

ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 1978

At the last executive meeting of the O.B.B.A. it was decided to concentrate more on outdoor activities relative to banding. The following enclosed schedule for the coming months reflects that decision. Keep this calendar in a prominent place and make updates as they become necessary.

Membership - If you have not paid your membership dues please send a cheque to Harold Richards, 37 Killdeer Cres., Toronto, Ontario, M4G 2W7. Fees are \$6.00 Regular, \$7.00 Family and \$2.00 Student. This will be your final notice and your name will be removed from the membership list if dues are not received. If your address label contains a red mark this indicates that according to our records your dues have not been paid.

Minutes of the 1978 Annual General Meeting - The meeting took place on February 13, 1978 at the McLaughlin Planetarium in Toronto, with David Brewer opening the morning business session. The minutes of the 1977 Annual General Meeting were summarized by David Broughton, who proposed that they be accepted. The motion was seconded by Ed Keith, and was carried.

President's Report - David Brewer described the year as one of the most interesting and successful to date. As well as containing a well-balanced program of indoor/outdoor meetings, there was one of the highlights of the year... the development of the Toronto Bird Observatory. He views this development as an excellent opportunity to encourage and train many new banders. Also encouraging was the fact that the club membership has increased by approximately 25%.

Re the Annual Banding Report: David Brewer

The soon to be published Annual Banding Report, summarizing Ontario non-game bird banding from 1965 to 1970, is to be about 70 pages long. Because of computerization techniques, made possible by Tony Salvadori, there are plans to expand the report to cover all of Canada.

Treasurer's Report - Warren Russell presented the financial report for 1977, which saw a total of \$1753.79 in receipts and \$1066.45 in expenses, leaving a bank balance of \$687.34. The report was audited by Jean and George Fairfield

O.B.B. Editor's Report - Duncan MacLulich announced that Vol. 11, numbers 2 and 3 will be combined in one issue, that being the Annual Banding Report Vol. 12 will then begin with the next Hawk Cliff report. He suggested that this year's O.B.B. Editor would welcome short papers, as well as the longer single-issue ones.

Station Reports:

Hawk Cliff: Bob Hubert

It was another good year with a grand total of 3630 raptors banded. Bob presented banding totals for many species, most of which seem to be experiencing an upward trend in numbers, thus making banding more exciting with each successive year.

Long Point Bird Observatory: David Hussell

David reported an impressive banding total of 13,000 birds of 137 species, which is the fourth highest in the history of the observatory. He outlined some of the year's more notable banding totals and recoveries. The year saw two new substations at the base of the point come into operation, at Lighthouse Crescent and Hastings Drive. LPBO sponsored projects included the Ontario Bird Feeder Survey, Great Lakes Beached Bird Survey, and Ontario Heronry Inventory. Chris Risley continued analysis of migration data, to determine overall trends in populations. The Jim Baillie Memorial Fund was established to give grants for amateur projects.

Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory: Ron Weir

Much effort was expended in a program of ecological assessment of the Point. In addition to banding approximately 15,300 birds, a number of specific projects were carried out. They included studies of: Saw-Whet Owls, Encephalitus, ageing and colour Morphs, nesting and cowbird parasitism Gulls and Terns, plants, turtles, and waterfowl. The education program consisted of visits by students from high schools and Queen's University. Most of the data has been organized into a computer file.

Toronto Bird Observatory: David Broughton

The observatory's pilot project was the fall Saw-Whet Owl banding program on Mugg's Island, which saw 42 volunteers participating in the banding of 87 Saw-Whets. The TBO is a joint project of the O.B.B.A. and the Toronto Field Naturalists Club, and already has a station banding permit and permission to band on the Toronto Island Nature Reserve. The main objectives for 1978 are on banding and migration studies, shorebird banding on Leslie Street, and education workshops.

Guelph: Tony Salvadori

The banding effort was spread out over a number of locations, including the Bruce Peninsula, Luther Marsh, Puslinch, and Mountsberg. All information from the 10874 birds of 145 species banded is stored on magnetic discs and tapes. Tony presented some of the more notable recoveries.

Election of Officers

The nominating committee consisted of E. Dunn, M. Field, and D. Hussell. John Miles nominated Alan Wormington with Tony Salvadori seconding. The following names were presented:

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|-----------------|------------------------|------------------|----------|
| David Brewer | - President | Erica Dunn | - Others |
| David Broughton | - Vice-President | Peter Lockhart | - " |
| John Miles | - Vice-President | David Hussell | - " |
| Warren Russell | - Treasurer | Alan Wormington | - " |
| Harold Richards | - Membership Secretary | Duncan MacLulich | - " |
| Ralph Cartar | - Recording Secretary | | |

David Broughton moved that the nominations be closed, seconded by Murray Speirs. Carried.

Other Business

David Broughton made a plea for newsletter material and typists.

Mr. W. Carrick - Found an article written by D. Bird in the January issue of the Ontario Naturalist to be inaccurate and offensive in its treatment of bird-banding. He called for a letter expressing dissatisfaction with this article to be sent to the Editor of the Ontario Naturalist. David Broughton moved that the executive review the article in question and comment to the Editor if they felt it necessary. Murray Speirs seconded.

Gerald McKeating asked members to volunteer in a project which would study areas in Ontario where breeding populations of the Kirtland's Warbler might occur.

Afternoon Session

The main speaker was Dr. Hans Blokpoel, who spoke on Gulls and Terns in the lower Great Lakes. Following the coffee break short talks were presented by: Ron Weir on Saw-Whet Owls at Prince Edward Point, Eric Single on hawk-watching in eastern North America, Erica Dunn on the Ontario Bird Feeder Survey, and Chris Risley on the Ontario Beached Bird Survey.

George and Jean Fairfield graciously hosted an after-meeting get-together of members and friends at their home.

Michigan Bird Banders Association Meeting

We are now exchanging publications with the Michigan Bird Banders Association, and because of their proximity, they have invited any interested O.B.B.A. members to join them at their annual meeting. It will be held on Saturday, November 4, 1978, on the campus of the University of Michigan-Dearborn, in Dearborn, Michigan. Already there are speaking commitments from 6 people on topics ranging from encephalitis surveillance programs to bird banding in environmental education, from feeding strategies of Red-winged Blackbirds to work on "mummified" birds. They will probably also discuss the status of their plans for establishing a Bird Observatory at Whitefish Point.

Further information on this meeting will be printed once it becomes available, but you might mark off the date on your calendar now.

Rare Kirtland's Warbler Identified in Quebec

A Kirtland's Warbler, one of North America's rare and endangered bird species, was netted recently in the Gatineau Valley in order to read its band number and released unharmed. The Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada reports that this is the first confirmed record of a Kirtland's Warbler in Quebec.

The bird, a lone singing male, was found by a search team organized by the Faculty of Forestry and Landscape Architecture of the University of Toronto, and assisted by members of the Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds as well as the National Museums of Canada. Last year the same University of Toronto search team, headed by Professor Paul Aird, found a male Kirtland's Warbler near Petawawa, Ontario. These are the only two confirmed sightings of this rare species in Canada since 1967.

The Canadian Wildlife Service, which is responsible for the protection of migratory birds, arranged to have the warbler netted.

The captured warbler had been banded as a juvenile four years ago near Grayling, Michigan, by Dr. Larry Walkinshaw with the U.S. Government's Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team. The Recovery Team has an active program of habitat management and research underway in Michigan to help maintain this endangered species.

Michigan is the only known nesting ground for the Kirtland's Warbler, which migrates to and from the Bahamas. The Quebec capture is the first known case of a Michigan-born bird singing on territory outside of that state. This suggests that the species may not be as restricted in its choice of breeding sites as has been believed so far.

Professor Aird, the Province of Quebec Society for the Protection of Birds, the Club des Ornithologues de Quebec, and the Canadian Wildlife Service are now conducting a search for other individuals of this species in Quebec.

As a result of last year's sighting near Petawawa, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is coordinating a search of selected jack pine forests between Ottawa and Georgian Bay. Cooperating organizations include the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Royal Ontario Museum, and the University of Toronto.

The Kirtland's Warbler (Dendroica kirtlandii), with its clear yellow breast and black streaking on its sides, has a more pronounced song than other warblers found in the region.

The world population is estimated at less than 500 adult birds. Government and University research is aimed at ensuring the continued survival of this unique species.

Note of Interest from Harold Richards

Today I retrapped a male Grackle which I had banded July 6, 1969 (as AHY). His band 963-05698 was worn thin and furled tightly. I replaced it, of course. He must be 10 years plus in age.

Reports on winter finches are not plentiful. This one is interesting. Pine Siskin 120-98478 banded as AHY April 23, 1974 near Lenhartsville, Pennsylvania by J.J. Brett of the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, I retrapped and released it in Toronto, April 30, 1978.

Recent Selected Recoveries from Mountsberg

<u>No.</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Date Banded</u>	<u>Location of Recovery</u>	<u>Date of Recovery</u>
1037-48936	Mallard	19 Aug. '76	Montezuma, Ga.	15 Jan. '78
1087-39177	"	16 Aug. '76	Wheeler N.W.R., Ala.	31 Jan. '78
1087-38055	"	9 Oct. '76	Cloverdale, Ala.	10 Jan. '78
1107-08351	"	25 Oct. '77	White Oaks Bottoms, Tenn.	16 Dec. '77
1107-08161	"	26 Oct. '77	Lake Fausse Pt., La.	14 Feb. '78
1087-39491	"	15 Sept. '77	Raleigh, N.C.	23 Dec. '77
1087-39495	"	" " "	Money, Miss.	17 Dec. '77
1087-39856	"	23 Oct. '77	Boykin, S.C.	20 Jan. '78
1087-38041	"	9 Oct. '76	Crocketts Bluff, Ark.	1 Jan. '78
1087-38594	"	27 Oct. '76	Eldorado Marsh, Wis.	30 Aug. '77
1087-34951	"	8 Oct. '76	14 m. N.E. of Kyle, Sask.	11 Oct. '77
1037-48898	"	16 Aug. '76	Swann Lake, Minn.	24 Oct. '77
1087-34516	"	19 Sept. '76	Tulsa, Okla.	26 Nov. '77
1037-34288	"	9 Sept. '76	10 m. S. of Winnipeg- osis, Man.	3 Oct. '77
1107-08575	Black Duck	12 Nov. '77	Old Hickory WMA, Tenn.	30 Dec. '77

Mountsberg is situated one mile south of Highway 401, about 50 miles west of Toronto. The Mountsberg banding station is a part of the activities of the Guelph Banding Group.

Note from the Editor

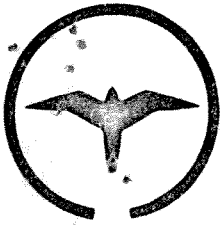
If you are conducting a banding activity please write a short article and share your experiences or discoveries with the other members of O.B.B.A.

Editor

Peter Lockhart

Townhouse 86

520 Rossland Rd. East



O.B.B.A. CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 1978/1979

- September 16 & 17, 1978 Ministry of Natural Resources weekend
at Hawk Cliff Banding Station.
- LOCATION: Hawk Cliff is located south
of St. Thomas, Ontario, off Elgin County
road #24.
- September 23, 1978 Banding Workshop near Newtonville, Ont.
- DIRECTIONS: Take Hwy. 401 east to Newton-
ville Rd., turn north to Hwy. #2 (approx.
1/2 mile), east on #2 Hwy. to the Osaca-
Elizabethville Rd., north on this road
approximately 1 1/2 miles. Property is
on the west side of this road.
- October 7, 1978 Banding Workshop with the Toronto Bird
Observatory.
- LOCATION: Cranberry Marsh near Whitby, Ont.
- DIRECTIONS: Hwy. 401 to Hwy. #12 south
at Whitby to first set of traffic lights,
turn right and proceed 1 1/2-2 miles past
large marsh on south side of road and
turn left into Lynde Shores Conservation
area parking lot.
- October 11, 1978 This will be a joint meeting with the
Hamilton Field Naturalists. Dr. David
Hussell will be speaking on Bird Popu-
lations in Ontario and new program of
L.P.B.O.
- LOCATION: Royal Botanical Gardens Head-
quarters Building.
- DIRECTIONS: Queen Elizabeth Way to Plains
Rd. and travel approximately 5 miles along
Plains Rd. to Spring Garden Rd. For further
directions contact Ford Smith (416-634-5821).

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October 28, 1978

Banding Workshop at Dr. David Brewers
R.R. #1, Puslinch, Ont. (Phone 519-
824-4342).

DIRECTIONS: Go north on the old Hwy. #6
(now Brock Road), Exit 37 from Hwy. #401,
turn right (east) on Puslinch Rd. #23,
proceed approximately 1 1/4 miles, turn
right (south) and travel 1 mile to Dave's
place on the left side of the road.

November 15, 1978

This will be a member's night. Bring
any slides that you wish to show or
any artifact pertaining to natural
history that you wish to share with
the other members.

LOCATION: Home of Mr. & Mrs. Fred Barrett,
56 Killdeer Cres., Toronto

DIRECTIONS: Take Eglinton Ave. East to
Laird St., North on Laird to the end.
Turn East on Glenvale which ends in
Killdeer Cres.

January 18, 1978

Joint meeting with a local Toronto
naturalists club - details to be
announced later.

January 20, 1978

Banding Workshop - Snow Buntings etc.,
in the Durham Region - details to be
announced later.

March 3, 1979

Annual Meeting - Toronto, Ontario -
details to be announced later.
