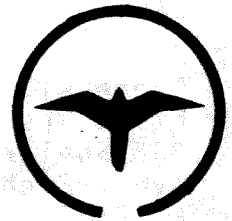


ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION



January - February 1978 Newsletter

Annual Meeting - The Annual General Meeting of the O.B.B.A. will be held on Saturday February 18, 1978 in the lecture room of the McLaughlin Planetarium (just south of the Royal Ontario Museum at Avenue Road & Bloor Street, TORONTO). See Agenda below.

March Meeting - This meeting will be held on Tuesday March 21, 1978 at 8:00 P.M. at the home of Harold Richards, 37 Killdeer Cr. TORONTO (Eglinton Ave., East to Laird Drive, North to the end of the street, Right to 37 Killdeer). Mr. Jim Baker will be speaking on raptor studies at the Toronto airport.

Membership Dues - 1978 dues are now payable. If you cannot attend the A.G.M., please mail your cheque to Harold Richards, 37 Killdeer Cr. TORONTO, Ontario, M4G 2W7. Fees are - Regular \$6.00, Family - \$7.00 Student (under 18) \$2.00. If dues are not paid, we must regretfully remove you from the mailing list as postage is expensive.

1978 A.G.M. - AGENDA

- 09:15 Registration (Fee \$1.00)
09:45 Introduction of members and visitors
10:00 President's report - D. Brewer
10:05 Treasurer's report - W. Russell
10:10 Editor's report - D. MacLulich
10:20 Banding report - D. Brewer
10:30 Station reports
10:30 - Hawk Cliff Banding Station - M. Field
10:45 - Long Point Bird Observatory - D. Husse11
11:00 - Prince Edward Point - R. Weir
11:15 - Toronto Bird Observatory - D. Broughton
11:25 - Guelph Banding Station - A. Salvadori
11:35 Election of Officers and Executive Committee for 1978 - D. Husse11
11:45 Any other business
12:00 Adjourn for Lunch. There is a wide selection of restaurants nearby.
12:15-13:30 The Bird Room at the R.O.M. will be open.
13:45 Mr. Hans Blokpoel of the C.W.S. will speak on Gulls and Terns in the lower Great Lakes. The C.W.S. has been carrying out a major study of the effects of pollutants on gulls and terns.
14:45 Coffee Break
15:05 Saw-whet Owls at Prince Edward Point (The Guinness Book of Records!) - R. Weir
15:30 Hawk Watching in Eastern North America - E. Single
15:55 Ontario Bird Feeder Survey - E. Dunn
16:20 Ontario Beached Bird Survey - C. Risley

Those from out of town may wish to eat together at a restaurant - this will be confirmed at the A.G.M.

continued over.....

There will be an after dinner gathering at the home of Mr. & Mrs. George Fairfield for O.B.B.A. members and guests, 332 Shel Drake Ave. (North from Eglinton Ave. East on Mt. Pleasant Ave., Right on Shel Drake, call 485-9083). Festivities will commence at 7:30 P.M.

Nominating Committee - This year's nominating committee consists of D. Hussell Chairman, E. Dunn and M. Field. Your executive is always in need of hard working volunteers. If you would like to help, contact David Hussell, P.O. Box 160, PORT ROWAN, phone (519) 586-2909 (work) (519) 586-3301 (home).

Shorebird Banding at Mountsberg - by D. Brewer

The Mountsberg Conservation Area, which is about ten miles south of Guelph, is one of the best shorebird habitats in the inland region of Ontario west of Toronto, with more than thirty species recorded. This fall an effort was made for the first time to band shorebirds there. Most of the work was done by Charles Francis and Martin Wernaart. Mountsberg has extensive mud-flats, which advance and recede according to the amount of water coming into the lake. Due to the wet fall this year, the mud-flats were smaller than usual and fewer shorebirds were present than in previous years. Despite this, reasonable success was enjoyed. Some trapping was done with a clap-net set on an area of finer mud; however, the best success was enjoyed with mist-nets. It was quickly found that standard three or four-shelf nets were of little use, since the upper shelves were visible against the sky. Fortunately, we had a number of single-shelf nets manufactured for the British Trust for Ornithology; these proved deadly. The best time for netting was just before dusk, since the birds seem to move elsewhere at night. Banding started in July and continued through to September. The best catch was probably a Knot, rare in Wellington County. Totals banded were: Semipalmated Plover 5; Killdeer 29; Woodcock 4; Common Snipe 4; Spotted Sandpiper 39; Solitary Sandpiper 1; Lesser Yellowlegs 6; Knot 1; Pectoral Sandpiper 16; Least Sandpiper 57; Short-billed Dowitcher 1; Semipalmated Sandpiper 39; TOTAL 182. So far there have been no recoveries of shorebirds banded at Mountsberg; however there was one retrap of outstanding interest. A Semipalmated Sandpiper banded as AHY-U on March 4, 1977 by Dr. A. Spaans, 7 miles north of Paramaribo, Surinam (Dutch Guiana) retrapped at Mountsberg on July 27, 1977.

Summer Native Interpretive Positions - Provincial Parks

Positions are available this summer in the Algonquin area. Applicants should have a general knowledge in natural history with perhaps a specialty in one area.

For more information, contact Interpretive Services Supervisor, Ministry of Natural Resources, Box 219, WHITNEY, Ontario K0J 2M0, phone (705) 633-5592.

Aging of Evening Grosbeaks

Mr. Yunick sent the following letter re: David Brewer's note in our last newsletter:

A number of U.S. banders are using wing plumage colouration to age males and females. Birds which have undergone at least one flight feather molt have soft, velvety, intense black primaries and secondaries. Birds which have not yet achieved this molt have drab brown-black plumage. With

the birds of known age, this criterion becomes easily recognizable. Males may be aged by the edging or lack of same on their tertials. Thus, by comparing the differences in wing plumage intensity in known males, one may then apply the differences to females. I call to your attention a paper on this subject: See Yunick, NORTH AMERICAN BIRD BANDER, Vol 2, No. 1, 12-13(1977).

Fall Banding on Mugg's Island

The following birds were banded incidental to the Saw-whet Owl banding program from October 1st to November 6th, 1977 by C. H. Richards and D. Broughton. It certainly demonstrates the excellence of the location for a bird observatory (relatively few net-hours were logged).

Eastern Phoebe	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler	3
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	Ovenbird	1
Brown Creeper	7	Common Yellowthroat	4
Winter Wren	6	Canada Warbler	1
Grey Catbird	3	Cardinal	2
Robin	1	Rufous-sided Towhee	1
Hermit Thrush	49	Dark-eyed Junco	36
Swainson's Thrush	13	Tree Sparrow	8
Grey-cheeked Thrush	1	Field Sparrow	2
Golder-crowned Kinglet	7	White-crowned Sparrow	3
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	30	White-throated Sparrow	109
Solitary Vireo	1	Fox Sparrow	1
Nashville Warbler	6	Lincoln's Sparrow	1
Magnolia Warbler	1	Swamp Sparrow	5
Black-throated Blue Warbler	3	Song Sparrow	23

TOTAL SPECIES - 30

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS - 330

Editorial

The Toronto Bird Observatory is (slowly) taking shape - get in touch if you would like to be involved.

See You at the A.G.M. !

David Broughton
4 Heddington Avenue
TORONTO, Ontario
M5N 2K5

