

Ontario Bird Banding Association- Oct. 1975 Newsletter

Upcoming Events-

Indoor Meetings-

Wed. Oct. 8th at 8:00 P.M. - The meeting will be at Don Baldwin's home 47 Duggan Ave., Toronto, Ont. (416-488-7769)

*Barry McKeg  
will speak on  
the birds of  
Costa Rica*

Tues. Nov. 11th at 8:00 P.M. - This meeting will be a member's night. Bring slides, or other things that you would like to show. The meeting will be held at the home of Ted Dinniwell, 7 Esquire Place, Hamilton, Ont. (389-3416)

Outdoor Meeting-

There will be a banding training session at David Brewer's place on Saturday Oct. 25th at 9:00 A.M. unless there is bad weather. It would be wise to confirm by phoning Dave at 519-824-4342. His mailing address is R.R.1 Puslinch, Ont.

Directions as to how to get there.

From Toronto- Take old Highway 6 (now called Wellington 46 or Brock Rd.) north off 401, one mile north turn right onto Puslinch 23, go 1 1/4 miles turn right at T junction (Concession 9), go one mile south, letterbox on left with Daves name.

From Hamilton- Continue on old Highway 6 over 401, as above.

Banding recovery Data

Evening Grosbeak- 771-07846 banded Nov. 29, 1971 as hy male near Lake Itasca, Minn. by Miss Lorna Fritz, retrapped Mar. 22, 1975 by John Miles at Hornepayne, Ont.

Ring-necked Duck- 74819523 banded by John Miles at Manitowadge 10/01/70 and recovered at Cheyenne Bottoms KS dead by Gregory Saffa. on 10/13/73

Ring-necked Duck- 74619542 banded by John Miles at Manitowadge 10/03/70 and recovered dead at Lake Miccosukee Fla. by Fred Murphy on 12/18/74.

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If you have any articles or banding recoveries that you would like to share with our readers please send them to Ted Dinniwell, 7 Esquire Place, Hamilton, Ont L9C 2R2. Material is urgently needed for the newsletter. We are just about out.

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Scott's Oriole Banded in Duluth

Spring banding in Duluth is always exciting, but May of '74 was something I will never forget. After 6 years of banding- I caught my first Southwest Accidental!

It was a cool May. Temps. running 2.8 degrees below the normal of 49.4 degrees. Nevertheless, by the 16th, the rose-breasts

and Orioles were arriving in all their gorgeous mating finery. Then a few days later a cold front poured down out of Canada and we had one grand and glorious reverse migration. Marj. Carr, photographing birds along the North Shore, was caught in the midst of it and noted every other bird seemed to be an oriole. I believed her, because our yard was suddenly knee deep in orioles. They were so hungry, they seemed frenzied. I put out dozens of oranges and quarts of grape jam. The orioles were hanging upside-down, draining the Hummingbird feeders, so I went to the feed store and bought two quart-sized chick founts (water container). Well, those orioles literally "lined up" for long drinks of that red-colored water.

I couldn't believe the number of orioles I was banding.

Here's how it built:

May 19-1

May 20-20

May 22-22

May 31-23

Never had I banded more than 25 orioles in a spring migration and one year as few as 5.

On May 23rd my husband Norm was helping take birds out of the nets, when I heard him call, "Hey, here's a strange looking oriole -- come see how dark it is." I glanced over my shoulder and thought that we had caught an Orchard Oriole.

We put the "mystery bird" in a holding cage and quickly processed the other birds. Then we got out all the bird books and manuals and began checking. It was evident it was a SY male something. But what? I needed advice, so I called Jan Green. She came right over and, after looking it over, said it looked like it was a SY male Orchard Oriole. We do see them, on rare occasion, this far north and about five years back, we had several reported in May.

So, the bird was banded with a 1A band (no. 791-43077) and recorded as a SY male Orchard Oriole. I wrote a full page of notes on the coloration, measurements and underlined the fact that the primaries and tail feathers were very worn.

Early the next morning, there he was, back in the net again. He was really hooked on that grape jam. So I took my time and checked him over again. This bird really bothered me. He was so big and so aggressive-dominant over the Baltimores. The only other Orchard I had ever seen was chased out of my yard by the Baltimores. And the total length of this bird was eight inches (Peterson listed the Orchard 6-7 1/4). I found myself turning to the Western Peterson Guide again and again. That immature Scott's Oriole on page 267- could it be or was it just wishful thinking on my part? The length was right but the bird was much duskier than the picture it seemed. And that long bill. It was coal black around the eyes with a deep dark bib. A dusky avacado look. Gray-black wings with two white wing bars. Yellowy wing linings. Avacado rump. Yellow-green under tail coverts. Tail, yellow-green with blackish feathers in the center. Grey legs. It has a big look and feel to it (when you band a lot of birds, you get to feel the size and heft of a bird in your hand).

To be continued next month- my apologies