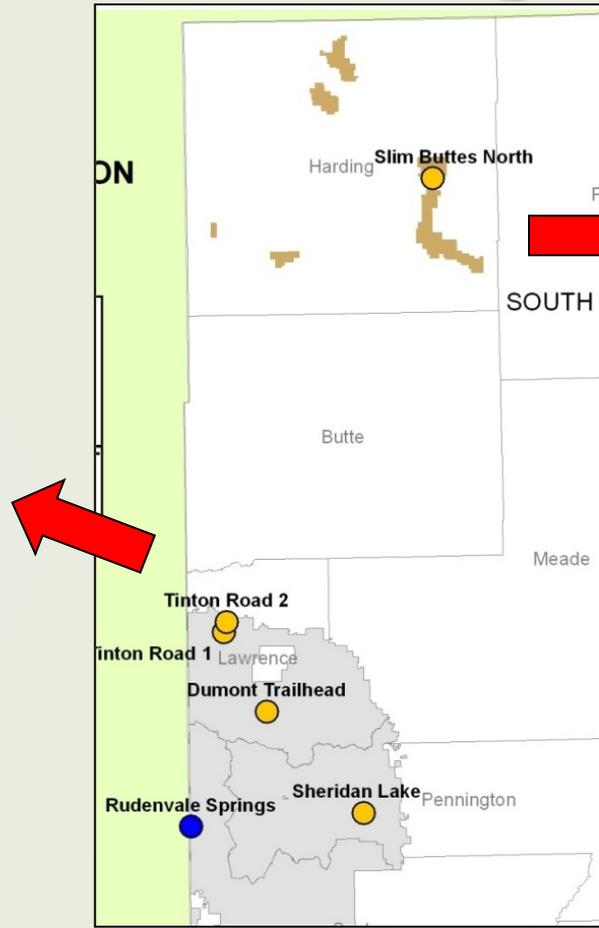
# Processing



# 2011 Fall Migration

## Black Hills

- 10/4 - 11/16
- 24 nights
- 42 owls
- **0.07** owls/  
net-hour



## Slim Buttes

- 10/30 - 11/9
- 4 nights
- 39 owls
- **0.31** owls/  
net-hour

**Overall:** 28 nights, 81 owls,  
**0.1** owls/net-hour



# Age Ratios - 2011

	% juvs	% adults
Black Hills	35	65
SlimButtes	77	23



Doug Backlund



Doug Backlund



# Summer 2012 Owl Banding



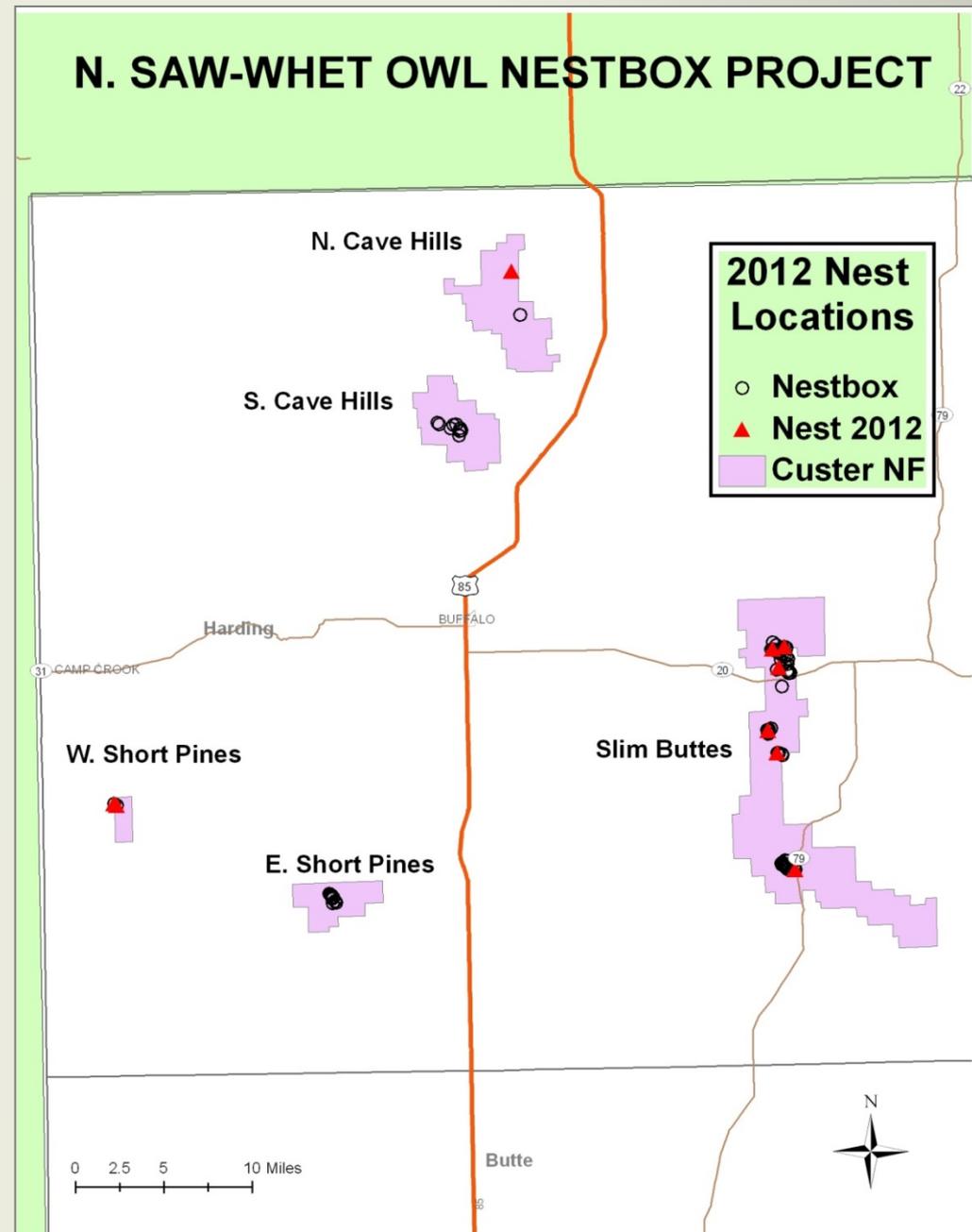
## OBJECTIVES

1. Mark local owls
2. Site fidelity
3. Get more banded birds out there



# Summer 2012 Results

- Nine nests, six successful
- Caught 6 females, 1 male April 2012
- One pair banded Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011
- 18 nestlings banded May 28
- One recapture on Sept. 8



# 2012 N. SAW-WHET OWL BANDING STATIONS

-  Banding Station
-  Black Hills NF
-  Custer NF
-  National Park
-  Custer St. Park

WYOMING

NORTH DAKOTA

SOUTH DAKOTA

Peaceful Valley Ranch

Slim Buttes North 1 Slim Buttes North 2

Deer Draw

Dumont Trailhead

Custer SP-French Creek east

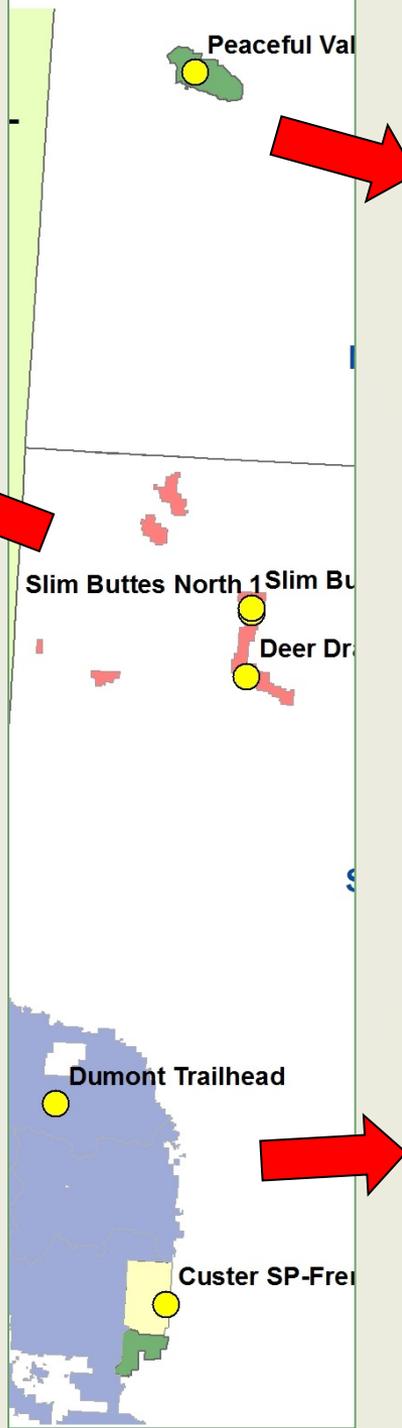


0 5 10 20 Miles



# 2012 Results

- 10/13 - 11/6
- 6 nights
- 32 owls
- **0.21** owls/  
net-hour



- 10/21 - 11/1
- 5 nights
- 52 owls
- **0.35** owls/  
net-hour

- 10/4 - 11/7
- 7 nights
- 36 owls
- **0.31** owls/  
net-hour

# Migration Age Ratios

	Juvs 2012	Adults 2012
<b>Black Hills</b>	<b>0.33</b>	<b>0.67</b>
<b>Slim Buttes</b>	<b>0.63</b>	<b>0.37</b>
<b>TRNP</b>	<b>0.62</b>	<b>0.38</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.53</b>	<b>0.47</b>



# Discussion

- ✓ **Some owls stay around**
- ✓ **N.D. site should become permanent station**
- ✓ **Need more banded birds to answer study questions**



# To be continued . . .



## Questions?

