

November 22nd, 1957.

ONTARIO BIRD BANDERS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER NO. 7

Since the last newsletter a number of events of interest to banders have taken place. The Point Pelee Banding Station was again very successful both in the spring and the fall. A new station on Pelee Island, to be known as the Pelee Island Bird Observatory, was established. In 17 days in May 1729 birds of 87 species were banded. Preliminary investigation and limited banding was undertaken at Rondeau Provincial Park, Long Point and Ajax (Toronto). It is possible that next spring new stations will be set up at Long Point, Ajax and Presqu'ile Provincial Park.

During the summer some of our members did a considerable amount of colony banding. Large numbers of Common Terns and Ring-billed Gulls were banded. Two members tried a different type of colony banding - which resulted in 1000 Bank Swallows being banded.

The association realizes that a number of its members are unable to participate in the Point Pelee - Lake Erie projects. Thought is being given to other projects in which more members could take part. Any suggestions would be welcomed by the executive.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Bruce Wescott,	121 Glenvale Blvd.,	Toronto 17
Mr. Fred. Helleiner,	Box 14,	Swastika
Mr. Les Gray,	14 Cottrill St.,	Hamilton

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr. Neil T. Kelley, 3681 Forest Hill Drive, Birmingham, Michigan

DECEMBER MEETING

On December 13, 1957 at the Royal Ontario Museum at 7.30 p. m. the OBBA is cooperating with the Dept. of Birds in 'Bird Night'. There will be a display of banding equipment and a demonstration of technique. It is hoped that some of the out-of-town members may be able to attend. There will be an informal meeting of the banders during and after the show.

TOTALS OF BIRDS BANDED

So that a complete total of birds banded by OBBA members can be compiled for the banding year May 1, 1956 to April 30, 1957 members are asked to send in the checking card sent out with the notice of the last meeting. Anyone who did not receive a card should write the Secretary-Treasurer.

POINT PELEE BANDING STATION - MAY, 1957.

Preparations for the May banding at Point Pelee got underway when a meeting took place at the park on March 2nd, between Mr. McCarron, the Park superintendent, and members of the OBBA from Toronto, St. Thomas and Detroit. Arrangements were made to replace the existing steel framework of the Heligoland trap with wood and to make changes in the collecting end and to the height of entry. The poles and timber for the changes were to be supplied from the salvaged material pile of the park maintenance dept. and the necessary wire netting and collecting box by the OBBA through the FON grant.

To ensure these changes before the opening of the May banding a working party was formed by members from Detroit, London, St. Thomas and Toronto for the week end of April 13th.

Birds, noticeably absent during the March visit, were very much in evidence on the return trip in April. Flocks of Slate-colored Juncos and several species of sparrows flew up almost continuously from the roadside as the party drove down to the trap location. Like last year, this was to be strictly business, so little attempt was made to take advantage of the concentration of birds. The weather was quite cool, with a steady breeze blowing from the lake, and although the entire framework was changed within the first day, work had to be stopped because of the gradual freezing of hands and ears. After a comfortable night (for some) spent in one of the outdoor shelters, work was resumed the following day, which proved to be even cooler. Towards noon most of the netting was in place and the collecting end completed, and all that remained was to fasten the roof netting in place. By this time chattering teeth hindered all conversation, and when the Keybird was noticed sitting on top of the front pole, it was decided to abandon the struggle until something warmer flew in. The majority of the birds had departed during the night, so the masterpiece had to bide its christening time until the 1st of May. The old orchard area, which had been alive with birds the previous day, produced a few scattered flocks and some mist netting was done during the afternoon. Slate-colored Junco, Vesper, Savannah, white-throated, Song, Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows were taken.

May 1st found us with moderate weather averaging 55° and wind generally from the north at 15-20 m.p.h. Brown Thrasher 502-84508 was the first customer and continued to visit throughout the remainder of the banding period. This long suffering warrior is deserving of a medal. Sunshine had the effect of making the lee side of the point a pleasant place during the day, and this factor coupled with the strong wind, forced the swallows, which arrived on the 3rd, to 'hawk' along the beech for insects. The early warblers, the Myrtles and the Palms, which were in evidence on the 1st built up to a peak on the 4th and 5th. This appeared to be not so much as an influx but a general flocking of those present on the point. This was the first real workout for the redesigned Heligoland which had been completed during the first 2 days. Out of a flock of 14 which entered - 13 were taken from the collectingbox. The first major wave took place during the 7-9th observed only by bird watchers who observed them crowd in and through the trap accompanied by a favourable southern flow of air averaging 75°. This condition failed to hold and when the station

was again in operation on the 11th, the weather had slowly deteriorated to intermittent fog and rain with a corresponding decrease in temperature. Wind alternated between east and west averaging 15 m.p.h. This seesaw battle between fronts continued until the 18th with temperatures ranging from 55 to 60° causing an average number of birds to stop over at the point but failing to produce a major wave. It occurred on the 19th and the 22nd and was duplicated by a similar wave on Pelee Island with Olive-backed thrush predominating. By this time the banders had left the station and except for the week end of the 25th the May operations were concluded.

The average number of birds trapped per banding day was the same as in 1956, approximately 105, but the coverage given during the month was 11 days shorter with 60% of the banders concentrating during the 11th to 19th. Of the major waves that occurred on the 3rd, 6th and 19th, the 6th was completely missed and the 19th only partly covered. This emphasizes the fact that to obtain the maximum results from this or any other station the coverage must be as complete as possible. At Pelee the myth of the week end of the 10th should be regarded lightly as a major wave can occur anytime from April on. 1956, for instance, produced the April 29th influx as reported by Neil Kelley in newsletter 4. This year a greater emphasis was placed on the collection of parasitic data, and with the aid of the apparatus developed by a member of the association a number of lice and Hippoboscid flies were collected. These have been turned over to the ROMZ and ORF for analysis and a report will be published when it is available. It was found that collecting under field conditions was very unsatisfactory and was often hampered by lack of cooperators. Here is an opportunity for any student friend to participate in the station research.

As a start towards the 1958 banding season some thought might be given to the following:

- Establishment of a permanent headquarters
- Improving parasite collecting
- Wider coverage by members
- Correlation of bird movement
- Improved Public relations

Banders:	May 1st to May 4th	Bill Wasserfall,	Toronto
	May 1st to May 5th	Ruth Brown,	"
	May 1st and May 18th	Neil Kelley	Detroit
	May 2nd, 12th and 21st	Wishart Campbell	Toronto
	May 3rd to May 5th	Willi Mackay	Toronto
	May 3rd to May 5th	Marshall Field	St. Thomas
	May 5th and 11th to 19th,	Doug. Dow	London
	May 12th to May 15th	Jim Bayly	Brockville
	May 12th to May 15th	Alden Strong	Westport
	May 12th and May 25th	Jim Woodford	Toronto
	May 12th and May 25th	Frank Lovesy	Toronto
	May 14th to May 18th	Forest Dilling	Bowmanville
	May 18th	Lou Lenz	Detroit
	May 18th and May 19th	Bill Williams	Toronto
	May 25th and May 26th	Ralph O'Reilly	Detroit

Cooperators: Bob Taylor, Toronto
 Doug. Larkin, Detroit

POINT PELEE - MAY, 1957

Species	1	2	3	4	5	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	21	25	26	total
Sharp-shinned Hawk														1				1
Black-Bellied Plover																		1
Dunlin						1												1
Herring Gull																		1
Ring-billed Gull																		1
Bonaparte's Gull																		2
Black-billed Cuckoo									1		1							2
Whip-poor-will																		1
Chimney Swift																		1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird								1										1
Red-headed Woodpecker											2							2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker														1				1
Eastern Kingbird		2								1	1							2
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher																		1
Acadian Flycatcher																		1
Trail Flycatcher																		1
Least Flycatcher																		1
Empidonax spp.																		1
Horned Lark																		1
Tree Swallow			142															142
Bank Swallow			63															63
Rough-winged Swallow			6															6
Barn Swallow			71															71
Blue Jay		1																1
House Wren								1										1
Winter Wren								1										1
Bewick's Wren																		1
Catbird																		1
Brown Thrasher		5																5
Robin																		1
Wood Thrush																		1
Hermit Thrush																		2
Swainson's Thrush																		1
Gray-cheeked Thrush																		2
Veery																		2
Eastern Bluebird																		1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher																		1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet																		1

POINT PIERRE - MAY, 1957 (Cont.)

Species	1	2	3	4	5	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	21	25	26	total
Solitary Vireo																		6
Red-eyed Vireo							2				1							22
Philadelphia Vireo																		1
Warbling Vireo																		1
Black-and-white Warbler							1											13
Prothonotary Warbler								7										1
Blue-winged warbler									4									1
Tennessee Warbler										1								1
Orange-crowned Warbler																		1
Nashville Warbler							1											2
Parula Warbler										6								10
Yellow Warbler																		2
Magnolia Warbler		1	2	1	1		12	6	5	1	3	1	4	1				40
Cape May Warbler							1	10	3			1						34
Black-throated Blue Warb.								2	3									5
Myrtle Warbler								3	3									5
Black-throated Green Warb.	1	1	11	44	35		1	2	1	8								103
Cerulean Warbler								4	2									9
Blackburnian Warbler								1										3
Chestnut-sided Warbler							1		3		2							8
Bay-breasted Warbler							5	5	19		1							36
Blackpoll Warbler									2									3
Palm Warbler		6	6	25	4		5	1	1									2
Ovenbird							29	2	3		1		1					49
Northern Waterthrush							1											43
Mourning Warbler							1											2
Yellowthroat								1										4
Yellow-breasted Chat							2											5
Hooded Warbler								1										10
Wilson's Warbler								1										3
Canada Warbler								1										12
American Redstart								5	2	1	1							16
House Sparrow		4					5	2	1	4								28
Bobolink																		5
Redwinged Blackbird		2		1			1											5
Orchard Oriole																		1
Baltimore Oriole							1											1

POINT PEELE (Cont.)

Species	1	2	3	4	5	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	21	25	26	Total
Common Grackle																		1
Brown-headed Cowbird		5	4				1	1					1					12*
Scarlet Tanager														2	1			8
Cardinal		1					1								4			6
Rose-breasted Grosbeak																	1	10
Indigo Bunting						1								1				12
American Goldfinch							1									2	1	9
Rufous-sided Towhee				1			2											9
Savannah Sparrow	11				2		4	1								1		18
Grasshopper Sparrow	1																	2
Slate-colored Junco		1	2	3	1			1										7
Chipping Sparrow			1	4	1	1		8										19
Field Sparrow	1	1		1		1	3	1										6
White-crowned Sparrow						19	1						1	1				52
Gambel's White-crowned Sp.						3		4					2					3
White-throated Sparrow																		
Lincoln's Sparrow	2	13	15	3	1	4	18	1	10				1					69
Swamp Sparrow		5	8	4	2	2	2	2	1				1					10
Song Sparrow		6	1			2	2	1	2									28

Summary:

Total trapping days	1956	28
Total species	102	93
Total banded	2873	1821

RETURNS AND RECOVERIES - POINT PELEE AND PELEE ISLAND - MAY, 1957

<u>Species</u>	<u>Band No.</u>	<u>Banded</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Ret. or Rec.</u>	<u>Date</u>
Brown Thrasher	502-84508	Point Pelee	May 17, 1954	Point Pelee	May 1, 1957.
Bank Swallow	22-16459	Point Pelee	May 17, 1955	Point Pelee	May 3, 1957
Song Sparrow	52-24878	Point Pelee	May 12, 1956	Point Pelee	May 4, 1957
Yellow Warbler	22-35565	Point Pelee	May 13, 1956	Point Pelee	May 4, 1957
Yellow Warbler	22-16041	Point Pelee	May 29, 1954	Point Pelee	May 4, 1957
Tree Swallow	57-76124	Harsen's Island, St. Clair Co., Mich. (as N)	Jun 19, 1956	Point Pelee	May 4, 1957
Tree Swallow	57-76127	Harsen's Island, St. Clair Co., Mich. (as N)	Jun 19, 1956	Point Pelee	May 3, 1957
Tree Swallow	52-22441	Point Pelee	May 3, 1957	Pelee Island	May 17, 1957
Bank Swallow	22-33471	Point Pelee	May 3, 1957	Pelee Island	May 17, 1957
Bank Sw allow	22-35712	Point Pelee	May 16, 1956	Wonnacott's Farm, Komoka, Middlesex Co., Ontario.	Jun 9, 1957

BANDING AT PELEE ISLAND - MAY, 1957

This spring another link was added to the chain of stations that will some day cover southern Ontario! A successful attempt was made to establish a banding station on Pelee Island!

Pelee Island lies about 9 miles south of the Ontario mainland, to the south-west of Point Pelee. The island is $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles long and $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles wide and has an area of 10,085 acres. Originally there were extensive marshes separating the higher land into semi-isolated islands. Drainage of these marshes began in 1888 and now a series of canals crisscross the island, making excellent travel lanes for birds.

The higher land was covered with oaks, sugar maple, basswood, American elm, ash and red cedar. Although most of this woodland has been cut over or cleared, there are still some wooded areas - especially along the eastern and southern shores. At the south-west corner there is a sandy point, very much like Point Pelee. The north-east corner known as Lighthouse Point, is an excellent observation post to watch the movement from the island to the point and viceversa.

Three banders and one cooperator took part in the banding, which lasted from May 4 to May 9 and from May 13 to May 23.

Banders:	W. Campbell,	May 4-9,	May 13-20
	F. Lovesy,	May 13-23	
	J. Woodford,	May 13-23	
Cooperator:	J. MacDonald,	May 13-20	

The first six days, May 4 - 9 were uneventful with few birds either seen or taken. However when the party returned on the 13th things were considerably better. Birds were steady until the 17th and 18th when an influx of swallows swelled daily totals to 243 and 248. The 20th produced a wave of thrush - which coincided with a similar wave at Point Pelee on the 21st. The last two days were the most productive for warblers and vireos. On the 23rd 138 warblers of 17 species were netted and banded.

CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED FOR NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter should be a 'meeting ground' for all OBBA members. News and views should be exchanged, reports of members local projects should be published and technique should be discussed. Beginning in January 1958 the Newsletter will appear regularly every 3 months, in the intervals short communications will be sent out as the need arises. All correspondence regarding the Newsletter should be sent to the editor:

J. Woodford,
233 Roehampton Avenue,
TORONTO 12, Ontario.

PELAGIC ISLAND, MAR. 1957

Species	4	5	6	7	8	9	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Green Heron	1																
Sora							1										
Spotted Sandpiper																	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo																	
Black-billed Cuckoo																	
Whip-poor-will			1														
Red-headed Woodpecker																	
Hairy Woodpecker					1												
Downy Woodpecker																	
Eastern Kingbird																	
Great Crested Flycat.																	
Yellow-bellied Flycat.																	
Least Flycatcher																	
Eastern Wood Pewee																	
Empidonax spp.																	
Tree Swallow																	
Bank Swallow																	
Rough-winged Swallow																	
BarnSw allow																	
Blue Jay																	
Brown Creeper					1												
House Wren																	
Bewick's Wren																	
Carolina Wren																	
Mockingbird				1													
Catbird																	
Brown Thrasher																	
Robin																	
Wood Thrush																	
Hermit Thrush																	
Swainson's Thrush		2	1														
Gray-cheeked Thrush																	
Veery																	
Bluebird (Eastern)																	
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher																	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet																	
Starling		1	2														
Yellow-throated Vireo																	
Solitary Vireo																	

Species	4	5	6	7	8	9	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Red-eyed Vireo																	
Philadelphia Vireo									1	5		1	2	5	1	4	20
Warbling Vireo										1		4	1			2	2
Black & White Warbler			1	1					1	1		1	1	2			2
Golden-winged Warbler			1						1			1	1	2			2
Tennessee Warbler									1	1		1	1	2			2
Orange-crowned Warbler	1						2	1	1	1		4	2	1		14	7
Nashville Warbler							1	1	1	2		2	1	1		2	5
Yellow Warbler							2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1		3	5
Magnolia Warbler								5	10	1	4	10	11	11	25	24	30
Cape May Warbler																	
Black-throated Blue W																	
Myrtle Warbler								6		1		1	1	3		1	2
Black-throated Green W										1		19	9	2			2
Blackburnian Warbler										2		1	3	2	1	5	2
Chestnut-sided Warbler												1	8	1		5	6
Bay-breasted Warbler												1	2	1		5	6
Blackpoll Warbler												1	1			5	7
Palm Warbler		1					6					1	1				3
Ovenbird							1										
Waterthrush							1			4			10			6	1
Mourning Warbler																	2
Yellowthroat									2	2		1	1	1	1	6	18
Chat										2	3	2	1	1	7	3	3
Hooded Warbler					1					1		1	1	1	3	6	1
Wilson's Warbler									6	1	1	8	7	1	4	1	27
Canada Warbler									1	3	2	6	10	3	13	8	19
Redstart									1	1	1	1	1	3	3	8	3
Redwing	1	1			1				1	1	2	3	1	7	10	13	19
Orchard Oriole									1	1	2	6	1	3	3	8	3
Baltimore Oriole									1	1	1	1		1	1	1	2
Grackle																	
Cowbird					1							2	2	5		1	1
Scarlet Tanager				1					3	12	2	1	5	5			2
Summer tanager							1		1		3	1	1	1			1
Cardinal	2						2	2	2	1	2	4	1	1	2		1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak									2			1					
Indigo Bunting					2			5	5	4			1	1		5	5

Species	4	5	6	7	8	9	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Goldfinch			1				1	4	1		1	1				8	1
Towhee									1								2
Grasshopper Sparrow										1							
Junco								1		1							
Chipping Sparrow								1		3							1
Field Sparrow								1	1	1							
White-crowned Sparrow		4	5	18	10	1		5	1	5	1	5	1	1	3	1	1
White-throated Sparrow					1			8	1	2		1		1	1	1	1
Lincoln's Sparrow								1		2	1	1			1	11	13
Swamp Sparrow	1	3							1	1						1	
Song Sparrow			1							1							1

Total - 87 species, 1729 individuals