

ONTARIO BIRD-BANDING ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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Vol. 4 No.s 3 & 4 July and October, 1959

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Issued quarterly by the Ontario Bird Banding Association  
at Toronto, Ontario.

POINT PELLE BIRD BANDING STATION - SUMMARY 1958

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by Douglas D. Dow

Weather and Migration

A careful check was kept on weather conditions throughout the spring migration. During the first five days of April the temperature averaged from a low of 30° to a high of 50°. The wind was steady from the east at approximately 10 to 25 m.p.h. On April 5th, a large wave of sparrows (notably Slate-colored Juncos) arrived. During a drive through the park, over 1,000 juncos were counted as they flew from the road-side. By April 6th, the temperature had risen to 58° and the wind had changed to the south-east and large numbers of sparrows, Brown Creepers, Phoebe, Flickers, Meadowlarks, Robins and Crows were noted. On April 7th the wind changed to NW, and the temperature dropped 10 degrees. There was a well-marked migration in the afternoon. Large flocks of Mourning Doves, Meadowlarks, Redwings and Crackles were observed flying in against the north wind. The weather of the 8th remained much the same as the previous day, but the wind rose in velocity to approximately 25 m.p.h. Again Mourning Doves, Redwings, and Crackles were observed flying north against the wind and coming to rest on the point.

The temperature gradually climbed until it reached a peak of 75° on April 18th. During this time the wind varied from NW to SW, often changing within a few hours. Between April 18th and 23rd, the temperature averaged 60° and the wind varied from NW to SW, changing to SE on the 23rd. On this day small groups of Brown Thrashers, Goldfinches, White-throated Sparrows and Tree Swallows were seen. A low pressure area, accompanied by rain, moved into the region during the night, and on the 24th, the trees at the south end of the point were literally crawling with birds. By 10.00 am most of the birds had worked north along the point and by noon they were completely dispersed. The 25th was sunny and warm with a 20m.p.h. wind from the NW. The only wave of swallows of the spring migration arrived in the early afternoon.

On May 5rd a low pressure area moved in from the SE, and with it the first warbler wave of the spring migration. Accompanying the warblers were large numbers of vireos, Indigo Buntings and orioles. In the next few days the wind gradually swung from SE to north and the migrants scattered over the point, making banding difficult. Throughout May no more waves or concentrations of passerines occurred. The wind was usually from the west and the temperature averaged a high of 70°. On May 22nd, there was a large concentration of shorebirds, including large numbers of Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstones, Ringed Plover, Chimbreles, Dunlin and Semipalmated Sandpipers.

Summary of 1958 Banding

In 1958 the bandings totalled 2,073 individuals of 105 species. The family most commonly banded was Fringillidae, which comprised 654 individuals or 31.1% of the total. Other families banded are as follows: Turdidae, 19.6%; Parulidae, 10.6%; Icteridae, 10.8%; Tyrannidae, 4.1%; Accipitrinae, 4.0%; Mimidae, 3.8%; Vireonidae, 2.9%; others 7.1%.

The 10 species most commonly banded were: Swainson's Thrush, 203; Redwing Blackbird, 159; Slate-colored Junco, 155; White-throated Sparrow, 141; Song Sparrow, 107; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 82; Goldfinch, 57; Catbird, 49; Red-eyed Vireo, 48.

The largest numbers of birds were banded on the following days: Sept. 13th, 264; Sept. 14th, 146; Sept. 17th, 104; May 18th, 104; April 6th, 95 and May 11th, 76.

### Returns

A return is defined as the recapture of a bird at the same banding station after 90 days of the date of banding. Following is a list of the individuals which returned in 1958; all having originally been banded there.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Banded</u>	<u>Returned</u>
Yellow Warbler	May 12, 1957	May 10, 1958
" "	July 28, 1957	May 18, 1958
" "	May 13, 1956	May 11, 1958
Song Sparrow	May 12, 1956	May 8, 1958
Catbird	Sept 15, 1957	May 20, 1958
Cowbird	May 13, 1957	May 21, 1958
Cardinal	May 26, 1956	Apr 24, 1958
		May 20, 1958
Redwing	May 4, 1957	May 17, 1958
Brown Thrasher	May 28, 1956	Apr 26, 1958

### Foreign Returns

A 'foreign' return is defined as the return of a bird which has been banded at an outside or foreign station.

A Herring Gull, No. 566-93690, banded as a local on July 1, 1957 by H. Krug at Cavalier Island, Fishing Islands, Lake Huron, Bruce County, Ontario was "jacklighted" and released at the point by Les Gray in May, 1958.

### Recoveries

A recovery is the finding of a dead bird at a point other than the place where it was banded.

Black-bellied Plover	543-22505	banded by D. Dow at Point Pelee on May 22, 1958 recovered at Leamington, Essex Co., Ontario, June 3, 1958
Sharp-shinned Hawk	543-22529	banded by W. Williams at Point Pelee on Sept. 24, 1958 recovered at Lafayette, Tenn., on Oct. 1, 1958
Sharp-shinned Hawk	533-09846	banded by R. Taylor at Point Pelee on Sept. 14, 1958 recovered at Hicaville, North Carolina, on Oct. 4, 1958

Members' Recoveries

- Bert McLaren - Semipalmated Sandpiper Banded 27 Jul 1958, Dundas Marsh, Hamilton, Wentworth Co.; found dead 5 Mar 1959 at Collejónis Colina, Mexico.
- Redwing - I - banded 2 Sep 1958, Dundas Marsh; found dead Fort Valley, Georgia, 12 Dec 1958.
- Redwing - I - banded 2 Aug 1958, Dundas Marsh; found dead 6 Dec 1958, Westover, Alabama.
  
- Bill Williams - Sharp-shinned Hawk - banded 26 Sep, 1957 at Point Pelee, Essex Co.; found dead 18 Mar 1959 at Panama City, Florida. Reported as "Rain Crow".
  
- Ruth Brown - Robin -~~AD~~ - banded 25 Jun 1957, at Toronto, York Co.; shot 5 miles east of Kershaw, South Carolina.
- Meadowlark - ~~AD~~ - banded 27 Apr 1958, Micourt, York Co.; shot 12 Dec 1958, Tatum, South Carolina.
- Slate-colored Junco - A - banded 14 Oct 1958, Toronto; found dead, Cleveland, Ohio, 1 Feb, 1959.
  
- Bob Taylor - Long-eared Owl - banded Scarborough, York Co., 8 Nov, 1958; found frozen in fence, 8 Jan, 1959 at Centreville, Maryland.

New Members

We welcome the following new members:

Mrs. Smith	146 Mineola Road	Fort Credit
Dr. P. Tasker	303 Wellington St	Garnia
John Roberts		Garnia
D. Lee	Queen St.	Lakefield
Doug Larkins	315 Fairgrove	Royal Oak, Mich.
Dr. R.L. Jickling	Route One	Augusta, Mich.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting will once again be held in conjunction with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists meeting. It will be held at Richmond Hill, Ontario on FEBRUARY 20, 1959. Members are invited to take part in the meeting, and a part of the program will be devoted to short (5-10 minute) talks by various banders. Two members are giving papers - one on Long Point and the other on Operation Recovery. More are needed. Anyone interested should contact Frank Lovesy, 220 Cowan Ave, Toronto, or Bill Waserfall, 22 Roycrest Ave, Willowdale.

T. S. Hennessey

OBR members will be sorry to learn that Mr. T. S. Hennessey passed away in September of this year. Long a friend and father confessor of the banders Mr. Hennessey will be missed at our meetings, which he attended regularly. It is hoped that a biography may be printed at a later date in the newsletter.