

ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

MARCH NEWSLETTER

NOTICE OF MARCH MEETING

The March meeting of the O.B.B.A. will be held at 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 19th, at the home of Mr. & Mrs. John Jarvis, 34A Arcadian Circle, Toronto 14 - turn South off Lakeshore Road at 28th Street (Longbranch) then left on Arcadian Circle. Principal feature of the meeting will be a talk on the conduct of breeding bird censuses by George Fairfield.

For the April meeting (April 9th) a talk by Dave Hussell on the importance of weights and measurements is planned.

The May meeting, the last before the spring recess will be a week-end meeting (date not yet fixed) at Long Point.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

36 persons registered for the 7th Annual Meeting of the O.B.B.A., held on Saturday, February 23rd, 1963, at the Royal Ontario Museum.

The meeting commenced shortly after 10:00 a.m. with the introduction of those present. The minutes of the 6th Annual Meeting were read by the Secretary and adopted unanimously.

Then followed the President's report. Mr. Wasserfall commenced with a review of the past years operations. He cited particularly the great progress made at the Long Point Bird Observatory; drew attention to the efforts made to make the monthly meetings more interesting; applauded the improvements in the report procedures recently instituted by the Wildlife service; regretted the lack of progress in adhering to the banding manual; noted the addition of quite extensive bat-banding to the L.P.B.O.'s activities; and remarked on the devastation caused by fires in 1962 - U.S. banding office, F.O.N. Headquarters and Don Baldwin's apartment! The Christmas count conducted for the first time in 1961 was repeated in 1962. Proceeding to the future Mr. Wasserfall noted that further work remained to be done at Long Point this year to complete the current phase of the programme there. In addition improvements in the facilities at Point Pelee are planned. Contributions of the necessary funds and assistance for both Pelee and Long Point would be more than welcome. Emphasis in 1963 will be accented heavily toward better planned and higher quality. Numbers of birds banded will be a secondary consideration.

The president concluded by thanking wives of members for their help with monthly meetings, John Roberts for the monthly Newsletter, Mrs. McCleary for her work with the L.P.B.O. schedules, and the executive for their loyal support.

The meeting proceeded with the Treasurer's report. Mr. Westcott reported a balance of \$173.20 at December 31st. Reports of O.B.B.A. stations followed. John Roberts outlined 1962 operations at Point Pelee. He noted

that the scope of work that could be done is greatly impaired by the lack of adequate facilities. During 1963 it is planned to provide shelter for banders to work in; the use of traps is also being considered. In the absence of Terry Carr, Don Baldwin briefly reviewed the first year's operation at Toronto Island. The station had made a good start. Response from O.B.B.A. members has been poor, the only significant assistance since the initial establishment of the Station having been given by two or three members in respect to banding of the newly established colony of common terns and Ring-billed Gulls.

Dave Hussell presented a written report on the L.P.B.O.'s activities in 1962. He then went on to review the paucity of returns and recoveries obtained by banding large numbers of birds during migration and emphasized the desirability of concentrating more on detailed study of birds processed. Bob Wright gave a detailed survey of 1962 operations at Bradley's Marsh. The large numbers of Kinglets which are a feature of the banding at Bradley's Marsh are a case in point where volume banding alone is unlikely to elicit results.

Marshall Field, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, then took the chair and read the Committee's nominations for the new executive. There were no further nominations and the Committee's slate was duly elected; the new executive is as follows:-

President:	W.J.R. Wasserfall
Vice-Presidents:	N.T. Kelley D.H. Baldwin
Secretary:	J.O.L. Roberts
Treasurer:	B.B. Westcott
Executive Members:	D.J.T. Hussell R. Stamp R. Rutter

Winding up the morning session Mr. F.H.Schultz of the Canadian Wildlife Service brought greetings from Mr. Mayer, Dr. Munro and Dr. Solman in Ottawa, and thanked the O.B.B.A. for the invitation to attend the meeting. He hoped and believed that the new reporting arrangements would work well. However information is now stored on magnetic tape and is processed by computer; occasional errors are possible especially when the system is new. Any apparent errors should be reported to Ottawa. Mr. Schultz praised the quality of the records submitted by the O.B.B.A. and expressed satisfaction with the emphasis being placed by the O.B.B.A. on the scientific usefulness of banding. The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:15. Most members had a leisurely lunch at the Steak 'n Burger. Some took advantage of the opportunity to examine skins in the bird room.

The meeting reconvened at about 2:30 p.m. Don Baldwin gave a paper on the significance of Lighthouse kills. Jim Woodford followed with one on this winter's Hawk Owl invasion. A number have been banded in Ontario having been caught by Bal-chatri to which this species seems very susceptible. Bill Gunn commenting on this type of movement noted that banding of Snowy Owls in the U.S. indicated that they did subsequently return to the Arctic. Dave Hussell was next with a discussion of Chickadee movements at Long Point. He

was followed by Marshall Field who outlined the trials and tribulations encountered in stalking the new L.P.B.O. Duck banding project.

Finally came the highlight of the meeting, Mr. James Baird speaking on co-operative banding. Mr. Baird discussed various aspects of operation recovery with much interesting detail. He remarked particularly on the predominance of immatures in fall banding at coastal stations. This appeared to indicate a lack of true (i.e. deliberate) coastal migration. He went on to detail the evidence accumulated for the probable migration of the Blackpoll Warbler over water from New England to South America. The amount of fat present on birds is of great importance in assessing their immediate migration history and remaining potential. Information on this can best be obtained by weights and measurements. This he felt was a field where banders could achieve a great deal. Mr. Baird concluded by showing some slides of Round Hill, Sudbury, Mass., where banding is conducted. This is a rather unusual concentration point being an isolated hill in an otherwise flat landscape.

During the question period which followed George Fairfield asked if requirements for data at operation recovery stations could be circulated. This should already be being done through the Regional Co-ordinator (John Lunn). Questions were also asked about skull ossification techniques on live birds. Care in the interpretation of skull ossification data is necessary. As far as technique goes Mr. Baird stated that skull ossification of live birds is now regularly being assessed by examination of the appropriate areas with a ten power lens. The meeting adjourned at about 6:00 p.m.

Evening entertainment was held at the home of John Roberts instead of at John Lunn's as originally planned due to illness in the Lunn family.

J.O.L. Roberts.
March 12-63