



OBBA

ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2013

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A short history of banding in
Cambridge, Ontario

1 features a number of interesting speakers covering a diverse range research projects related to bird banding in Ontario. Members are also invited to take part in bird banding activities on Sunday. See the Agenda on Page 2.

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Bring a sub-permittee or friend !!!

6-7

Every bander has the responsibility to constantly improve and develop their knowledge and skill-base. By being a member of the OBBA and attending the AGM, individuals can learn about other projects, new techniques, and network with other banders.

COMING EVENTS:

- **Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society**, March 16, 2013.
Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington, Ontario. www.oeps.ca
- **Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch Open House**, March 29, 2013.
Beamer Conservation Area, Grimsby, Ontario. www.niagarapeninsulahawkwatch.org
- **Eastern Bird Banding Association 89th Meeting**, April 5-7, 2013.
Fall Creek Falls State Park, Tennessee. www.keh-ee.com/EBBA/Meeting.htm
- **Baillie Birdathon**: May 2012. Support your local bird observatory or the OBBA by sponsoring the OBBA's Birdathoner! For more information visit: www.birdscanada.org/support/birdathon.

WINTER 2013



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OBBA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2013

- 09:00 – 10:00** **Registration and Bucket Raffle**
- 10:00 – 10:20** **Business meeting**
Introductions – David Okines
President’s Report - David Okines
Treasurer’s Report – Barbara Campbell
Election of an Auditor – Barbara Campbell
Nominations & Election of 2013 Executive – Barbara Campbell
- 10:20 – 10:30** **Janette Dean Award**
- 10:30 – 10:45** **Coffee Break, Skill Building Quiz and Bucket Raffle**
- 10:45 – 11:20** **Station Reports**
Thunder Cape Bird Observatory
Timiskaming Banding Group
Canadian Migration Monitoring Network Update
Bird Banding Office Update
North American Banding Council Update
- 11:20 – 11:30** **VIDEO: How to tie a mist net Pole (Long Point Bird Observatory)**
- 11:30 – 13:00** **Lunch (Catered at BSC or on your own in Port Rowan)**
- 13:00 – 13:30** **Northern Wheatear—Super Migrant Songbird**
Dr. David Hussell
- 13:30 – 14:00** **How does stress affect birds? Implications for banding and research.**
Jesse Pakkala, University of Guelph
- 14:00 – 14:15** **Coffee Break, Skill Building and Bucket Raffle**
- 14:15 – 14:45** **Habitat Selection by Long-tailed Ducks overwintering at Lake Ontario**
Philip Wilson, Long Point Waterfowl, University of Western Ontario
- 14:45 – 15:15** **Spring reverse migration at Pelee Island and Point Pelee: 2010-2012**
Ken Burrell, University of Waterloo
- 15:15 – 15:45** **Banding Adventures in South Africa**
Nigel Shaw, Tommy Thompson Park Bird Research Station
- 15:45 – 16:15** **Bucket Raffle Draw**

End of Annual General Meeting



OBBA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA CONTINUED

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2013

17:30 Evening social/dinner at Long Point Bird Observatory (LPBO) Old Cut Research Station.
Dinner: 18:30, BYOB.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2013

07:00 – 12:00 Winter Bird Banding —LPBO Old Cut Research Station or other location (TBD)

09:00 – 12:00 Skill building, Show and Tell, Specimen Examination (same location as banding)

12:00 Close of Conference

LOCATION AND DETAILS:

The AGM will be held at the Bird Studies Canada (BSC) headquarters at **115 Front Rd. in Port Rowan**. There is a **registration fee of \$5.00**. The meeting will continue to follow a two-day event schedule with the Saturday agenda filled with business meetings, station reports and scientific program related to bird banding in Ontario. The focus of Sunday will be a practical bird banding session where members can hone their skills, and share information and knowledge with each other. There are always a few surprises!

HOW TO GET TO BSC AND OLD CUT:

BSC and LPBO are situated on the north shore of Lake Erie, in Ontario, Canada. From Highway 401 or Highway 3, come south on Highway 59 to the north shore of Lake Erie. Front Rd intersects Highway 59 at the base of Long Point. The BSC headquarters is approximately 1 km east of Hwy 59 along front Rd.

The LPBO Old Cut Research Station is on Old Cut Blvd. on Long Point, just two streets before Highway 59 ends at Long Point Provincial Park. It is the 6th building on the right as you head north on Old Cut Blvd. from Highway 59. There is a small sign on the front lawn. You can park across the road in the Ministry of Natural Resources parking lot.

SHOW AND TELL: Bring anything you think may be of interest to the OBBA membership—special traps, interesting pictures, articles or tools.

BUCKET RAFFLE: As in previous years a bucket raffle will be held. Any member wishing to donate a prize should bring it to the meeting, or if they prefer contact any board member.



ACCOMMODATIONS:

BED AND BREAKFASTS - ALL LISTED AT www.bbcanada.com:

Abigail's Bed and Breakfast edgewood@kwic.com 519-586-8777

The Bay House www.thebayhousebb.com 519-586-3337

Brambles Bed and Breakfast taylorpm@amtelecom.net 519-586-917

Brookvale Bed and Breakfast Ltd. brookvale@amtelecom.net 519-586-9155

The Coach House on Erie (519) 586-2832

Country Garden Bed and Breakfast www.bbcanada.com/3603.html 1-877-310-5133

The Peacock Roost (519) 586-9607

Seasons House mmudford@sympatico.ca 519-586-7096

Green Valley Bed & Breakfast (519) 586-3799

Kinda Cute 519-586-9744 or 1-866-900-1104 (toll free)

Marsh Landing Bed and Breakfast mfoster7@aol.com 519-586-7777

MOTELS: There are also a number of motels in nearby Simcoe. For details visit:

www.simcoe.worldweb.com/Wheretostay/HotelsMotels/

LONG POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY—OLD CUT RESEARCH STATION:

There is limited space available for \$35/night. If you would like to stay at Old Cut contact Stu Mackenzie as soon as possible at smackenzie@birdscanada.org.

FOOD AND SOCIAL:

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS:

Coffee /tea, and donuts will be served throughout the day. There will be a catered soup and wrap lunch on Saturday at BSC. Cost will be around \$6 per person and includes beverages.

EVENING SOCIAL / DINNER:

On the Saturday evening there will be a social at LPBO'S Old Cut Field Station following the meeting. A meal will be served between 18:30 and 19:00. Vegetarian option available upon request. The cost will be in the range of \$15-20 per person, with the actual cost being announced at the meeting, and will be payable at registration. Members and guests planning to attend are encouraged to BYOB.



BIRDERS AND BANDERS WANTED:

Canadian Migration Monitoring Network (CMMN) stations across the country, many of which are in Ontario, are looking for birders and banders who are interested in gaining the experience of a lifetime volunteering or working for the birds. Visit the CMMN web-site –www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/cmmn/ for more information about stations near you and opportunities offered. Population trends, seasonal abundance graphs, and other summary statistics from the CMMN are available from Nature Counts at www.naturecounts.ca.

KEEN TEEN BIRDERS AND BANDERS WANTED:

LPBO is looking for keen teen birders to apply for the 2013 Doug Tarry Natural History Fund - Young Ornithologist Workshop to be held from Saturday, August 3 to Sunday, August 11. Participants will receive hands-on training in field ornithology including bird banding, censusing, field identification, birding trips, preparing museum specimens, guest lectures, and more! Six of Canada's most promising ornithologists between the ages of 13-17 will be selected to attend, and will receive the Doug Tarry Bird Study Award to cover all on-site expenses. For those traveling long distances, special grants may also be available to help offset air travel costs. Applications are due April 30, 2013. For more information and an application form, contact us at lpbo@birdscanada.org, or visit www.birdscanada.org/lpbo.

BOARD NOMINATIONS WANTED:

Are you or someone you know an enthusiastic bird bander in Ontario? The OBBA board of directors is interested in attracting new individuals who may be interested in contributing to bird banding in Ontario. If you're interested or have a potential nomination in mind contact David Okines: davidokines@aol.com.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE JANETTE DEAN AWARD

Every year the OBBA gives the Janette Dean award to individuals that have made outstanding contributions to bird banding in Ontario. If you would like to nominate a fellow bander to receive the Janette Dean Award, send a written nomination with a brief explanation of the candidate's qualifications to David Okines: davidokines@aol.com.

NETS FOR SALE:

As a fundraiser for Haldimand Bird Observatory, Jim Smith is selling mist nets, cheap! Contact Jim at benavis@sympatico.ca for more details.



A SHORT HISTORY OF BANDING IN CAMBRIDGE, ONTARIO By Kevin Grundy

Having moved from London to Kitchener in the Summer of 2007, and with the subsequent dissolution of the banding station at Pinery Provincial park at the end of that year, I was left looking for a new banding location. A discussion with Tony Salvadori led to a site visit, followed by a meeting with the landowner to seek permission to establish a small banding station near Cambridge.

The landowner is “rare” Charitable Research Reserve, and they own property bordering the Grand River between the village of Blair and Cambridge (Galt). As the name suggests, they are a not-for-profit land stewardship and research organization, and were very quick to agree to my request to use their land for banding purposes. There had been a banding operation a few years earlier, led by Dallas Johnston, but this had closed down when he relocated to Alberta. It was agreed that there would be a trial effort in the Spring of 2008, to gauge the site’s potential, comprising three weekends in May. Aply assisted by Jim Burrell, Bill Wilson and Larry Hubble, and with the encouragement of “rare” research director Peter Kelly, six nets were placed at various locations in the area close to the Grand River.

It was soon discovered that Spring is rather hit and miss, given the fact that the area is well inland, adjoins the Grand River where it follows a west to east course, and is not an obvious migrant trap. Thus the area is heavily dependant on poor weather forcing migrants to break their northward journey. Just over 100 birds were banded, but there that was sufficient to consider it a success, and realize that there was potential to establish a long term project.

The property covers some 1,000 acres and ranges from mature Carolinian forest to regenerating farmland. Species diversity is high, and this attracts many research students from the universities in Guelph and Waterloo, who utilize the property to work on Masters degree theses in various disciplines. These projects are actively solicited and encouraged by the research director. The bird banding project, and associated migration monitoring by enthusiastic volunteers, complements this research focus.



A Golden-winged Warbler banded in 2012. Photo Kevin Grundy

A SHORT HISTORY OF BANDING IN CAMBRIDGE, ONTARIO By Kevin Grundy

After five years of weekend efforts, a total of just over 8,400 birds have been banded, representing 104 species. By far the greater numbers are handled in the Fall season, and it is evident that the reserve is an important area for migrants to stop and feed on the abundant berries. Also, on the bluffs above the river valley, many of the former agricultural fields are left fallow, with the resulting growth of “weed” species attracting large amounts of sparrow species. An area has been set aside for allotments for the use of the community, who are able to grow food plants and flowers in return for a token fee. All growing is required to be organic,

and use of any pesticides is banned. This area attracts large flocks of American Goldfinches, along with a surprising variety of Fall warblers which forage in the hedgerows and overgrown fields.



Olive-sided Flycatcher banded in 2012. Photo Kevin Grundy

After five years of continuous weekend coverage during Spring and Fall, the top five species banded are:

American Goldfinch—2,181

Song Sparrow—1,054

Gray Catbird—472

American Robin—329

Myrtle Warbler—255

Other notable birds include Baltimore Oriole (185), Red eyed Vireo (200), Orchard Oriole (18), and some surprises, such as Golden-winged Warbler and Olive-sided Flycatcher. Indicative of the banding area are interesting “misses”, such as Wood Thrush and one just Veery and one Ovenbird!

We are looking forward with great anticipation to the next five years, and are hopeful that enough licensed volunteers can be attracted to contribute to the project, such that we can ultimately apply to become members of CMMN.

For further information, please contact Kevin Grundy at kgrundy@execulink.com

ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION (2012-2013)

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The views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of each contributing author and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the OBBA or its management.

The Ontario Bird Banding Association is a non-profit, membership-driven and inclusive organization representing the interests of all amateur and 'professional' bird banders across Ontario.
If you band birds in Ontario, for any reason, you should be a member!

