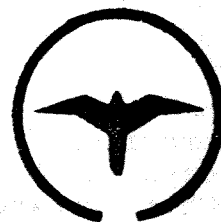


ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION



NEWSLETTER MARCH - APRIL 1978

April Meeting - Tuesday April 18th at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Bob Cubitt, 28 Rockport Cres. RICHMOND HILL (north on Bayview Ave. from the 401. Rockport Cr. is on the left, three streets past the first traffic light in RICHMOND HILL). Dr. Jim Rising will be speaking on Alaska, it's wildlife and scenery.

Banding Workshop - Saturday April 29th, 9:00 A.M. at David Brewer's, RR # 1 PUSLINCH (phone (519) 824-4342). To get there, go north on the old Highway # 6 (now Brock Road, Exit 37) from the 401. Then turn right (east) on Puslinch Road #23, go about one and one-quarter miles, make another right turn (south) and go another mile. Dave's place is on the left. In the event of rain, this workshop will be cancelled.

1978 Membership Dues - If you have not paid your dues for this year, please send a cheque to Harold Richards, 37 Kildeer Cr. TORONTO, Ontario. Fees are - Regular \$6.00, Family \$7.00, Student (under 18) \$2.00. If your dues are not paid, we must regretfully remove you from the mailing list.

How Can I Become A Birdbander? - This question is often asked of the OBBA executive. Here is a reply:

To obtain a banding permit, you apply to The Director, Canadian Wildlife Service, Department of the Environment, OTTAWA, Ontario, K1A 0W1, Attention: Bird Banding Office.

However, the C.W.S. does not grant a banding permit lightly and is very unwilling to give such to a birder who wishes to band birds "just for the fun of it". You must propose a specific bird-study project and they must be convinced that it is significant and requires banding. In addition, they must feel assured that you are competent to identify birds and that your attitude towards wildlife is acceptable. It helps to have two well known banders to sponsor your application and assure the C.W.S. that you are skilful in handling, ageing, and sexing birds and that you would be accurate, prompt and dependable in submitting records.

These requirements need not be discouraging. You can derive a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction from getting the necessary experience. Attach yourself to some licensed bander as an assistant. You might join the activities of the Ontario Bird Banding Association, Long Point Bird Observatory or the new Toronto Bird Observatory. Many banders after some initial instruction, become Sub-permittees supervised by a bander who is willing to accept them. They may then go on to become a master permit holder, though it isn't necessary in every case.

Maitland River Banding Station 1977 - from J. B. Miles

The Maitland Banding Station operated from March 12th to October 30th, 1977. Up to 25 mist nets and a jay trap were operated most weekends during this period. The station is located 20 miles inland from Lake Huron in the northern part of the county of Huron. Consequently, the large concentration of migrants that occur at the observatories along the lower lakes are not noted at this station.

The station operated for 85 days with 1795 birds being banded. Coverage was

provided for 25 days in May and 14 days in September with lesser number of days in the other months. A total of 89 species and 1 sub species (Gamble's White-crowned Sparrow) were banded. The best bird banded in 1977 was a Louisiana Waterthrush which was present for 3 days.

The most common species was Redwinged Blackbird with 253 banded. About two thirds of the Redwings were caught in the evenings flying up the river valley to roost in a summer roost located across the Maitland River from the observatory. This roost is used mainly in July and August with a rapid fall off in numbers early in September. The roost is mainly in scrub willows and Joe Pie Weed on a semi-island. Heavy rains in late August and early September helped accelerate the discontinuance of this roost as it was flooded at least twice by the river rising 8 to 10 feet above the summer flow level. This also resulted in banding nets being swept away twice. However, the equipment was recovered when the water receded, a little worse for wear.

The blackbird roost contained up to 10,000 birds at the peak in the late summer with a high percentage of adult female and immature Redwings. Some Cowbirds and Grackles were also present. About 50 Cowbirds were banded coming into roost with many slipping through the thrush nets being used. August 13th was the best evening when 43 blackbirds were banded (26 Redwings and 17 Cowbirds). This roost has been increasing in numbers over the past 3 summers this station has been in operation and may become a major blackbird roost in this area. The drop off in numbers in the late summer and early fall may be attributed to the blackbirds commencing to roost in the Huron County corn fields which they blacken in the evenings after the corn begins to mature. The ten species most frequently banded were:

Redwinged Blackbird	253
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	97
White-throated Sparrow	88
Swainson's Thrush	87
Bay-breasted Warbler	83
Brown-headed Cowbird	82
Slate-coloured Junco	74
Song Sparrow	65
Myrtle Warbler	65
Tree Sparrow	63

News from the Long Point Bird Observatory

P.O. Box 160

PORT ROWAN, Ontario

Observatory Assistants

Two or more assistants will be required in 1978 to assist in various aspects of the Observatory's program including any or all of the following: maintenance and operation of physical facilities including buildings, boat traps, etc., clerical work and typing, migration observation and banding, breeding bird census, research projects on migrant or breeding birds, and educational programs for schools. These are essentially volunteer positions, but living expenses and accommodation are provided at the Observatory. Successful applicants can expect to benefit from extensive training and experience in various aspects of the Observatory's program. Positions are open throughout the year and to persons of any age or experience who are available for at least a month. Applications will be considered at any time, but should be submitted by April 1 for the university and high school summer vacation periods.

L.P.B.O. - Cont'd
Bird Study Workshops

These are four day sessions for up to six students ages 14-16 to be held this summer. These are for young people with a serious interest in birds. Cost is \$35.00 including room and board at the observatory headquarters. Applications are due by May 1, 1978.

Great Lakes Beached Bird Survey - Volunteers are needed to walk a one or two mile stretch of beach at monthly intervals to record all dead or dying birds encountered. This study will help us learn about natural (and unnatural) bird mortality, it's causes, timing etc. For more information, contact Chris Risley at the Long Point Bird Observatory (address on previous page).

Ontario Heronry Inventory - If you know of the location of a heronry in Ontario, please write to Philip Taylor at the Long Point Bird Observatory. Locations will be kept confidential if you request it.

Returns of Interest -

Snow Buntings - two recoveries

1. Female, AHY, banded on January 25, 1976 on the Leslie Street Spit in Toronto by Heather Howkins. Captured and released alive on May 1, 1977 at Couche on the northern tip of Newfoundland.
2. Male, Second Year, banded at Gothaab, Greenland in August 1977 (Denmark Band No. 8161510) retrapped February 16, 1978 at Mountsberg Conservation area by Martin Wernaart.

Toronto Bird Observatory

We plan to operate on as many days as possible from April 15th to June 4th on Toronto Islands. Official opening is (hopefully) going to be April 15th. Licensed banders are needed, particularly for weekdays.

Volunteers are especially needed for ravine breeding bird census and counts of birds killed at man-made obstacles.

Membership is a nominal \$5.00 a year for individuals or \$8.00 for a family. Membership dues should be sent to Warren Russell, 2575 St. Clair Ave. E. TORONTO, Ontario.

We are asking for donations as well as there are many expenses in this first year of operation. We plan to have a newsletter and publish an annual report. For further information, contact the editor.

Editorial

Articles for future editions of the Newsletter are needed.

Editor,
David Broughton
4 Heddington Avenue
TORONTO, Ontario
M5N 2K5

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