

# ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

## DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

### DECEMBER MEETING

The December meeting of the OBBA will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Martin, 5 Larwood Blvd., Scarborough on Tuesday, December 14th, 1965 at 8 p.m. The speaker will be Dr. J. Murray Speirs who will be speaking on "Bird Watching by Radar". His talk will be accompanied by films.

### NOVEMBER MEETING

Unfortunately the November meeting had to be cancelled due to the power blackout. We hope to have Mr. Brock Fenton speak at another meeting later in the season.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 12, 1966 at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. Any member wishing to present a paper at this meeting must submit it in advance to the chairman of the afternoon session, Mr. D. J. T. Hussell, 1916 Cambridge Rd., ANN ARBOR, Michigan. Papers will be limited to 15 minutes.

The Nominating Committee consists of James Woodford, chairman, F. Dilling and H. Richards. Nominations should be submitted to the chairman at 76 Glentworth Rd., Willowdale, or to one of the other members of the committee. The consent of the nominee must be obtained.

### FOR CHRISTMAS CARDS

See last month's newsletter.

### LONG POINT CHRISTMAS CENSUS

The census will be held on Sunday, January 2, 1966. Anyone who would be willing to take part is asked to contact John Miles - Evening - JA 2 - 6100 (Hamilton) - Days - EM 9 - 2712 (Toronto).

### BANDING AT LONG POINT

Approximately 16,000 birds have been banded at the Long Point Bird Observatory this year. (Area 1 - 9500, Area 2 - 4500 and Area 3 - 2500). About 7500 were banded this fall (Area 1 - 4500, Area 2 - 1000 and Area 3 - 2000). There were 105 Sharp-shinned Hawks and 65 Saw-whet Owls banded during the fall. A few of the unusual birds banded were - 1 - Worm-eating Warbler, 1 - Dickcissel, 1 - Yellow-throated Vireo, and 1 - Harris' Sparrow.

### GULL MORTALITY STUDY

A study to try to determine the cause of the high mortality rate in gulls is being conducted at the University of Guelph by Dr. Lars Karstad. If any member is able to answer any of the following questions will they please write to him at the Division of Zoonoses and Diseases of Wildlife, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario

- 1 - What is known about migration of Ring-billed Gulls?
- 2 - How much body fat should one expect to find on a healthy gull?
- 3 - How do diets differ between the various species of gulls? Is it some particular dietary difference which accounts for the mortality in adult Ring-billed Gulls? Do Herring Gulls also feed extensively on ploughed fields? What would Ring-billed Gulls be feeding extensively upon in August and early September which might be a source of DDT?

#### POX INFECTION STUDIES

Since the last report on this study in June, infections have been found in an immature Song Sparrow from Dundas Marsh and in two Swainson's Thrushes and one Gray-cheeked Thrush from area 2, Long Point. Pox infections have never previously been reported in these two thrushes. Studies are in progress to determine the possibility of cross infections between the various wild bird species from which strains of virus have been isolated.

Numerous cases of "scaly foot" mite infections have been found in Red-winged Blackbirds from Dundas and Bradley's Marshes.

#### CHICKADEE INVASION

John Roberts, Chairman of the Research Committee, reports that there appears to be a large-scale invasion of Black-capped Chickadees underway. A number of ornithologists are interested in this movement, especially Dr. Jon Barlow, the new curator of birds at the Royal Ontario Museum. Members may recall the paper in Bird-Banding on chickadee movements at Long Point, written by Stamp and Hussell.

It is of particular interest as to what happens when the chickadees disperse in the spring. Any bander having an opportunity to band chickadees is strongly urged to do so.

If you have any information on chickadee movements this fall and winter please send them to Dr. Barlow.

P. S. Woodford,  
Secretary, OBBA