

## ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

### NOVEMBER MEETING

The November meeting of the O.B.B.A. will be held on Tuesday, November 13th, at 8:00 p.m. at the home of Mr. & Mrs. J. Lunn, 125 Weldrick Road, Yongehurst, P.O., ('phone TU 4-2263). Turn west off Yonge Street about 3/4 mile south of Richmond Hill on Weldrick Road. The house is the first on the south side after passing the public school, and is set some way back from the road.

Please note that there has been a switch in programmes. This month's meeting will now feature the Sutton film and slides by Don Baldwin and Dave Hussell, and the discussion of operation recovery is postponed to the December 11th, meeting.

### REPORT OF OCTOBER MEETING

The meeting which was held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. D.H. Baldwin on October 9th, was devoted mainly to a bird identification quiz presented by John Lunn. Twenty each of silhouettes, recordings and slides were used to puzzle members. John Miles and Jack Jarvis best distinguished themselves and the birds. Banders were evidently at a loss in being unable to handle the birds and to hear distress calls rather than songs!

### INTERESTING RETRAPS AND RECOVERIES

It is planned to summarize interesting retraps and recoveries of the past few months in the next newsletter. Would any bander having a contribution to make, particularly any foreign retraps or recoveries, please write or 'phone the details to J.O.L. Roberts, 62 Inglewood Drive, Toronto 7, ('phone 481-0180) before the end of November.

### LIGHTHOUSE AND T.V. TOWER CASUALTIES

Don Baldwin reports that there has been more activity among nocturnal migrants at lighthouse and T.V. towers across the province this fall than last.

At Long Point lighthouse there was some mortality on at least 15 nights. A kill believed to be the heaviest in at least eight years occurred at the lighthouse during the night of September 26th/27th 1962, a night of rain and low cloud. W. Ansley reported the beams of the light crowded with birds. Of the estimated 2,000 killed or fatally injured, 1713 were collected. These comprised 39 species ranging in size from Kinglets to Virginia and Sora Rails. Most numerous were Swainson's Thrush (197), Grey-cheeked Thrush (171),

Ovenbird (165), Red-eyed Vireo (100+) and Magnolia Warbler (100+)

BANDING DURING THE FALL MIGRATION

The following table summarizes the banding carried out at O.B.B.A. and associated stations during the fall of 1962, primarily in the months of September and October.

<u>Banding Area</u>	<u>Approx. Number of days Covered</u>	<u>Approx. periods of coverage</u>	<u>Approx. Number of birds Banded</u>	<u>Approx. Number of species Banded</u>
POINT PELEE	15	September 7th to October 8th (1)	1888	69
BRADLEY'S MARSH	19	September 1st to October 28th (2)	2927	65
LONG POINT	43		3800	104
Lighthouse Area	43	August 5th to October 28th (4)	2700	
Breakwater Area	10	September 1st to October 28th (2)	400	
Provincial Park	27	August 5th to October 28th (5)	700	
(includes M. Field's cottage)			10	
TORONTO REGION				
Island School	35	September 11th to October 29th (3)	439	28
Richmond Hill	85	August 1st to October 24th	1668	81
(J. Lunn)				

8600  
3800  
350  
20  
12780

- (1) continuous from September 15th to 24th inclusive.
- (2) weekends and holidays only.
- (3) no weekend coverage except October 13th, 14th.
- (4) continuous from October 1st to 14th and 20th to 28th inclusive.
- (5) continuous September 30th to October 8th inclusive.

The coverage and reports available are not adequate to obtain a really good picture of the fall migration. However the following general observations can be made. September 15th was a very active day in the south western part of the province. September 27th to 30th was the outstandingly active period of the migration throughout Southern Ontario. On October 3rd and 9th there were heavy concentrations in several areas.

The following is a summary of Southerly and Westerly species banded this fall.

White-eyed Vireo (1)	Long Point - October 9th (1)
Worm-eating Warbler (1)	Bradley's Marsh - September 15th (1)
Cerulean Warbler (1)	Point Pelee - September 22nd (1) *
Leconte's Sparrow (1)	Long Point - October 8th/9th (1)
Dickcissel (2)	Long Point - October 5th (2)

\* Late date

The following are some notes on fall activities at the various stations. Details for these were supplied by John Roberts (Pelee), Bob Wright (Bradley's Marsh), Dave Hussell (Long Point), Terry Carr and Bob Taylor (Toronto Island) and John Lunn (Richmond Hill)

### POINT PELEE

Coverage this fall was directed primarily toward banding substantial numbers of sharp-shinned hawks. As it turned out the period of maximum coverage just missed the peak, 43 being taken on the morning of September 24th when only one bander was present. These were trapped in two duck nets in a period of about three hours and several times this number could have been caught with more help. Much of the time the two nets were only semi-operative because of the weight of the birds in them. Altogether 87 sharpshins were banded including 3 adults, also 5 Coopers, 1 Red shoulder and 1 Broadwing, all immature. A substantial movement of Cooper's Hawks on October 6th and 7th seems noteworthy.

Peak banding days for passerine birds were September 15th, 16th and 19th with 300 to 500 birds of about 40 to 50 species taken each day.

Most numerous species banded were Swainson's Thrush (302), Blackpoll warbler (300 of which 207 were taken September 15th/16th), Grey-cheeked Thrush (228). The Blue Jay movements usually so conspicuous in the fall appeared to be almost completely lacking.

### BRADLEY'S MARSH

Six people took part in weekend banding using 1" mist nets. On September 30th over a hundred people from several nature clubs visited the station.

Peak day for variety of species was September 15th when 250 birds of 36 species were taken. On October 13th, 14th, 1050 birds were banded 75% of them Kinglets, mainly Golden-crowned. October 20th was also a substantial kinglet day. Altogether 984 Golden-crowned and 266 Ruby-crowned kinglets were taken. The character of the terrain is interestingly reflected in the following species totals - Swamp sparrow (130), Winter wren (65), Long-billed marsh wren (33).

A good number of wing measurements were made and a few birds weighed.

Migrating Blue Jays and Hawks were notably absent.

### LONG POINT

Coverage at Long Point was disappointing this fall and very little weighing or measuring was done.

The duck trapping project got under way with the banding of some 131 ducks chiefly Mallards and Blacks but with Wood Duck, Ring necked Duck, and Green winged and Blue winged teal also recorded.

Blood sampling under the direction of Dr. Lars Karstad of the Ontario Veterinary College continued and distress calls were recorded by Don Robinson for Dr. Falls of the University of Toronto.

The only large number banded of a single species was about 700 White-throated sparrows.

Hawks and owls banded were Cooper's Hawk (1), Sharp shinned hawk (3 including 1 adult), Long eared owl (5) and Saw-whet owl (8).

#### TORONTO REGION

Peak days appear to have been September 27th and 30th and October 9th.

At the ISLAND STATION, no assistance was given by O.B.B.A. members apart from more or less independent Saw-whet trapping by Bob Taylor on four days. Saw-whets appear to have been abundant between October 13th and 23rd, 92 were banded, 68 on October 13th/14th. A Richardson's owl was taken October 14th. Fourteen additional Canada Geese of a flock now totalling 47 were banded September 26th.

At RICHMOND HILL September 20th, was the first day of really heavy migration with September 27th to October 3rd, October 7th to 11th and October 18th being recorded as peak periods. Chipping sparrows were recorded as being notably absent.

J.O.L. Roberts  
November 6, 1962.