Beaver sterilization project, *Castor canadensis*, in an urban setting

Marc-André Fortin
*Le Groupe Prevost-Fortin*

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/birdstrike2011

https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/birdstrike2011/14

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Bird Strike Committee Proceedings at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in 2011 Bird Strike North America Conference, Niagara Falls by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.
Beaver sterilization project, *Castor canadensis*, in an urban setting

Presented by the Groupe Prévost-Fortin Inc. For the Bird Strike Commitee of 2011
Presentation

- The problem;
- The Biology of *Castor canadensis*;
- Capture procedures;
- The benefits of sterilisation;
- The Montreal Airport Project;
- The Farnham Garrison Project;
One beaver too many

*Why is the population growing*
- The price of beaver pelts has dropped;
- The lack of natural predators in urban and semi-urban areas;
- A species that re-produces rapidly.

*Damage*
- Chews trees, up to 100m from the pond;
- Blocks up culvers with dams;
- Floods roads, rail tracks and farm land;
- Creates a welcome habitat for water fowl and increases the risk of bird strikes
- **Airports and beavers do not mix!**
Castor canadensis
(General information)

- **Location:** Almost all of Canada and the USA.
- **Weight:** adults from 11-35 kg.
- **Life span:** Approx 20 years in captivity and 10 years in the wild.
Castor canadensis
(General Information)

- castoreum, a rarity, is an oil secreted by a gland, located near the rectum, used to mark its territory
Food reserves are collected towards the end of summer to carry the colony through the winter.
Castor canadensis
(Signs to look for in locating the dam)
**Castor canadensis**
(Signs to look for- chewed trees)
Map 1

Description of the terrain within the limits of Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau Airport
Castor canadensis

(Access to the area)
Capture methods
Installing a *Hancock trap*
Capture Methods
Other types of traps

- X type trap Conibear - used to capture
Different methods for controlling the Beaver population
Montreal Airport study

Results

- The dominant couple stayed together after sterilisation
- None of the partners were found in a state of lactation
- No new beavers were found within the Airport territory
Training camp for the Canadian Armed Forces

A camp located on an ideal location for beavers

The military operations were hampered by the ever rising water levels
Map 2
2004- preliminary topographical view using photo-interpretation

Map 3
2004- Locations of Beaver colonies
The Farnham Garrison Project

Least Bittern
results

- All 5 couples in the study remained sedentary and remained together for at least 4 years after sterilization.
- None of the partners were found in a state of lactation.
References


- **La Presse de Montréal, Gingras P., 1997,** *Papa castor cherche familles d’accueil,* vendredi 6 juin, numéro 223, pages A1-A2.


- **Nature.ca.** 2011. (Consulted the page April 6 2011). *Castor du Canada.* (on line). [http://nature.ca/notebooks/francais/castor_p0.htm](http://nature.ca/notebooks/francais/castor_p0.htm)

A new sterilisation project in progress