

ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

MAY MEETING of the Ontario Bird Banding Association will be held at the home of Harold Richards, 37 Killdeer Crescent, Toronto 17, (go north on Laird and turn east on Glenvale), on Tuesday, May 8th, at 8:00 p.m.

REPORT OF APRIL MEETING

The April meeting was held at Don Baldwin's apartment on Yonge Street. Don warrants our condolences as his apartment has since been burned out with the loss of some of his belongings - fortunately all banding records were saved! To rub salt into the wound Don had to return to the scene of the tragedy from Long Point just as things were getting really active there.

Nine members were present at the meeting.

Terry Carr reviewed operations at the Island. He had been working daily with a house trap, two converted duck traps and 7 mist nets. About 400 birds had been banded at that time including 8 Saw-whets all caught between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. The parks people have apparently promised to preserve the natural conditions of the area neighbouring the school. Terry felt that the banding was making a very valuable contribution to the education of the children and in promoting their interest in natural history. Some discussion followed regarding the possibilities of hawk banding there in the fall.

Long Point operations were briefly reviewed. The creeper traps recently installed had proven very successful.

Don Baldwin had borrowed some study skins from the museum demonstrating the variations in plumage amongst male and female Redwing blackbirds. Interest centred on distinguishing first year spring birds from other birds along the lines suggested in the new banding manual. It was concluded that while there is no problem with males, females can be problematical.

SPRING BANDING AT LONG POINT

Continuous coverage commenced April 20th, and got off to an excellent start with well over 2,500 birds banded already. Of particular interest are 100 plus Flickers including one banded at the lighthouse area and retrapped four days later at six mile; 250 plus brown creepers. There was a sizeable influx of birds with the warm weather, starting April 26th. A return movement of red-, and white-breasted nuthatchers was observed contrasting with the almost complete absence of these species last spring. Rarities banded included a lark sparrow and a summer tanager. It is anticipated that continuous coverage will be maintained pretty well up to the end of May.

OTHER BANDING ACTIVITIES

At Toronto Island, Terry Carr reports having spent most of his available time since Easter getting his trapping facilities in better shape. Activity is increasing and he is just restarting trapping. He could use any help available; if you have a day or two to spare any time in May give him a call at EM 6-5879.

At Point Pelee some mistnetting was done on April 28th, and 29th. There was no great concentration of birds there (less than 100 banded in the two days). There was however a good variety of species including assorted warblers not

apparent at Long Point. Few warblers were banded but included were a hooded and an orange-crowned.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

There are still some membership dues unpaid. If you are one of the delinquents please make a point of forwarding \$2.00 to the Secretary, Mr. J.O.L. Roberts, 62 Inglewood Drive, Toronto 7. Do it today!!