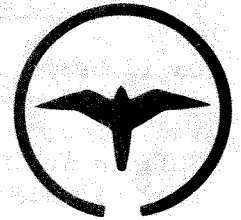


ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION



JUNE-JULY, 1976 NEWSLETTER

Luther Marsh Canoe Trip - Sunday, July 11, 1976 at 10:00 a.m.

David Brewer will again lead us around Luther Marsh. Bring your own canoe, or call David at 1-519-824-4342 to arrange to share one. Meet at the dam at Luther Marsh, one mile south of Monticello. Follow the signs north from Highway #9. Highlights of this outing should include Osprey, Wilson's Phalaropes, and various marsh birds.

Minutes of the 1976 O.B.B.A. Annual General Meeting -

The following is the official record of the last annual meeting. Summaries of the afternoon talks will be printed in the next Newsletter.

The meeting was held on February 7, 1976 at the McLaughlin Planetarium in Toronto and was introduced at 10:15 a.m. by Ted Dinniwell. The minutes of the latest Annual General Meeting were read. David Hussell moved that they be adopted, and M. Speirs seconded the motion.

President's Report:

Ted Dinniwell reported that the O.B.B.A. is in good shape and the membership list is updated. He praised David Broughton for the well-done job of lining up speakers for the meetings. The executive was thanked for the year's work.

Treasurer's Report:

Heather Howkins reported that we are in good financial shape as of December 31, 1975.

Current Account:	\$162.83
Savings Account:	<u>391.76</u>
Total	\$554.59

It was moved by Mrs. Howkins that this report be accepted and David Brewer seconded. Carried. The report was audited by John and Jessie Jarvis.

O.B.B. Editor's Report:

Duncan MacLulich reported that the recent issue of O.B.B. is available. The printing cost for this issue was \$190.00. The next issue, which includes the first annual banding report, is being prepared and should cost around \$200.00. He appealed for illustrations and articles.

Membership Secretary's Report:

Harold Richards reported on the numbers of the categories of membership in 1975. There are currently about 140 members and he hopes for an increased list.

Annual Banding Report -

David Brewer reported that the 1971 Provincial Annual Banding Report is in the final stages of preparation. The report consists of two sections: a list of banding totals and a recovery report of non-game birds. (A notable recovery was that of a Ring-billed Gull in St. Lucia, West Indies.) The data for recoveries is on punched cards for which Tony Salvadori wrote a computer program analyzing them for their locations.

Station Reports:

Long Point - David Hussell

There was emphasis on the routine functions of a bird observatory, that is bird banding and migration monitoring. The banding took place in three areas. Spring migration was covered in 122 area days, and fall migration in 116 area days. There was a total of 338 area days coverage in 1975.

THERE WERE 8,138 BIRDS BANDED IN 1975 COMPRISING 128 SPECIES

Highest Species Totals:

White-throated Sparrow	902
Tree Swallow	552

* New Species Highs:

Tree Swallow	552		
Bay-breasted Warbler	193	Black Tern	25
Cape May Warbler	150	Belted Kingfisher	13
Canada Warbler	88	Evening Grosbeak	9
Indigo Bunting	77	Hairy Woodpecker	5
Black & White Warbler	59	** Blue Grosbeak	1
Purple Finch	59	*** Fieldfare	1

* Highest number ever banded in a year at L.P.B.O.

** First Ontario banding, possibly first Canadian banding

*** First North American banding

The breakwater had good coverage. Gary Miller was the warden. Eight assistants were hired and there were about forty volunteers. The Backus headquarters were opened and are now home for the O.B.B.A. Library. Major projects were: surveys of Bald Eagle and Piping Plover nests, Tree Swallow nesting projects, school groups, and bird study workshops for teenagers.

Hawk Cliff - Marshall Field

A total of 4,276 Raptors were banded. The number of Sharp-shinned Hawks banded almost doubled the number banded in 1974. It was an encouraging year with many volunteers, including two full-time volunteers. A high of 132 Red-tailed Hawks were banded in one day. The area was covered for 295 station days. Seriously interested banders were invited to help out with the banding.

Prince Edward Point - Fred Cooke

He gave a brief history of how the land was obtained. There were approximately 2,500 birds caught so far. The lighthouse at the tip of the point is used as headquarters for operations, and serves as an educational facility for weekend classes. They have had much success in catching Saw-whet Owls, as 83 were caught in 9 nights.

Nominations:

The nominating committee consisted of David Broughton, David Brewer, and Ted Dinniwell. The following names were presented:

David Brewer	- President
Duncan MacLulich	- Vice-President
David Broughton	- Vice-President
Heather Howkins	- Treasurer
Harold Richards	- Membership Secretary
Ralph Cartar	-
David Hussell	-
Peter Lockhart	- Others
Nancy Hitchins	-
John Miles	-

Bob Cubit moved that this list be accepted. Erica Dunn seconded. Carried. David Broughton thanked Ted Dinniwell for the excellent job done as President. The business session was adjourned at 11:35 a.m. The bird room in the R.O.M. was opened during the lunch break.

Afternoon Session:

Dr. F. Cooke gave a talk on the Snow Geese of LaPerouse Bay. After a coffee break, Ron Wier spoke on the Prince Edward Point banding of Saw-whet Owls. George Peck spoke on the Ontario Nest Records scheme. David Hussell gave a talk on Red-breasted Nuthatch migration. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. In the evening, members and friends were graciously hosted at the home of Heather Howkins.

Long Point Bird Observatory News -

(a) Library

We would like to remind you that the O.B.B.A. Library is now housed at the Backus House HQ of the Long Point Bird Observatory in Port Rowan. The library includes most of the major ornithological and banding journals, publications of banding stations and naturalists clubs, and a good selection of field guides to Ontario flora and fauna. Members are encouraged to come and use the library, or make reasonable enquiries to the librarian, Ricky Dunn, about locating articles on particular topics. It is your library, and we hope it will be well used. Enquiries can be mailed to O.B.B.A./L.P.B.O. Librarian, Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario, NOE 1MO

(b) White-necked Raven Banded

A White-necked Raven, the first Canadian record, was banded by Dave Hussell at the point on May 14, 1976. It is very similar to a crow in appearance, but has white bases on the neck and breast feathers. The normal range is in the south west U.S.

Banding Notes: Harold Richards

1. The brown eyes of many HY Grackles become yellow early in September. Hence, after August 15th, the age of an adult-looking Grackle should be designated as "U".
2. Culmen, wing-chord, and tail measurements are useful in sexing Grackles. But of these, the wing-chord is the best criterion: 137 mm or more = M; 133 or less = F

3. HY Grackles can be sexed as soon as they have completely regrown their outer primaries after their post juvenile molt. This varies with hatching time but should be about September 1st.
4. Pine Siskins cannot safely be aged or sexed by plumage. However, if the wing-chord is 77 mm or more, it is a male.
5. A No. 2 band fits satisfactorily on 80% of the Blue Jays, and it wears longer than a No. 3.

Editorial -

I was pleased to receive a report from Mr. and Mrs. Fred Barrett on their recent trip to Florida. One of the highlights was the description of Myaka River State Park, with its wild turkeys, armadillos and thousands of coot. I suggested that the full report be published in a general Natural History Newsletter. This would provide it the coverage it deserves. I would also like to publish notes which primarily relate to banding topics.

Further to this, I am in need of good banding news and reports. The next issue for August/September should be sent out at the start of September.

D. Broughton
Editor,
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TORONTO, Ontario