

Ontario Bird Banding Association

JANUARY NEWSLETTER 1974

January Meeting- On Tuesday Jan. 8th at the home of Harold Richards, 37 Killdeer Crescent, Toronto, Ont, M4J 2W7. J.O.L. Roberts will speak on Hawk Migration.

Appointments-

The executive is pleased to announce that Dr. Duncan A. MacLulich, 26 Stewart St., Strathroy, Ont (phone no. 519-245-0905) is the new editor of the O.B.B.A. Journal.

We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Jo Ann M. Murray, 11 Oakley Blvd. Scarborough is our new membership secretary.

Dr. David Brewer Has assumed the post of compiling and editing non-game bird banding data recorded in Ontario. This data will be published in one issue of our journal.

Dr. David Brewer has resigned as editor of the O.B.B.A. Journal and Jayne Evans has resigned as secretary. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all the work that they did for the club in these posts.

Reflecting on the past year , and after looking over the constitution, I feel that the organizational structure should be revamped. My own feeling is that the editor of the O.B.B.A. Journal should automatically be a voting director. For the purposes of flexibility there should also be a voting director.

I therefore propose that the following amendment be made at the Annual General Meeting on Sat. Feb. 9th, 1974.

" That the number of voting directors be increased from three to five and that one of the five is the editor of the O.B.B.A. Journal."

For this amendment to be made according to the revised constitution a Special General Meeting must be called. This meeting will take place for the purposes of convenience on the morning of Sat. Feb. 9 at the Planetarium next to the R.O.M.

Nov. Meeting- A good turnout was present at the home of George Fairfield to hear the Rev. Charles Long speak on robins. Over a period of a few years he plotted the nesting territories of robins on a census plot. The results were very interesting.

Dec. Meeting- Apparently not very many members of our club are photographers as there was a very poor turnout at this meeting.

Support our club by attending meetings. We would like to see at least 100 members at our Annual General Meeting in February. Full details of the program will be in the Feb. Newsletter.

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

LONG POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY PLANS NEW HEADQUARTERS

The LPBO is planning to set up a permanent Headquarters in the Backus Conservation Area, about two miles north of Port Rowan. A large house, known as the Backus Homestead, is to be renovated by the owners, the Long Point Region Conservation Authority, and made available to the Observatory. Renovation of the house for this purpose has been made possible by a grant from the Richard and Jean Ivey Fund.

Situated on the north shore of Lake Erie, the Long Point Bird Observatory is an independent field station concerned with investigative studies, appreciation and conservation of birds and other aspects of the ecology and natural history of the Long Point region. The Observatory already has field laboratory facilities on Long Point proper, where it has operated a bird banding program and promoted other research by amateur naturalists and professional biologists for several years. The new Headquarters, at a readily accessible location within easy reach of many of the most important wildlife habitats in the Long Point Bay region, will enable the Observatory to broaden the scope of its research and educational activities.

The site of the Headquarters, the Backus Homestead, is attractively situated on a hill overlooking the historic Backus Mill, built about 1798 by one of the early pioneer settlers of Norfolk County. The mill and the surrounding property were purchased by the Conservation Authority in 1955. The Homestead, built in 1854, has deteriorated badly and extensive restoration is needed. Reconstruction is already well advanced and renovations should be complete in time for occupation by LPBO early in 1974.

The building will provide office space, a research laboratory, bird banding facilities, a library, and overnight accommodation for researchers and volunteers involved in the work of the Observatory. It is hoped that the LPBO Headquarters will become a valuable centre for local naturalists and will enable the Observatory to play a prominent part in developing public understanding of the value of Long Point as a Natural reserve.

Long Point is well-known among naturalists for its concentrations of migrant waterfowl, as the last breeding place of the Piping Plover on the Lower Great Lakes, and for the variety of reptiles and amphibians which inhabit its dunes and marshes. The next few years will be critical for the future of this unspoiled sand spit. Large industrial developments are planned by Stelco and Texaco adjacent to Ontario Hydro's giant new generating station at Nanticoke, on the shore directly north of the eastern end of Long Point. Dofasco has similar plans for a site immediately to the west of the peninsula. Urbanization and population pressures will lead to increased demands for developing Long Point for recreation and other uses. The LPBO is concerned that naturalists be kept fully aware of the potential impact of these developments on the integrity of long Point as a natural area.

The Observatory is a non-profit corporation, financed largely by membership subscriptions and donations, and by grants from various organizations- F.O.N. & Canadian National Sportsmen's Show. Enquiries about membership should be addressed to Membership Secretary, LPBO 116 Three Valleys Drive, Don Mills, Ont.

*** Thanks to J.O.L. Roberts for sending in this article.