



News Release

ATCO ELECTRIC

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BIRDS OF A FEATHER FLOCK TOGETHER

ATCO Electric and Operation Grassland Community install nest platforms for threatened species

Edmonton, Alberta — There may not be many Ferruginous Hawks in Alberta this time of year, but plenty is being done to prepare for their return in the spring. Last week, ATCO Electric and Operation Grassland Community (OGC) successfully installed three new nest platforms near Hanna and Brooks that will become home to the hawks when they return for nesting season.

“ATCO Electric is pleased to partner with OGC as part of our comprehensive Avian Protection Program established to protect birds from contacts with power lines,” says Bobbi Lambright, president of ATCO Electric’s Operations Division.

“Our partnership with ATCO Electric is rewarding both for our ranching members and for the hawks – ATCO has demonstrated professionalism and respect, responding quickly when the installations need to be done,” says Kerry Grisley, OGC’s Program Director. Since 2009, ATCO Electric and OGC have worked in partnership with local landowners to install six nesting platforms for Ferruginous Hawk in Southern Alberta.

Populations of the Ferruginous Hawk, the largest hawk in North America, are in decline. Designated as a threatened species in Canada, the Ferruginous Hawk now occupies only half its historic range and its numbers have declined by 50 per cent in Canada over the last 15 years. The installation of nesting platforms ensures safe nesting locations for the hawk and has been shown to help increase its population.

ATCO Electric’s Avian Protection Program, one of the first in Canada, is a voluntary plan to manage the interaction of birds with its power lines and other electrical facilities. The plan includes a variety of measures such as construction design, nest management, risk assessments and training for ATCO Electric employees.

Since 1989, Operation Grassland Community has been working collaboratively with its ranching membership and other prairie stakeholders in southern Alberta to secure and enhance prairie habitats for Species at Risk like the Ferruginous Hawk. Corporate partners like ATCO Electric provide OGC the support necessary to succeed in their on-the-ground habitat work.

ATCO Electric provides safe, reliable delivery of electricity to nearly 211,000 customers in 245 communities across Alberta and is part of the ATCO Group of Companies. ATCO Group, with more than 8,000 employees and assets of approximately \$12 billion, delivers service excellence and innovative business solutions worldwide with leading companies engaged in Utilities, Energy, Structures & Logistics, and Technologies. More information about ATCO can be found on its website, www.atco.com.

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