

## ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

### DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 1967

#### DECEMBER MEETING

The December meeting will be held on Tuesday December 12, 1967, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. McKeating, 24 Hurley Cres., Scarborough, at 8 p.m. Mr. James L. Bailey will give a demonstration of preparing and labelling a bird specimen for study purposes.

#### NOVEMBER MEETING

The November meeting was held at the Niska Waterfowl Research Station, Saturday November 11, 1967, with 35 members and friends present. Mr. D.J.T. Hussell reported briefly on Long Point. Heligoland Trap #1 was completely removed by a bad storm and donations will gratefully be accepted to help finance a replacement. Dave generously suggested that we name the new trap after the person who gives the largest donation. In order to trap and catch Snow Buntings during the winter, bait will have to be put out regularly at the Point. Anyone interested in doing this during the winter, should contact: Mr. D.J.T. Hussell, 609 Lawrence Street, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104, U.S.A. Mr. G. Page saw a very interesting specimen at the Point this fall; a small bird, about the size of a small Finch, with a tail approximately 10 inches in length. After numerous shots, (we won't mention how many) the bird was collected and sent to the Museum for identification. The bird, a Paradise Wyder was a cage escapee but still an interesting specimen and a first for Long Point. Duck banding at the Point reached a total of between 3 and 4 hundred this year. Mr. E. Keith mentioned that on October 4, a monarch butterfly was banded at Long Point. Four days later, October 8, this same butterfly was picked up 85 miles due south. Recoveries on marked Shorebirds keep coming in: 40 have been seen at the east end of Lake Erie (Dunville), 1 at Rondeau and 1 in Ohio. A total of 875 Shorebirds were banded this season. Mr. J. Anderson, mentioned that the number of ducks in the Dundas Marsh was down one third this year. Mr. F. Folemsbee (Chippawa) mentioned that there has been a reduced number of Blue-winged Teal. He propounded the theory that they are by-passing the marshes this year. D. Hussell thanked Mr. G. Page for the fine job he has done as the Warden at Long Point Bird Observatory and mentioned that there was need of a new Warden for the coming year. Mr. J.O.L. Roberts, reporting on the Sharp-shinned Hawk banding at Pelee, stated that the Hawks did not peak in the middle of September as usual. Trapping at Pelee ended October 16. The migration was late this year. Immature birds were still coming through when the station closed. Fewer than 600 Hawks were banded. Two birds were exchanged between Pelee and Long Point, as well as 15 foreign recoveries. Pelee Island doesn't look promising for a future Station. On the day 72 Hawks were trapped on the Point only 2 were caught on the Island.

There has been sufficient data collected on the Sharp-shinned project so any ideas for a future programme at Pelee will be invited. The project at Whitefish Point will again be continued next year. Migrations are much more evident there than at Point Pelee. (Loon, Jay) anyone interested in Whitefish Point (late April-June) should contact: Mr. J.O.L. Roberts, 22 Rowanwood Ave., Toronto 5, Ontario. A suggested project of banding Snowy Owls at Wolfe Island was mentioned.

Mr. Bill Carrick, Director of Niska welcomed our group and described the nature and purpose of the Research Station. A demonstration of aging and sexing Ducks and a short tour of the Station completed the day.

### LONG POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY

#### MIGRATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS-September and October

Sharp-shinned Hawks commenced moving in the last week of Aug. and continued until the end of October. The majority of the movement was between September 12 and 19 with peaks of 175 and 200 on September 15 and 16 respectively. Peregrines were present in 1 or 2's intermitently from September to October 17 and Merlins from September 29 to October 14. There were 2 Turkey Vultures on Oct. 20 and 21. Harriers and Kestrels were present in small numbers throughout September and October although somewhat intermitantly.

It is difficult to evaluate the daily concentrations of grounded passerines at Long Point. There is much variability in concentration and species composition. One day there will be very few birds, the next many hundreds. The following day there is likely to be many hundreds as well, but they may or may not be mainly the same species as the day before. Increases in concentrations may occur slowly over a period of days or may be a quite sudden overnight affair. The following is a list of influx dates for September and October and the species involved.

- Sept. 5-7 - Warblers(12 sp.) mainly Blackpolls(50) and Thrushes almost exclusively Swainsons(200). Peak Sept. 6
- Sept. 9 - Result of grounding by storm during night. Red-eyed Vireo(20), Warblers(16 sp.) Mainly Blackpolls(50), Swainsons Thrush(250), with some Grey-cheeks(20)
- Sept. 18,19- Warblers(14 sp.) mainly Palm(25) and Blackpolls(20) House Wrens(10), Some Thrushes, Swainsons(15), Grey-cheeked(7), Thrashers(4), and Ruby-crowned Kinglet(6)
- Sept. 22 - Palm Warbler(20)
- Sept. 23 - Flickers(50), Winter and House Wrens(15 each), Swainsons and Grey-cheeked Thrush(10 each), Ruby-crowned Kinglet(40), Warblers(12 sp.) mainly Palm(25) and Myrtles(10)
- Sept. 30 - Flickers(30), Creepers(15), Kinglets both species(total 30), Grey-cheeked(7) and Swainsons Thrush(13), Palm Warbler(20).
- Oct. 1 - Hermit Thrush(10), Yellow Throats(40), White-throated

- and White-crowned Sparrow(25 each), Lincolns(8), Swamp(25) and Song Sparrow(5), Junco(5)
- Oct. 4 - Creepers(15), Winter Wren(15), Hermit Thrush(20), Myrtle Warbler(35), White-crowned(35), White-throated(200), Lincolns(12), Swamp(35) and Song Sparrow(25)
- Oct. 5 - winter Wren(70), Hermit Thrush(20), Myrtle Warbler(150) Yellowthroat(20), Palm Warbler(10) Savannah(20), Lincolns(15), Song(20), Swamp(40) and White-throated Sparrow(100)
- Oct.10 - Jay(500), Creepers(100), Kinglets(160 total) Goldfinch(200)
- Oct.11 - Creepers(30), kinglets(160) Goldfinch(150)
- Oct.12 - Kinglet(90 total), Myrtle Warbler(140), Junco(30), White-throated(300) and white-crowned Sparrow(100), Winter Wren(16)
- Oct.13 - kinglet(110), Song Sparrow(30)
- Oct.14 - Hermit Thrush(20), Myrtle(95) and Palm Warbler(20), Junco(20) Swamp(80) and Song Sparrow(50)
- Oct.15 - Myrtle warbler(150)
- Oct.17 - Myrtle Warbler(75), Swamp Sparrow(25)
- Oct.19 - Phoebe(6), Robin(60), Hermit Thrush(35), Junco(25) Song(100) Savannah(12), White-throated(200) and White-crowned Sparrow
- Oct.27 - Junco(50), Swamp(18), Song(50) and White-throated Sparrow(50)
- Oct.29 - Kinglets(30 each), Song Sparrow(80)

Shorebird influxes are more difficult to detect than passerine because these species tend to linger in one area for several days. Semipalmated Plovers and Sanderling were present throughout Sept. and Oct. Yellowlegs and Black-bellied Plover were present intermittently and only in numbers of 1 and 2. Bairds Sandpipers were observed every day in September and the first few days of October. 18 was the high for one day. Least Sandpipers were present in good numbers until September 20, Demipais until Oct. 10 and Dowitchers until September 15. knots occurred occasionally in numbers of 1 and 2 in September. In addition 3 White-rumped Sandpipers were seen on September 30 and 3 and 2 Red Phalaropes on October 22 and 23 respectively.

Unusual birds that were banded included a Peregrine Falcon and a Clay-coloured Sparrow on September 9.

#### LPBO RECOVERIES AND RETURNS

##### 1. Birds recovered at Long Point

<u>Band No.</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>A/S</u>	<u>Place</u> <u>Banded</u>	<u>Date</u> <u>Banded</u>	<u>Date</u> <u>Recovered</u>
653-21335	Sharp-shin Hawk	HY F	Point Pelee, Ont	10-06-67	10-11-67
623-95299	Common Tern	L	Bob Lo Is. Ont	07-08-67	07-22-67
823-76157	Blue Jay	I	astabula, Ohio	09-03-66	05-12-67
963-77206	Blue Jay	S.	Port Huron, Mich	05-08-67	05-20-67

The above sharp-shinned Hawk is the first recorded travelling from Point Pelee to Long Point in the fall. Several have been recorded moving in the other direction, including the one in the following section.

2. Birds banded at Long Point

<u>Band No.</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>A/S</u>	<u>Date Banded</u>	<u>Date Recovered</u>	<u>Place Recovered</u>
657-70645	Black Duck	A M	08-24-66	12-17-66	Williamsburg, Ky.
524-86212	Green-wing Teal	I F	08-17-66	12-04-66	Huger, S.C.
616-47154	Redhead	U M	04-01-66	02-00-67	Vandamere, N.C.
616-47162	Ring-neck Duck	U M	04-02-66	12-23-66	Chester, S.C.
657-76560	Canvasback	U M	03-31-66	01-18-67	Assawoman, Dela.
593-68360	Sharp-shin Hawk	HYF	09-16-67	09-22-67	Point Pelee, Ont.

Recent Blue-winged Teal recoveries have been from: Grand Bahama Is. (1); Jamaica (1); Dominican Republic (2); Haiti (1); Puerto Rico (1); Colombia (1).

3. Returns

<u>Band No.</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>A/S</u>	<u>Date Banded</u>	<u>Date Returned</u>
52-196126	Semipalm. Plover	A	08-17-63	08-10-67
52-196266	Baltimore Oriole	U M	05-25-64	06-08-67
52-195819	Br.-hd. Cowbird	U M	04-26-64	07-12-67
52-123871	Br.-hd. Cowbird	S/M	05-04-63	07-12-67

WARDEN REQUIRED FOR LONG POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY

Applications are invited for the position of warden at the Long Point Bird Observatory for the 1968 season. The period to be covered is from April 1 to October 31, but it is realized that a suitably qualified person may not be available for the entire period, so applications and inquiries are invited from persons available for a substantial portion of this time. Remuneration will be in the range \$275.00 to \$325.00 per month, depending on qualifications. Duties will include observational work and banding during the migrational seasons, and studies of breeding birds during the summer, with the help of OBB members and others when available; and routine maintenance of the facilities of the Observatory at all seasons. A university student in biology, with banding experience would be suitable for this job, but applications will be considered from anyone who feels that he is adequately qualified.

Before applying further details should be obtained from W.J. Wasserfall, 22 Roycrest Ave., Willowdale, Ontario. (Telephone 416/221-9676). Applications, stating qualifications, experience and time available should be made in writing to D.J.T. Hussell, 22 Roycrest Ave., Willowdale, Ontario- before February 17, 1968.

CHRISTMAS COUNT

The Christmas Census at Long Point will be held on Saturday December 30, 1967 and is being organized by Mr. J.B. Miles. Anyone may take part in this census. Contact Mr. Miles at:  
Day: Toronto 429-1177  
Evening: Hamilton person to person collect JA-2-6160

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the OBBA will be held on Saturday February 10, 1968 at the Royal Ontario Museum. Mr. Chandler S. Robbins, Chief of Non Game Bird Studies, Fish and Wildlife Service will be the guest speaker.

The Chairman of the afternoon session will be Mr. W. Wasserfall, 22 Roycrest Ave., Willowdale, Ontario. Any members who wish to present short papers at this meeting must submit a brief summary of the paper and the length of time that will be required to the Chairman, by January 9, 1968.

F.O.N. CHRISTMAS CARDS

The card for this year displays 3 Snow Buntings in a wheat field, a painting by Robert Bateman. The price is \$1.58 per dozen including tax. A limited supply of last years card with a painting of a Pileated Woodpecker by Glen Loates is still available at \$1.05 per dozen including tax. Hasti-notes with either painting on them are available at the same prices as the cards. They may be purchased at the next meeting or ordered from the secretary, Miss A. Wasserfall, 22 Roycrest Ave., Willowdale. If you buy your cards through the O.B.B.A., the association receives 25¢ per dozen.

A. Wasserfall,  
Secretary, O.B.B.A.