

ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

MAY 1974 NEWSLETTER

Banding in Guelph region 1973

During 1973, 738 birds of 30 species were banded in the Guelph region under permit no. 10288 (Brewer and Salvadori). During the early months of the year banding focussed on winter finches, mainly goldfinches and siskins which were caught in conventional ground-traps rather than with nets. Guelph has a roving population of small finches which wander from feeder to feeder and by late March over half of the goldfinches have been banded, either by us or by Dr. A.L.A. Middleton of the University of Guelph who is studying this species.

In the summer months attention shifted to tree swallows and bluebirds nesting in some 200 boxes put up over the last few years. Unfortunately this program was curtailed in July since neither bander was present.

A new banding site in Puslinch Township was activated in September and a few migrants were trapped. However pressure of other commitments prevented full-scale activity until mid November, when most migrants had departed.. Some winter finches were banded between then and the end of the year. The local chickadee population has been 90% banded, thereby laying the foundations for a banding and breeding study of this species in the spring of 1974. Two banding training sessions were held here, but both were spoilt by heavy rain.

In Guelph banding at the end of the year again concentrated on goldfinches. There have been several inter-station retraps of this species between Guelph and Puslinch, 8 miles south. There was one long-distance recovery reported this year. American Goldfinch 123-03042, AHY-M banded Guelph 13 Feb. 72 recovered Reistustown, Maryland 24 april '73.

Species banded; Great Horned owl,2; Tree Swallow,33; Black-capped Chickadee,41; House Wren,5; Catbird,1; Robin,1; Hermit Thrush,2; Bluebird,6; Golden-crowned Kinglet,16; Ruby-crowned Kinglet,3; Northern Shrike,1; Red-eyed Vireo,1; Solitary vireo,1; Nashville warbler,2; Magnolia warbler,1; Black-throated Blue Warbler,1; Canada Warbler,1; American Redstart,1; Grackle,4; Cowbird,2; Scarlet Tanager,1; Indigo Bunting,1; Evening Grosbeak,3; Pine Siskin,21; American Goldfinch,341; Slate-coloured Junco,89; Tree Sparrow,46; White-crowned Sparrow,1; White-throated Sparrow,7; Song Sparrow,6.

Dr. David Brewer
R.R. 1 Puslinch, Ont.

Thank you very much for your article, Dave. We would like to hear from other small banding stations. Please send your contributions to Dr. Ted Dinniwel, 7 Esquire Place, Hamilton, Ont. L9C 2R2.

2. NOVEL WAY OF CATCHING A NORTHERN SHRIKE

On February 10th ,1974, I was catching finches in a drop trap behind my house in Puslinch. The trap was a simple rectangular box of wire mesh, about 18" square and a foot high., with one side hanging to form a door. This is propped up with a stick which is pulled away with a piece of string when birds are inside. Birds are removed through a small circular hatch in the roof. I had just caught a pair of white-winged crossbills. As I crouched over the trap to pick them out, there was a flurry of wings and a Northern Shrike landed, literally, right in front of my nose. It then ran around the trap several times trying to get at the crossbills (who were by now in a state of considerable agitation). Finally it jumped on top of the trap, landed on my arm, ran down my wrist and into the trap via the hatch. I then promptly grabbed it before it could inflict violence on the crossbills. When shrikes are numerous it might be possible to catch them in modified funnel traps, if an English sparrow or a mouse in a stout cage within the trap were used as bait. This kind of approach has proven successful with Kestrels and Balchatri traps. It would of course be necessary to be close at hand to keep the bait animal from harm.

David Brewer R.R.1 Puslinch, Ont.

NOTEWORTHY RECOVERY RECORDS

- Ring Necked Duck- banded by John B. Miles at Manitouwadge, Ont
074819523 Oct.1, 1970 (lat.490, long.0854)
-recovered by Gregory Saffa Rural Route 1 Great Bend
Kansas on Oct.13,1973, condition unknown and band
left on bird (lat.382,long.0984)at Cheyenne Bottoms Ks.
- Myrtle Warbler -banded by Edward Dinniwell at Lake Manitouwabing, Ont.
124-24453 Aug.20,1973 (lat 452, long.0795)
-recovered and released alive with the band on by
Helen Hays, Am. Museum Nat. History 79 St. New york, N.Y.
at Great Gull Island, N.Y. (this is in Long Island
Sound) on Oct.24,1973 (lat.411 long.0726).
- American Goldfinch
1300-10205 - banded by Tony Salvadori at Guelph, Ont. Jan.26,1974
at 11:30 hours.
-recovered and released alive by David Brewer at
Puslinch township (eight miles south) on
Jan.26,1974 at 15:15 hours.

(Editors note- The last recovery is probably the world's fastest recovery of a bird from one banding station to another.)

White-winged crossbills- David Brewer

There appear to be an unusually large number of this bird in the Guelph region this winter. They have been reported from several locations

3. around the city. David Brewer trapped 10 one weekend at Puslinch. Have there been many other reports from other areas.

April Monthly Meeting- This meeting was held at the home of Don Baldwin on Wed. April 10th. About 24 people attended this meeting. Dr. George Peck spoke on Cape Henrietta Maria. When they were there they obtained several new records for nesting species in that area. Slides were shown of several of the species of birds that nested, their eggs and nest and also excellent shots of the habitat in which they nested.

The speaker commented that while they were cold walking around outside that the birds sitting on their nests were warmer because the temperature between the level of the tundra and six inches up was ten degrees warmer than the air above.

He also showed slides that depicted quite vividly the effects of wheeled vehicles on the tundra. The paths of the vehicles were still very evident after several years. This illustrates how readily change can wrought in the Arctic. It takes years for the terrain to return to its original state after it has been tampered with.

Several specimens of frogs were taken. They almost lost one because someone tried to drink it instead of their coffee.

MAY MONTHLY MEETING

This meeting will be a BIRD BANDING WORKSHOP
at NORVAL on SATURDAY MAY 11th, 1974

Come one- Come all
bring your own lunch
or slip down to the
nearest pub.

Time: 9.00 A.M.-5.00 P.M. or earlier or later if
you are keen. Don H. Baldwin will be on hand.

Bring nets and poles if you can to supplement the
few Don has on hand. 450 acres- plenty of room for
everyone.

How to get there-

The village of Norval is on Highway #7, between Brampton and Georgetown. Turn north at the Hollywood Inn at the crossroads in Norval and follow "Town Line" road about half a mile to Upper Canada College sign. Turn left at this sign and follow lane to Stephen House.

The property itself is one of the largest, most varied, and beautiful available for outdoor activities. It is 450 acres in extent, and straddles the Credit River over a distance of approximately three-quarters of a mile. There is a wide variety of physical features associated with the river, which makes it ideal for study. While there are river flats, much of the property is rolling and heavily wooded.

4. Forest cover ranges from upland hardwoods of considerable age, to mixed conifer plantations, some of which exceed thirty years in age. There are also extensive areas of open meadow. A large self-guiding arboretum, which is under development, adjoined Stephen House and a number of small man-made ponds are convenient for study.

Because of the size and variety of the property, there is also a wide range of fauna- all of it in a wild state. Rabbits abound; there are beaver and foxes; there are otter and muskrats in the river; deer are frequently sighted; and there is a great deal of bird-life- including predatory birds such as owls and hawks.

One last note -If you get lost, phone Stephen House 1-877-3732.
(Ed. note- If you do get lost and need to use the area code, you really are lost!)

A memo from the Metropolitan Toronto and region conservation authority
5 shoreham drive , Downsview Ont. M3N 1S4 (416)630-9780

re: Residential Outdoor Education Courses-1974.
The Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority are again offering in conjunction with the University of Toronto and York University Residential Outdoor Education Courses at this Authority's Claremont and Albion Hills Conservation Field Centres.

These courses are open to teachers and other interested adults, and are always well attended. Contact the address listed above for further information.

FEDERATION OF ONTARIO NATURALISTS ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Queen's University in Kingston, June 7-9, 1974.

A number of talks and seminars covering ecology and other topics of special interest to naturalists have been planned. Special programs for children are being provided. Five field trips have also been scheduled.

Plan to attend.

If you have not sent in your membership dues, please do so as soon as possible so we can update our mailing list. Thank you!!

Please renew my membership with O.B.B.A. for 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

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

Donations above the regular membership fees are most welcome.