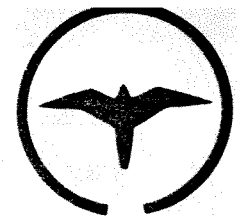


ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION



APRIL - MAY 1980 NEWSLETTER

O.B.B.A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - MARCH 8, 1980

The annual general meeting was held on Saturday, March 8, 1980 at the McLaughlin Planetarium, Toronto.

After registration David Brewer, President, brought the meeting to order and asked members and guests to introduce themselves. The minutes of the 1979 annual general meeting were read by Bruce Duncan, Recording Secretary, and accepted as read.

The President's Report covered the last four years, David Brewer's tenure as President. Dr. Brewer mentioned that the significant events in these four years had been the foundation of the Toronto Bird Observatory and the work on the Banding Report (of band records for Canada from 1920 to the present). Field activity and banding have expanded substantially in these years while our membership and good financial status have not changed markedly.

Fred Barrett, Treasurer, reported a balance for December 31, 1979, of \$777.70 (report appended). This report was accepted as read.

David Brewer moved, Harold Richards seconded, that Duncan MacLulich, previous editor of the journal, be given a vote of thanks for his five years of work in this office. Motion carried. Bruce Duncan, the new editor, also passed along his thanks to Dr. MacLulich and asked members to send him any articles or short notes they might wish published in "Ontario Bird Banding".

Harold Richards, Membership Secretary, moved and Bob Cubitt seconded, that the Constitution be amended on page 2, Section 8 on "Officers", by adding: "The offices of Membership Secretary and Treasurer may be combined in one person." Motion carried.

Dr. David Hussell, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers for 1980:

President: Peter Lockhart
Vice-President I: Erica Dunn
Vice-President II: Chris Risley
Membership Secretary: Bob Hubert
Recording Secretary: Bruce Duncan

Treasurer: Fred Barrett
Other Officers:
Harold Richards
Don Pope
Martin Wernaart
Erica Nol

David Broughton moved, Erica Dunn seconded, that the nominations be closed. Motion carried.

Dr. Hussell thanked David Brewer and Harold Richards for the excellent jobs they have done in their respective offices over the last few years.

Peter Lockhart took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

STATION REPORTS

David Hussell reported that 9,458 birds of 119 species were banded by the Long Point Bird Observatory in 1979. This was the first decline in numbers since 1973, and due partly to weather in September which caused many birds to fly past Long Point as well as to lower coverage of banding areas. Dr. Hussell stressed that supervision of inexperienced banders must be upgraded, with an insistence on accuracy in all aspects of banding. To this end, LPBO has produced a manual for banding and censusing procedures which will, it is hoped, result in standardization of all observations. Also, he emphasized that consistent observations of birds in an area recorded in a consistent way every day is extremely important for developing population indices using migration data.

David Broughton reported 5,308 individuals of 99 species banded by the Toronto Bird Observatory in 1979. Almost 2,000 of these were Ring-billed gulls. Constant checking of banding records produced a high degree of accuracy in spite of many new members helping to band in 1979. Plans for 1980 include a census of the Leslie Street Spit and surveys of some Toronto ravines.

The Hawk Cliff activities for 1979 were summarized by Don Fowler. Marshall Field has retired as Co-ordinator of the Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Committee after 11 years. Thanks were extended to both him and Dolly Field for their work over that time. 2,865 raptors were banded in 1979, including 5 Peregrine falcons. The lowest number of Red-tailed hawks since 1969-70 was banded last year (196). Whether this represents a population decline or is due to factors such as weather during migration is not known. Cooper's hawks showed a "highest ever" banding total of 152 and American kestrel numbers were average although nestling numbers were dramatically down in two areas of the nestbox program (and up in one area).

Fred Cooke summarized the Prince Edward Point Observatory's 1979 activities. 15,260 birds of 144 species were banded. Some firsts were: Goshawk, Merlin, Cliff Swallow, Worm-eating Warbler, Summer Tanager. In 1980, more emphasis will be placed on analysis of data than on its collection alone. He also recommended that Observatories and individuals use data from other areas in addition to their own in order to develop larger-scale pictures of populations, migration, and so on.

Neal Bredin of the Guelph Banding Group gave details of the computerized data recording system used by their banders. This seems a particularly valuable technique both as a time-saver and as an eliminator of errors through checks built into the program. 1979 saw a major gull-banding expedition undertaken with some 5,000 Ring-billed gulls banded. A tree swallow nestbox route has been set up and banding at a large bank swallow colony undertaken.

Steve Wendt of the Bird Banding Office, Ottawa, mentioned that in 1979, 102,000 non-game birds and 119,000 game birds were banded in Canada. He said that a data release policy has been developed and that a salvage policy is under consideration at present.

After lunch, Dr. Erica Dunn appealed for assistance in the Ontario Heronry Inventory, asking for help in obtaining baseline survey data.

David Brewer then introduced Warren Lamb of the Whitefish Point Bird Observatory in Michigan who gave a slide presentation on the birds seen and banded at this point. Mr. Lamb's slides, particularly those of the hawks and owls seen and banded, were excellent. In one week in April of last year over 800 Sharp-shinned Hawks were banded using mist nets only. Since 1960, 68 Boreal Owls, 116 Saw-whets, 198 Long-eared Owls, and smaller numbers of other species have been banded. The point funnels birds in exactly the same way Point Pelee does in the fall and produces concentrations of passerines, hawks and owls as well as occasional rarities. Chris Risley thanked Mr. Lamb for his presentation.

After coffee, Dr. Sandy Middleton informed us of some of the results of his American Goldfinch studies at Guelph and some of the difficulties he experiences.

Richard Knapton presented a paper on Clay-coloured Sparrow breeding behaviour in southern Manitoba.

Doug McRae then gave highlights of the 1979 Prince Edward Point Observatory banding season through slides.

Following this, Dr. Chip Weseloh gave a very informative presentation on toxic chemicals and their effects on Herring Gull populations since 1974 on the Great Lakes.

Banding in north-eastern Mexico was the final presentation, given by Charles Francis and showing some of the species banded on a trip there in 1979.

The meeting was adjourned at 1655h. with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Barrett kindly offering to host anyone who wished to have a takeout supper at their home.

Bruce Duncan
(Recording Secretary)

HOW MANY GREAT BLUE HERONS ARE THERE IN ONTARIO?

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO CENSUS COLONIES

During 1978 and 1979, the Ontario Heronry Inventory (OHI) recorded the locations of over 550 Great Blue Heron breeding colonies. Volunteers are now being sought to help census as many of these as possible during the summers of 1980 and 1981. OHI is a joint project of the Long Point Bird Observatory, the Canadian Wildlife Service (Ontario Region) and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

A trial census carried out with "guinea pig" volunteers in 1979 showed that volunteers and OHI staff came up with very similar counts, even though counts were done several weeks apart. This indicates that inexperienced personnel who follow the instructions carefully can make an accurate census. Just as important, we learned that the procedure can be quickly and efficiently performed, without disturbance to breeding herons.

Briefly, the census is done as follows. During the middle part of the nestling period (June, in most areas), the counter and one or two helpers enter the colony and put a tag on each tree with nests in it, writing down the number of nests in each tree as it is tagged. (Tagging tape will be provided to all volunteers). Nests are recorded as "active" or "inactive", according to definitions detailed in the instructions. After a check to make certain all nest trees have been found, tags are removed and the censusers leave. Even the largest colonies can be counted within 2 hours, and it usually takes much less time.

No special qualifications are needed to volunteer, outside of a willingness to participate and to return accurate records promptly to the organizer.

Although boots and insect repellent may be essential equipment, the experience is one you will long remember as a rewarding and a useful one. Actual census data are essential in establishing baseline data against which to measure future changes in population size.

Readers who would like to volunteer to count one or more heronries during June, 1980 should write to: Ontario Herony Inventory c/o LPBO, Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario NOE 1MO, giving name, address, telephone number and general location in which you wish to count. Towards the end of April, you will be sent instructions and tagging tape, along with information about, and directions to, the colony(s) we would like you to census. We need censurers in every part of Ontario, but as southwestern areas are likely to be "over-subscribed", we are particularly anxious to hear from people who are willing to count in a location in central, eastern or northern Ontario.

In addition, we would like to hear from persons willing to co-ordinate efforts in their region. (This will involve liaison with volunteers in your area and attempting to find extra volunteers if not enough come forward to cover all colonies).

Lastly, we are still seeking information on locations of colonies, and need complete information if our census coverage is to be complete. If you know of a Heron colony and have not previously reported it, please write us at the address above, noting where it is. If the colony is new to us, we will send you forms requesting additional information.

Here is your chance to make a contribution to an important scientific enquiry while enjoying a day in the field with an impressive and beautiful bird.

Write to us soon to volunteer your help.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

If there is a red mark on your address label this indicates that according to our records you have not paid your membership dues for 1980. Please complete the tear-off strip below and mail to the membership secretary, Mr. R. Hubert, 10 Paulson Crt, St Thomas, Ontario, N5R 1M9. Individual membership is \$6.00, family \$7.00 and students under 18 years \$2.00.

BANDING TRAINING

During 1980 we are going to provide more comprehensive training for persons wishing to improve their skills in banding, identification and ageing and sexing techniques. More details will be provided to interested persons. If you are interested in receiving banding training or you are willing to provide some assistance, please complete the tear-off strip below and mail to Mr. P. Lockhart, 86-520 Rossland Road E., Oshawa, Ontario L1G 2X5.

BANDING TRAINING

PLEASE, PRINT OR TYPE - ÉCRIRE EN LETTRES MOUILLÉES OU DACTYLOGRAPHIER S.V.P.

CUSTOMER STATUS - ÉTAT CIVIL					INITIALS - INITIALES		SURNAME OR FAMILY NAME - NOM DE FAMILLE												
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>													
CO CIE	MR M	MRS MME	MISS MILLE	MS															
HOUSE NO.				STREET NAME										ST. RD. AVE.			DIRECTION		
<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>										<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>		
N° DE LA MAISON				NOM DE LA RUE										RU. CH. AV.			SENS		
APT. NO.				BOX NO.				RURAL ROUTE											
<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>											
APP.				CASE POSTALE				ROUTE RURALE											
CITY - LOCATION										VILLE - LOCALITÉ					PROVINCE		POSTAL CODE		
<input type="checkbox"/>										<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		
															PROVINCE		CODE POSTAL		

I Do/Do Not Have A Banding Permit.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

PLEASE, PRINT OR TYPE - ÉCRIRE EN LETTRES MOUILLÉES OU DACTYLOGRAPHIER S.V.P.

CUSTOMER STATUS - ÉTAT CIVIL					INITIALS - INITIALES		SURNAME OR FAMILY NAME - NOM DE FAMILLE												
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>													
CO CIE	MR M	MRS MME	MISS MILLE	MS															
HOUSE NO.				STREET NAME										ST. RD. AVE.			DIRECTION		
<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>										<input type="checkbox"/>			<input type="checkbox"/>		
N° DE LA MAISON				NOM DE LA RUE										RU. CH. AV.			SENS		
APT. NO.				BOX NO.				RURAL ROUTE											
<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>											
APP.				CASE POSTALE				ROUTE RURALE											
CITY - LOCATION										VILLE - LOCALITÉ					PROVINCE		POSTAL CODE		
<input type="checkbox"/>										<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>		
															PROVINCE		CODE POSTAL		

