

ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 1974 NEWSLETTER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Bird Banding Association will be held on Saturday, February 9, 1974 in the lecture room at the McLaughlin Planetarium, in Toronto. The planetarium is adjacent to the Royal Ontario Museum on Queen's Park at Bloor Street.

The Business session will be held in the morning and a fine series of talks has been arranged for the afternoon session. Non-members are welcome to attend and are particularly invited to the afternoon session. We hope that there will be a good turnout.

The programme schedule is as follows:

- 0930-Registration commences (fee \$1.00)
- 1000-Introduction of members and visitors
- 1015-Minutes of previous annual general meeting
- 1020-President's report-E.R. Dinniwell
- 1030-Treasurer's report-H.F. Howkins
- 1035-Editor's report-D. Brewer and/or D.A. MacLulich
- 1040-Station reports
- 1040-Point Pelee Bird Observatory-D. Rupert
- 1050-Long Point Bird Observatory-J.O.L. Roberts
- 1100-Hawk Cliff Banding Station-M. Field
- 1105-Proposed amendment to the constitution
- 1110-Election of Officers and Executive Committee for 1974
- 1120-Introduction of new Executive Committee
- 1125-Other station reports
- 1135-Proposed annual report on banding and recoveries in Ontario-D. Brewer.
- 1145-Any other business
- 1200-Adjourn for lunch

- 1200-1345 The bird room at the Royal Ontario Museum will be open.

- 1400-"BIRD STUDIES AT THE HIGH ARCTIC RESEARCH STATION, BATHURST ISLAND, N.W.T." by STUART D. MACDONALD, Curator of Vertebrate Ethology, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Ottawa.

- 1500-Coffee Break
- 1520-Winter banding of Goldfinches. A.L.A. Middleton
- 1540-The Breeding Bird Census, Roadside Surveys and Nest Records Schemes. A.J. Erskine
- 1605-Watching Hawk migration by radar in Ontario-W.J. Richardson
- 1625-

No special arrangements have been made for lunch, but there are several suitable restaurants on the north side of Bloor Street. Please note that the afternoon program will start at 2 P.M. sharp (1400 hrs). A prompt start is essential so that the afternoon session can end at a reasonable hour.

2.

In the evening, members and friends are invited to an informal gathering at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. Wasserfall, 22 Roycrest Avenue, Willowdale, after 8.00 p.m.

Proposed slate of Officers and Executive committee- by W. Wasserfall chairman of nominating committee and J. Anderson

- Dinniwell-president
- Hussell-vice-president
- Brewer- vice-president
- Howkins- treasurer
- Jo Ann Murray- membership secretary
- MacLulich
- Richards
- Wasserfall (W.)

— Past-president

*Peter Middleton
David Broughton*

If the proposed amendment to the constitution is approved there will be an additional two voting directors added to the above slate.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD AT 1105 hrs AT LECTURE ROOM IN THE MCLAUGHLIN PLANETARIUM ON SATURDAY FEBRUARY 9, 1974.

At this meeting there will be a proposed amendment to the O.B.B.A. Revised Constitution.

It is proposed that #9. read as follows

9. The affairs of The Association shall be administered by an Executive Committee which shall consist of the Officers of the Association, the immediate past President, and five other members (at least one of whom shall be drawn from members resident outside the Metropolitan Toronto area).

instead of

9. The affairs of the Association shall be administered by an Executive Committee which shall consist of the Officers of the Association, the immediate past President, and three other members (at least one of whom shall be drawn from members resident outside the Metropolitan Toronto area).

The reason for this proposed amendment is to give the executive more flexibility in conducting the affairs of the O.B.B.A. and to enable the workload ^{to be} more equitable. It will also enable the executive to become more active and also to bring a greater degree in continuity of the executive from year to year.

Bluebirds

I have made 431 nesting boxes for Eastern bluebirds. The biggest concentration of them is on the north slope of the Hockley Valley in Mono and Adjala Townships.

Two productive areas are in Uxbridge Township: the first at Lazy Lake resort in the extreme west and bordering on Whitchurch Township and the other in the east, near Chalk Lake and bordering on Reach Township. For those wishing to see my results at first hand, drive north on Highway ten to sideroad 25 of Mono, north of Orangeville. Turn right here and drive east. The boxes are north and south of this gravel road all the way to Airport Road. This is basically an area of large fields, over grazed and with many blowouts where the raw sand shows through. The original settlers made a mess and very few genuine farmers are left. Many of the new owners are country lovers, seeking a weekend retreat or commuters. One teacher drives every day to Ryerson Public School in downtown Toronto.

This is my best area and also the easiest area for human relations. I have had only one refusal in the entire Township when requesting permission to dig holes for posts for nesting boxes.

Dofasco sent a parcel weighing over 700 pounds of the best galvanized steel plates. There are still many plates left. In those cases where metal protectors were left off my posts, the squirrels got in and the porcupines made a meal of the plywood.

I have sent six boxes to Oregon in the hopes of getting Western bluebirds to nest in my houses, and now have seven boxes in a large crate that looks like a coffin, ready to go by rail to Stuart Houston of Saskatoon.

This latest venture should make me the only bluebird man in North America with three species of siala in his own structures.

Readers Digest for September 1973 had a story about John Lane of Brandon, Manitoba, the man with 4,100 boxes and over 1,000 miles of trails. Strangely, I have not been able to find the route by which the Eastern bluebirds travel to and from the Canadian Prairies or whether their wintering grounds are in Tennessee or Arkansas or where.!!!!

Perhaps we could request the Federal Government to establish a bird banding station in the new National Park now being formed north of Sault St. Marie ?

L.A. Smith
Bluebird Research and Development
133 Madison Ave
Toronto, Ont.
M5R 2S3

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Material is urgently required for the newsletter. Please mail to Dr. Ted Dinniwell, 7 Esquire Place, Hamilton, Ont. L9C 2R2

At the January meeting at the home of Harold Richards, J.O.L. Roberts gave a very informative talk on sharpshinned hawks- principally at Point Pelee. There was a very good turnout of 15 members.

At the banding workshop meeting at David Brewers place on sat. Nov. 24th, there was a very good turnout of about 15-20 members and other interested people. This time we had about an hour of banding before the rains came. It's a good thing that we don't schedule banding training sessions for every weekend. One white-throated sparrow, and one junco were some of the birds banded. There were quite a few black-capped chickadees re-trapped. Golden crowned kinglets also provided some banding experience. Those that came had a very enjoyable time. We will probably have another training session sometime in April.

In a future issue -probably the March newsletter, there will be an article on Collin Griffiths banding sharpshins at Point Pelee. Keep the material flowing in members. One or two full page articles are needed. for each months newsletter.

Once again, plan to attend the annual general meeting on saturday Feb. 9th There will probably be back issues of the O.B.B.A. journal on sale for a nominal sum. If you can't make the meeting please send in your membership dues as soon as possible to Mrs. Jo Ann Murray, 11 Oakley Blvd Scarborough, Ont. Also please include your postal code.

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Please renew my membership with the Ontario Bird Banding Association for the year of 1974.

Enclosed is my cheque or money order in the amount of \$-_____

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP \$6.00 FAMILY \$7.00 STUDENT (under 18 yrs.) \$2.00

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

CITY..... PROV./STATE.....POSTAL CODE

Mail to membership secretary
Mrs. Jo Ann Murray, 11 Oakley Blvd., Scarborough, Ont.

SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING! BRING A FRIEND!!!!

ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

RESOLUTION ON NON-GAME BIRD BANDING TO BE PRESENTED AT
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

For the past year your Executive Committee has been concerned about the present low state of non-game bird banding in Ontario, particularly as it relates to the amateur bander. We have talked with a number of members about this problem and have been looking for ways to develop amateur participation in worthwhile banding activities. Two results of this are the series of banding training sessions we have held over the past year, and a decision to proceed with a comprehensive annual banding and recovery report for Ontario.

We feel that part of the present problem, however, is related to the attitudes and policies of the Canadian Wildlife Service in regard to the non-game bird banding program and particularly to the role of amateur banders in it. In order to try to initiate some changes in these policies and also as a means of crystallizing the opinions of OBBA members, the Executive Committee will present the following resolution at the Annual Meeting on Saturday February 9.* We expect that a representative from the CWS Banding Office will be present to discuss the points raised. I hope that all OBBA members planning to attend will take the opportunity to contribute their views on this resolution, and I would welcome comments by mail or telephone from members who cannot attend.

E.R. Dinniwell,
President, OBBA,
7 Esquire Place,
Hamilton, Ont. L9I 2R2
Tel: (416)-389-3416

* Note- the meeting is at the McLaughlin Planetarium in Toronto. The resolution will be presented in "Any other business" at about 11.45 a.m.

RESOLUTION:

The membership of the Ontario Bird Banding Association is concerned about the present limited scope and usefulness of non-game bird banding in Canada. It has been amply demonstrated elsewhere that banding non-game birds can be a valuable technique for investigation of avian migration and demography, and a useful aid in management and environmental monitoring. In Canada, however, the potential of such a program has been neglected.

(continued.....)

The Ontario Bird Banding Association seeks the support and co-operation of the Canadian Wildlife Service in a concerted effort to enhance the scope, usefulness and quality of non-game bird banding in Ontario, and, to that end, suggests that the Canadian Wildlife Service consider taking action on the following recommendations.

1. Recognize that the "individual project" is not an essential requirement for issuing a banding permit, while maintaining strict qualifications for competence of permit holders.
2. Develop and introduce improved band materials and styles with the objective of increasing the quantity and reliability of return and recovery data available for analysis.
3. Encourage large-scale banding of selected species as an aid in long-term environmental monitoring.
4. Review its policy on publication rights for banding and recovery data with a view to wider and more immediate dissemination of the results of banding.
5. Support publication of a comprehensive annual report on banding and recoveries in Canada.
6. Make a comprehensive review of the administration and status of current non-game bird banding and determine the future objectives and needs of the program.
7. Include formal representatives from the amateur bird banding community in all policy deliberations on the future direction of banding in Canada.

