

June, 1962

ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER MEETING

There will be the usual summer recess from our regular monthly meetings. It is provisionally planned to hold the next meeting at Point Pelee on Saturday, September 15th, which it is hoped may coincide with the peak of the Sharpshin migration there. Confirmation and details will be sent to members a week or two beforehand.

REPORT OF MAY MEETING

The May meeting was held at the home of Harold Richards on Tuesday, May 8th. Ten members attended.

Discussing the proposed developments at Long Point, D. Hussell announced that he had so far received \$1,973 and had been promised an additional \$650 by members for a total of \$2,633. He said that purchase of a new vehicle within a couple of weeks was planned, but that acquisition of the new cabin proposed for the Point would depend upon raising of further funds.

W. Wasserfall stated that the new officials at Pelee are interested in the banding and Mr. Frith, the biologist there could obtain the use of a room in Park headquarters for O.B.B.A. work and storage. Future sleeping accommodation is also a possibility.

D. Baldwin reporting on banding at Toronto Island observed that the large number of spectators were becoming a problem and that banding might have to be limited to early morning and late afternoon. Two nets were reported stolen. The house trap with collecting box is working well.

Jeff Holdroyd had received a visit from an official of the Humane Society who alleged that trapping in Metro is illegal. This is without foundation; the matter was taken up with the Society and no further repercussions are anticipated.

J. Woodford stated that because of the volume of banding being done and the difficulty of getting comprehensive overall reports published Operation Recovery is encouraging stations to publish their own reports. A three year summary by the Fish and Wildlife Service next year has been tentatively planned. Jim also described the catching of Buteos and Marsh Hawks at Cedar Grove.

PROGRESS AT LONG POINT

Dave Hussell reports that by early June approximately \$3,500 had been raised - a very encouraging start. A demonstrator Land Rover has been secured at a good price and will be in our hands by the end of July. A building has been ordered for the end of the Point. This will clean out the fund and at least another \$1,000 will be needed for the internals of the cottage and a second Heligoland trap at the breakwater.

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BANDING DURING THE SPRING MIGRATION

The following table summarizes the banding carried out at O.B.B.A. and associated stations between mid-March and June 3rd.

<u>Banding Area</u>	<u>Approx. number of days covered</u>	<u>Approx. periods of coverage</u>	<u>Approx. number of birds banded</u>	<u>Approx. number of species banded</u>
<u>POINT PELEE</u>	9	April 28th to May 20th (1)	340	59
<u>BRADLEY'S MARSH</u>	14	April 14th to May 27th (1)	800	-
<u>LONG POINT</u>	55		8,610	125
Lighthouse Area	55	April 20th to June 3rd (2)	4,380	
Breakwater Area	32	April 20-29th, May 5th-17th (2)	3,020	
M. Field's Cottage	21	April 20th - 29th (2)	1,210	
<u>TORONTO REGION</u>				
Island School	50	Mid-March - April 19th, April 28th - May 29th (3)	1,020	66
Richmond Hill (J. Lunn)	73	March 20th to May 31st	760	80

- (1) Weekends and holidays only
- (2) Plus additional weekends
- (3) Most weekends excepted

From late April until mid-May the migration was dominated by species wintering in the United States particularly white-throated sparrows. Only one major movement of tropical wintering species was reported before mid-May. This was of moderate proportions and occurred May 5th and 6th both at Long Point and in the Toronto area. The majority of the birds of these species seem to have passed through very rapidly in a single sustained wave lasting from about May 13th to May 21st during a spell of unseasonably warm weather. No migration of even moderate proportions was reported at Long Point after May 20th or at Toronto after May 22nd.

The following is a summary of southerly species banded this spring.

Mockingbird (4)	Long Point - 30th April (1), 15th May (1), 24th May (1), 25th May (1)
White-eyed Vireo (1)	Point Pelee - 19th May (1)
Blue-winged warbler (2)	Long Point - 5th May (1), 11th May (1)
Worm-eating warbler (3)	Long Point - 30th April (1), 16th May (1), Bradley's Marsh - 28th April (1)
Hooded warbler (2)	Point Pelee - 29th April (1), Richmond Hill - 5th May (1)
Prothonotary warbler (1)	Long Point - 27th May (1)
Summer Tanager (1)	Long Point - 29th April (1)
Lark Sparrow (2)	Long Point - 28th April (1), 8th May (1)

In addition Kentucky warblers were observed at Point Pelee April 28th (1) probably (2) and at Long Point May 2nd (1). Another interesting observation was a Snowy Egret at Long Point observed 25th April and 2nd June.

### Foreign Retraps

Two of 17 black-capped chickadees banded at Point Pelee (point area) on April 28th were retrapped at Long Point (Lighthouse area) and released - one on May 11th and 18th and the other on May 18th. This movement is in the same direction as a Least Flycatcher last spring.

The following are some notes on spring activities at the various stations. Details for these were supplied by John Roberts (Pelee), Bob Wright (Bradley's Marsh), Dave Hussell (Long Point) Terry Carr (Toronto Island) and John Lunn (Richmond Hill).

### Point Pelee

Seven persons took part in the banding at Pelee this spring, using mist nets. There were no big days, moderate numbers (50 to 100) being taken on April 28th, May 13th and May 19th. May 5th, a good day elsewhere was notably poor. The two Long Point retraps of Pelee Chickadees are particularly interesting in the light of the very limited coverage at Pelee. Operations also resulted in the retrapping of several (presumably resident) birds banded in previous years and in the banding of a few scarcer species; in addition to those already noted there were, yellow-throated vireo (1) and Cerulean warbler (1). These results serve to accentuate the desirability of getting greater coverage at Pelee. Effective continuous coverage would of course make a most interesting comparison with the Long Point operations.

### Bradley's Marsh

Six people took part in banding operations at Bradley's Marsh this spring using mist nets. As at Pelee, the migration was reported as being generally disappointing. Peak banding day was May 13th with somewhere around 150 birds being taken. The rather substantial number of 20 chestnut-sided warblers were banded May 12th. There were a number of returns of resident species and a tree sparrow banded last fall was retrapped.

### Long Point

The excellent coverage achieved this spring involved 40 persons and more birds than had previously been banded in a whole year.

Included were over 2,000 white-throated sparrows, over 500 black-capped chickadees and between 300 and 500 of the following species, Redwinged Blackbird, White-crowned sparrow, Blue Jay, Slate-coloured junco and Brown creeper. 200 Flickers banded was another noteworthy achievement.

Concentrations designated as heavy were evident April 26th to 29th, May 5th and 6th, and May 11th to 18th, with peaks on April 28th and May 13th, 15th and 16th.

Apart from the Southern species already tabulated the following less commonly taken species are of interest: Pigeon Hawk (1), Saw-whet owl (4), Loggerhead Shrike (1), Golden-winged warbler (4), Prairie warbler (2), Orchard Oriole (3+).

There were retraps between all three areas of the point; these involved birds travelling both east and west; species concerned included Blue Jay, Flicker and Black-capped chickadee. A limited amount of colour marking failed to add to the records of interchange between areas.

Operations were considerably simplified this spring by the use of three Heligoland traps at the lighthouse area and one at the breakwater as well as a number of supplementary traps. Mist nets have now been virtually eliminated in the lighthouse area except for catching certain species not readily taken in fixed traps. It is hoped that this will also be possible eventually in the breakwater area.

Work carried out on birds trapped and banded this spring included numbers of weights and measurements and the taking of blood samples by Dr. Karstad for study of diseases. A detailed report on this spring's Long Point operation should make most interesting reading.

### Toronto Region

Banding at the Island Station was remarkable for the dominance of certain species on certain days rather than for total numbers. Only on 8 days were over 30 birds taken and never over 50. The following table though probably incomplete may serve to give an indication of some of the more notable concentrations of particular species.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Total Banded</u>	<u>Dominant Species</u>	<u>Dominant Species as % of total</u>
April 5th	31	Cowbird (16), Redwinged Blackbird (11)	87%
May 1st	38	White-throated sparrow (25)	66%
May 2nd	34	White-throated sparrow (23) White-crowned sparrow (7)	88%
May 9th	43	Red-eyed Vireo (12)	28%
May 17th	39	Wood, Swainson's, Grey cheeked thrushes (27)	69%

May 5th was a notable exception to this pattern when 49 birds of 22 species were taken.

The largest number of birds taken of any one species was 300 Redwinged Blackbirds. The house trap operated very successfully accounting for 400 birds of 22 species. No further Saw-whet owls were trapped after the 8 reported in the last bulletin.

30 Redwinged blackbird nests containing from 3 to 5 Redwing eggs were found; ten young from these nests have been banded so far and others will be banded this week. Heavy Cowbird parasitism is reported. The migratory Canada Geese which now breed on the Island have 12 surviving young; 10 of these were banded last week.

Reports from Richmond Hill generally indicate about the same peak periods though with the exception of Zonotrichia on May 1st and 2nd there is not the same predominance of particular species. The main period of heavy migration lasted from May 16th to 21st; (this period appears to have been less well marked at the Island than one would have expected). Peak days were May 5th, 17th and 19th, the 19th being the best banding day with 63 birds of 24 species. Numbers of thrushes and sparrows banded were up from last year with warblers generally considerably down.

The Traill's Flycatchers which nested at Richmond Hill last year have returned and have commenced nesting close to last year's site. These birds are of particular interest as they are believed to represent interbreeding between two controversial subspecies (species?) of the Traill's.