

ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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POINT PELEE FALL BANDING 1958

by Douglas D. Dow

For the eighth season since 1954, the Point Pelee Banding Station was again operated in the fall of 1958. Five banders, three associate banders and two cooperators took part in the fall banding activities. The number of banding days was limited to fifteen during September and two in October. A total of 827 individuals of 66 species were banded.

Little use was made of the Heligoland trap which had been practically destroyed by vandals over the summer months. Most of the banding activity was confined to the east beach road - a region which is proving to be one of the best banding areas on the point.

Although the spring migration of 1958 was disappointingly slow, the fall migration seemed quite normal. The largest numbers were banded on the week-end of September 13-14, when 410 birds were netted. This week-end proved to be the migration peak of Swainson's Thrush as 173 were banded. It was also the peak of the Accipiter flight, with 23 Sharp-shinned Hawks banded. Another wave occurred on September 17, when one bander netted 104 birds of 30 species.

Sharp-shinned Hawks were again the high-light of the fall operations, and with three banders specializing on this species, 82 were banded. The majority of these were immature birds, but three adults were banded.

There were several interesting banding records this fall. Blackpoll Warblers were present in their usual large numbers and next to the American Redstart, were the commonest warbler banded. Swainson's Thrush was again the commonest species on the point with a total of 218 being banded. During the first two weeks in September, 15 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were banded, as well as two, of the somewhat uncommon, Connecticut Warbler. On September 17 an American Woodcock was netted. This is the first fall banding record for this species at the point. On September 28 a covey of about a dozen Bobwhite was flushed near the heligoland trap. We were successful in netting and banding two of them.

The status of the Saw-whet Owl at Point Pelee has been quite controversial for some time. There were several records in the early 1900's and again in the 1920's, but since then this species has been rarely seen on the point. The writer observed one on May 4, 1957 and did not see another until October 12, 1957, when one was caught and banded. An experiment was attempted on the night of October 18, 1958, when several mist nets (nylon and silk) were set near the end of the point. They were set just before dark and left up all night, being checked at three hour intervals. By morning three Saw-whets had been netted and there were traces of three or four more, such as feathers, sagging nets. Perhaps next fall we can have a cooperative effort of this night netting on a large scale.

September

Oct. -3-

Species	6	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	18	19	Total
Sharp-shinned Hawk		3	20	10	3	1	6	4	9	4	4	7	4	5	2			82
Cooper's Hawk						1												1
Bobwhite															2			2
Semipal Plover				1														1
Am. Woodcock						1												1
Saw-whet Owl																	3	3
Y-s. Flicker		3	4	1										2				10
Downy Woodpecker					1													1
Y-b. Flycatcher	3		4			8												15
Wood Pewee	1					4												5
Least Flycatcher			3															3
Empidonax spp.	2	4			1	12												19
Blue Jay																1		1
Red-b. Nuthatch																	1	1
Brown Creeper		1				3												4
Winter Wren						2											1	3
L-b. Marsh Wren					1	1												2
Catbird		8	5		5	2												20
Brown Thrasher		1	1		3	2									4		1	12
Wood Thrush		1				2									1			4
Hermit Thrush															5	3	2	10
Swainson's Thrush	5	128	45	2	23	12									2		1	218
Gray-c. Thrush		54	12	1	6	1									4			78
Veery		4																4
G-c. Kinglet																9	1	10
R-c. Kinglet															4	3	2	9
Cedar Waxwing	2	1	1															4
Solitary Vireo															1			1
Red-eyed Vireo		13	9	5	2	7									1			37
Philadelphia Vireo		1	1			1												3
B-&-w. Warbler		2	2															4
Tennessee Warbler	2			1	1													4
Nashville Warbler	1					1									2	1		5
Yellow Warbler		2			2													4
Magnolia Warbler	1	8	6	1	5													21
Cape May Warbler	1		2															3
B-t. Blue Warbler		1													1			2
Myrtle Warbler															1			1
Chestnut-sided W.			4			2									1			7
Bay-breasted W.			3	1	2													6
Blackpoll W.	12	5	4	2	1	1									1			26
Palm Warbler			1			2												3
Pine Warbler						1												1
Ovenbird	1		1												1			3
N. Waterthrush	4	1	4		1	1									1			12
Connecticut W.			1		1													2
Mourning W.						2												2
Yellowthroat	1		2		6											1		10
Wilson's W.	2	3	2			2									1			10

70
30
115
45126
35
161

Species	September											Oct.		Total				
	6	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		27	28	18	19
Canada Warbler	1	1	1	1														4
Am. Redstart	1	15	9	3	2										1			31
Common Grackle		1																1
Scarlet Tanager															1			1
Cardinal		2			2													4
Indigo Bunting		1			1													2
Am. Goldfinch															3	8		11
Savannah Sparrow						2												2
Slate-c. Junco															5	4		9
Tree Sparrow															1			1
Chipping Sparrow						1												1
Field Sparrow																2	1	3
White-crowned S.															3	5		8
White-throated S.					1	15									6	5	2	29
Lincoln's Sparrow						6									1			7
Swamp Sparrow															2	5	1	8
Song Sparrow						2									1	9	3	15
Daily Totals	40	264	146	29	64	104	6	4	9	4	4	7	4	5	52	53	22	827

Totals: Species 66
Individuals 827
Trapping days 17

Banders: Wishart Campbell Toronto
Douglas Dow London
Les Gray Hamilton
Neil Kelly Detroit
Bill Wasserfall Toronto

Assoc. Banders: Bob Taylor Toronto
Bill Williams Toronto
Jim Woodford Toronto

Cooperators: Doug Larkins Detroit
Peter Tasker Sarnia

RECOVERY :

Sharp-shinned Hawk 543-22529 Banded Sep. 24, 1958 Point Pelee
by Bill Williams
Recovered Oct. 1, 1958 at Lafayette,
Tennessee.

WOODCOCK BANDING

April is Woodcock month and OBBA are once again planning a cooperative netting and banding program at Brown Hill. Last year 9 banders took part and a number of Woodcock were banded. The week-ends of April 11, 12 and 18, 19 have been designated for cooperative netting by all interested banders.

Small and large mesh mist nets have been used successfully to catch the Woodcock. A machete is useful to clear net lanes. Banders are advised to dress warmly and to bring rubber boots. It is a good idea to bring a thermos of coffee and a lunch.

The best plan is to get to the area an hour or two before sundown and get set-up, as the Woodcock are very active **just** after the sun has set.

A central check point will be set up and all banders are asked to bring all birds there so that they will be weighed, measured and sexed.

Brown Hill may be reached by Highway 48 (there is a White Rose gas station at the north-east corner of the Brown Hill Road and #48). Turn left and drive a quarter to a half mile and you will see the main check-point.

Banders interested in taking part should contact Bill Wasserfall, BA 1 - 9676 or Jim Woodford, WA 5 - 7438 or Frank Lovesy, HO 5- 9039.

PLEASE COOPERATE

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service would like all banders to band as many Red-wing Blackbirds and Grackles as possible, to aid in investigation of crop damage going on in the southern states.

They would also like each bander to band 5 or 10 nestling mourning doves or more if possible.

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

At the last executive meeting it was decided to establish a committee on research, to aid banders in starting studies, solving difficulties which may arise during the study and finally in publishing the results.

Banders intersted in starting a special study should write Jim Woodford, stating what they are interested in doing and listing any difficulties they might **have**.

HERRING GULL RECOVERY

HAL RICHARDS reports that a Herring Gull banded on June 22, 1957 at Muskaka Lake (45°00')*was recovered after a hurricane at Burgeo, Newfoundland (app 47°40' 57° 45') on Oct 1, 1958. (*45°00' 79°25').

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SUGGESTIONS FOR STUDY Part No. 1

by J. Woodford

The bander has a unique opportunity to examine the live bird. Most of us, however, are stymied by not knowing what data we should record from each bird. The purpose of this series of articles is to give suggestions for studies which may be carried on with a minimum of equipment and reference material.

Each bander might select a particular specie, almost anyone needs attention, and obtain as much information as possible on its life history. This is best done by selecting some particular aspect each year, such as territory size, clutch size, feeding rate, etc. An excellent reference book on life history study is J.J. Hickey's 'A Guide to Bird Watching'. Hickey also gives a number of suggestions for study of other aspects of ornithology.

It is hoped that we will soon be able to start some cooperative projects. One of these might be a study of the weight and fat deposition of spring migrants. If we could get a good series of weights and observations on fat deposits from several parts of the province we might shed some new light on the pattern of migration in Ontario.

The **Starling** is common throughout most of Ontario. They are fairly easily sexed, at least from December through May or June, by the bill color and the eye. Males have a bluish lower mandible, while females lower mandibles are pinkish. Also there is a yellowish circle around the pupil of the female's eye, while the male's is uniformly brown. Young birds, in early summer at least may be distinguished by their brownish-gray colour. If all Starlings were sexed and aged at the time of banding we might obtain some interesting information on the migration of this common bird.

Every bander should subscribe to BIRD-BANDING, a journal devoted mainly to studies carried out by banders. Reading it gives you ideas for studies and also shows how your data may be presented. BIRD-BANDING only costs \$5.00 per year. Subscriptions may be obtained from:

Mr. Hugh E. Harlow
47 Scotland Road
Reading, Mass.

Another useful reference book is O. S. Pettingill's 'A Laboratory and Field Manual of Ornithology'. It is well illustrated and each chapter has a list of references. Many problems are suggested, most of which might be solved by the bander.

Both Hickey's guide and Pettingill's manual are available at the better local book stores or they may be obtained from:

Pierce Book Co.
Winthrop, Iowa, U.S.A.

Part 2 of this series will list a number of problems in greater detail. Banders wishing advice or assistance in planning a study should write the Editor, 10 Edgar Ave, Toronto 5, or telephone WA 5-7438