

ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION APRIL NEWSLETTER

APRIL MEETING of the O.B.B.A. will be held at 8:00 p.m. Tuesday April 9th, at the home of Mr. & Mrs. George Fairfield, 490 Merton Street, Toronto 7 ('phone HU 5-9083). The programme will include a talk by Dave Hussell on a timely topic "uses of weights and measurements of live birds."

REPORT OF MARCH MEETING. The March meeting of the O.B.B.A. was held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Jack Jarvis on Tuesday, March 19th.

Dave Hussell reporting on Long Point noted that inside work on the new cabin is progressing satisfactorily and the cabin is now operable. He requested that persons proposing to take advantage of the annual rates for accommodation at Long Point pay him as soon as possible because funds are temporarily particularly short. Rates are \$10 single and \$15 family and remittances should be sent to Mr. D.J.T. Hussell, 17 Farnsworth Drive, Weston, Ontario. At the annual meeting much was made of the desirability of concentrating on studies of birds caught rather than on banding large numbers of individuals. In line with this Dave reports that it is planned on an experimental basis to establish a fairly rigid procedure for trapping, banding, observations, measurements, weights, etc., in area 1 this year. In addition Rocket netting of adult gulls is to be attempted and some studies involving colour marking are under consideration.

Bill Wasserfall reported on a recent meeting attended by W.W.H. Gunn, Dr. Murray Speirs and Dave Hussell to discuss the possibilities of using radar equipment for migration studies. It transpired that the Canadian Wildlife service has already taken an interest in such a scheme and is in contact with the department of National Defense. Various possibilities are being actively studied. Anyone who feels he might be able to contribute in this field should contact Bill.

John Roberts noted a requirement for a cabin trailer at Point Pelee to be used for banding, taking of weights and measurements of birds etc.

John Miles drew attention to a recent newspaper report of a man crossing Lake Erie from the U.S. shore to Long Point on foot across the ice.

The main feature of the evening was a very interesting talk by George Fairfield on the taking of breeding bird censuses. George concentrated on the spot-check method of Williams. He outlined procedures for choosing and laying out a census area, (A pamphlet giving details of this may be obtained for 15¢ from Audubon Field Notes) and went on to comment on his own varied experience and methods.

POINT PELEE. Permission has been obtained to use a cabin trailer for banding operations at Point Pelee. This should make the conduct of banding operations there much easier and enable more detailed work on birds taken to be readily carried out. The next and immediate job is to acquire a suitable trailer for a minimum outlay. Anyone knowing of something that might be suitable at a cost of up to about \$200 should contact John Roberts at once ('phone Toronto 481-0180). Also planned for Pelee is a sectionalized Heligoland Trap which will be capable of being dismantled when not in use.

CANNON NETTING EQUIPMENT has been acquired by Don Baldwin. It has been tested out on Toronto Island and found to operate very satisfactorily. Some 50 Mallard and Black Ducks were trapped and banded - caught in a single throw.

RECENT RECOVERIES. Two new recoveries are reported from birds banded at Long Point.

- 623-21032 Blue Jay banded May 3rd, 1960, LPBO Area 1 found dead, letter dated November 12th, 1962, Springville, N.Y.
- 27-139831 White-throated sparrow banded May 7th, 1961, LPBO Area 1 (blood sample taken) found injured, letter dated November 22nd, 1962, Northport, Alabama.

J.O.L. Roberts,
April 2, 1963