

ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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Night Banding of Saw-whet Owls (Aeolius acadicus) at Point Pelee

by Robert R. Taylor

On October 18, 1958, Bill Vasserfall, Doug Dow, and the writer made a trip to Point Pelee, Ontario, to investigate the possibilities of netting and banding Saw-whets at this location.

On Saturday evening, just as it was beginning to get dark, we set up 8 mist-nets in the area just west of the traffic circle. The tops of the nets were about 8 feet from the ground.

The first check on the nets was made at 10.15 p.m. by Doug and I. As we shone the light on the first net we could see feathers in the two middle pockets, and the net was sagging almost to the ground. As we were examining the feathers, attempting to determine the species they came from, I happened to shine the light on the ground. Doug said, "Don't move! Or you'll step on it." By the time I realized what he was talking about, Doug was picking up a Saw-whet, which had been sitting on the ground below the net. We re-set the net and went on to check the rest.

The next six nets brought no results, but on checking the final one, we found a second Saw-whet firmly caught in the fine mesh. We returned to the cabin to examine and band our 'catch'.

The second round of the nets was made by Bill and I, at about 3.45 a.m. We found one of the nets lying flat on the ground and containing, along with a great many sticks, a couple of breast feathers from an owl. The net was once again erected in the hope that it might catch another owl. Meanwhile in another net about 30 feet away a third Saw-whet lay still in a good pocket awaiting removal.

Another check of the nets at 5 a.m. failed to produce any more owls. Our total for the night was three. They were weighed and measured before they were banded and released.

The results from this one night's banding indicate that Point Pelee might be an excellent location for the study of the migration of these interesting owls. It is hoped that more of this owl banding will be possible next fall.

Members News

LES GRAY, Hamilton, netted a lot of sparrows in September and October.

BILL VASSERFALL, Willowdale, caught a Saw-whet and several Whip-poor-wills in his backyard.

BOB TAYLOR and DAVE HUSSEL, Scarborough and Willowdale are doing a co-operative study of the food habits and population density of the Screech Owl in the Toronto region.

AUTH BROWN, Toronto, netted a good number of shorebirds at Pres Qu'ile Park in late summer.

DOUG DOW, London, is working on the Slate-colored Junco in Ontario and expects to have something ready for publication next spring. He is also working on a paper, with Jim Woodford, on Weights and Measurements of Ontario Birds.

HAL RICHARDS and BRUCE WESCOTT, Leaside, have banded large numbers of Grackles this fall.

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The Ring
An International Ornithological Bulletin

The RING is an international, quarterly bulletin devoted entirely to bird banding and bird migration studies. Its main aim is to bring news and information on all the aspects of bird banding everywhere, either theoretical or practical. Since its first issue in October 1954 the RING has published articles and notes by 134 authors from 47 countries, listed 1093 papers and studies in its bibliographical section, and reviewed 77 books of special selection. Besides the articles the permanent sections: 'Various Problems', 'How They Work', 'Notes and News', 'Recoveries', etc., supply a mass of interesting information referring to important banding problems, banding and trapping techniques, achievements and results obtained by all the banding schemes, events and news from all parts of the world and most interesting and important recoveries of banded birds.

Bird banding is international in its aims and scope. It does not matter where you are living or banding, you need information on methods applied by others, results obtained elsewhere, and problems facing different stations or schemes. The RING will keep you up to date in this respect, will link you with other banders throughout the world and will give you opportunities to share your experiences and troubles with them.

As a source of reference the RING is invaluable and its recent literature is the most comprehensive and complete as possible. Among others this is the reason for which the RING should be kept by every general and ornithological library.

Last year the RING was adopted by the International Committee for Bird Ringing as the medium of publication for all official recommendations and announcements of the committee. This makes it indispensable for everyone interested in the international aspect of bird banding. The RING covers the entire banding world and its co-editors situated in various countries keep it well informed.

The RING is self-supporting. It is not sponsored or financed by any institution or organization thus it is entirely independent. However, like every periodical of its kind the RING depends on support given to it by its subscribers. The more subscribers the better, especially as every new subscriber is expected to become also a contributor.

You are invited to join the circle of readers of the RING. Individuals, institutions and libraries should be interested in the permanent supply of the issues of the RING. Its annual subscription amounts to only 20 shillings or \$3.00 post free. Why not give it a trial by subscribing for a year? Do it now, you will certainly not regret it!

The RING is edited by Dr. W. Ryzewski and can be ordered either directly from: 1 Altyre Road, Croydon, Surrey, England, or through J. Woodford, 10 Edgar Avenue, Toronto 5, Ontario.

North American Council of Bird Banding Associations

A meeting of delegates, from the various bird banding associations, at the AOU meeting in October 1953, resulted in the formation of a North American Council of Bird Banding Associations. Dr. W. Gunn acted as an observer for OBBA, which has not joined the council.

Mrs. Eleanor Dater, acting as temporary chairman, opened the meeting by reviewing the exchanges of ideas and correspondence between committees, officers and members of the various bird banding associations. After some discussion it was moved that the NACBBA be formed along the lines suggested. The motion was carried unanimously. Mrs. Dater was elected chairman for the first year.

Suggestions for activities of the NACBBA were discussed and it was decided that the gathering of the material for a bird banding manual, to be issued by the Bird Banding Office, was the first and most important project. Mr. Duvall had written Mrs. Dater that he felt reasonably sure that the banding office could reproduce the manual in sections, over a period of time.

Mr. Bergstrom, editor of Bird Banding, then reviewed the history of the old Bird Banding Manual (now not only out of date but out of print) and described the activities to date (which included his suggested outline) on a new manual. Mr. Bergstrom was appointed chairman of a committee on the preparation of a new bird banding manual, and the following action was agreed upon:

1. Mr. Bergstrom's committee is to include one person from each bird banding association.
2. Mr. Bergstrom is to prepare an up to date outline for the proposed new manual. He will send copies to each of the associations for the purpose of getting their suggestions a- on changes and additions, and b- on who may best prepare the material. He will also send a copy to the Banding Office and request their approval of the outline.

OBBA's executive is now considering joining or affiliating with this new council. Members are asked to think it over and it will be brought up at the Annual Meeting. We all would like to see a new banding manual !

New Members

Mrs. Ellen Cuthbert	Box 78, Lorne Park, Ontario
Mr. Dave Hussel	147 Holmes Ave, Willowdale, Ontario
Mr. M. Schoenfeld	182 Elsworth Ave, London, Ontario
Dr. D. A. MacLulich	342 Marshall Court, Ottawa, Ontario
Mr. L. Holbrook	13 Kernahan Street, St. Catherines, Ontario
Mrs. P. Woodford	10 Edgar Ave, Toronto 5, Ontario

Change of address

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