

ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

JUNE NEWSLETTER 1973

There will not be a June meeting this year. The Luther Marsh meeting has been cancelled, and plans for an alternative meeting did not materialize. The next meeting will be held in September at Point Pelee National Park. Further information will be announced in the September Newsletter.

As yet there is nothing to report on the May meeting which took place at the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre. At present, I am at the Long Point Bird Observatory, working on the Breeding Bird Survey, and so, couldn't attend the meeting.

Apologies are due to Russell Rutter for my forgetfulness -- I forgot to include his name in the list of contributors to the slide display in our exhibit at the F. O. N. Annual Meeting. Sorry!!

A banded bat was recovered by Mr. Paul Desgroseilliers, Rexdale, Ontario, on May 25, 1972, #672-61184. The bat was killed at a cottage 3 miles from Buckhorn, (approx. 22 miles N.E. of Peterborough, Ontario.) The bat was banded by Dr. Donald A. Smith, of Carleton University, Ottawa. The Bat Banding Office had not received a complete banding report on this bat at the time of this report.

Three more returns on birds retrapped by the Point Pelee Bird Observatory:
1013-48603 Sharp-skinned Hawk AHY male banded at Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Station on October 17, 1972 - retrapped at Point Pelee October 19, 1972.

1013-43238 Sharp skinned Hawk HY male banded at Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Station on September 27, 1972 - retrapped at Point Pelee on September 28, 1972.

695-01050 Cooper's Hawk HY male banded at Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Station on October 3, 1972 - retrapped at Point Pelee on October 10, 1972.

WATCH FOR COLOUR-MARKED GULLS

A study of the local movements of Ring-billed and Herring Gulls in southern Ontario has been recently initiated. Observers are urged to watch for individuals of these species of gulls which are adorned with orange plumage dye and colored, plastic leg ribbons. If you see such a gull, please note the location of the orange dye the color and leg upon which the ribbons are located (there may be up to four ribbons on each gull) and, of course, the date and location of your sighting. This information should be sent (or phoned) to D. V. (Chip) Weseloh or Bob Sutherland, 44 Baleberry Cres., Weston, Ontario. (247-6587)

EAGLE SCANDAL

Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., has written an infuriated letter to Interior Sec. Rogers Morton complaining that two accused killers of Bald Eagles are getting federal grazing privileges on public land. The accused, Dean Visitainer of Craig, Colo. and Herman Werner of Casper, Wyo. "were named in the shotgun slayings of up to 635 Bald and Golden Eagles." Dingell has threatened to hold public hearings on the matter. The law states convicted eagle killers shall have their grazing permits on public lands revoked.

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A Breeding Bird Census is being carried out this year on Long Point. Thirteen grids have been staked out -- seven close to the Point itself, 2 at the breakwater, and four at the base of the Point.

As I am involved only with those in Area 1 (the Point) I shall try to describe them.

At mile seven is the Burnt Ridges grid (20 acres). The aim of having a grid here is to determine the changes in density and composition of the passerine population caused by the disturbance of fire.

A little closer to the Point we have a smaller grid in a birch/pine sub-climax forest. This area is totally unlike the rest of the Point and I recommend it highly for anyone who gets fed up with everlasting sand dunes!

Almost due south of the birch/pine area is our largest grid of 30 acres. This covers three distinct areas; first dune, wetland, and first interdune.

At the west end of Long Pond is the sixth grid, the Dune Complex (20 acres). Vegetation here is mainly red cedar and ground juniper. So far, this is the area with which I have had the most contact, and I am very pleased to report a Marsh Hawk nest with one beautiful egg.

Quite close by the dune complex is our last grid - but not the least by any means. Although it is only 10 acres, it was more fun to set up than any other - just ask the two who were elected to wade through the sticky mud, thigh and waist deep waters among the snapping turtles and leeches, while carrying the necessary equipment. The rest of us cheered from the dry bank, and called out helpful comments, but we got our just reward - we missed seeing the Least Bittern, while they had a very close-up view. Serves us right.

All grids will be censused a minimum of 15 times each before the end of July.

Data collected through these censuses will be analyzed to determine how avifauna populations on the Point reflect vegetational succession. It is planned to continue the project over several years. Hopefully, this project should be of lasting benefit to the conservation of Long Point as a natural area.

Miss Jayne E. Evans
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