

ONTARIO BIRD BANDERS' ASSOCIATION

BANDING NEWSLETTER NO. 1

May 4th, 1956.

The first meeting of the Ontario Bird Banders' Association was held on March 24th, 1956, at Toronto. We are pleased to see our membership has climbed to 30 - a fine response from the 50-odd banders in the province. Members' correspondence was read and discussed. The following three-man executive committee was elected: Frank Smith, Frank Lovesy and Bill Wasserfall, secretary-treasurer.

Member Dr. Bill Gunn, speaking for the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, suggested that our organization might wish to affiliate with them. Our association's fee would be \$3.00 per year. Printing facilities of the F. O. N. would be available for our correspondence, as well as space in the quarterly Bulletin. The meeting voted to accept these proposals, and to forward an application for membership.

A meeting will be held on the third Monday of each month, The May meeting, because of the holiday, will be held on the fourth Monday, May 28th, at the home of Frank Smith, 1 Sentry Dr., Scarborough. Since the Toronto area has the only concentration of banders, it was felt to be most practical to hold the monthly meetings in that area.

However, a monthly letter is planned and this will be the important feature of the club. It is hoped all members will co-operate to the full, sending in reports of their operations, whether it be banding 5,000 ring-bills, or half a dozen white-throats. We will cover trap design and trapping methods, welcoming any new ideas. A brief outline of each member's activities will be published, so those with like interests may become acquainted.

If you have a knotty problem, send it in; we are fortunate in having several veteran banders in our midst who are pleased to share their knowledge.

Several members were able to meet at Long Point on the Easter week-end. High winds hampered net operations, but in spite of this 63 birds of 5 species were banded.

We have been given the opportunity of assisting in the operation of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists' banding station at Point Pelee

on Lake Erie. A Heligoland trap has been in operation for two years, patterned after European models, and the only one on this continent. Point Pelee is a heavily travelled migration route, and provides an amazing variety of birds, such as chats and blue-gray gnatcatchers.

This station needs to be manned throughout May, September and possibly October. A cottage and provisions will be provided by the F. O. N. to operating banders who can spend a few days there. This is a wonderful opportunity to work on a large scale project, add to your own banding totals, and make new, congenial friends. If you can go to Point Pelee, notify Bill Wasserfall, 22 Roycrest Ave., Willowdale, in advance, or get in touch with Bill Gunn at the banding station when you arrive.

LET'S HAVE YOUR REPORTS AND SUGGESTIONS IN TIME FOR OUR NEXT LETTER.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Wasserfall,
Secretary-treasurer.

BW/LM