

# ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER MEETING of the O.B.B.A. will be held at 8 p.m. Tuesday October 8th, at the home of Mr. & Mrs. John Roberts, 62 Inglewood Drive, Toronto 7 ('phone 481-0180). The meeting will include an account of the first migration workshop held at the Long Point Bird Observatory September 21st/22nd and Don Baldwin will bring some skins of topical interest.

REPORT OF SEPTEMBER MEETING. The September meeting of the O.B.B.A. was held at McAulay's Corral, Point Pelee on Saturday September 14th at 8 p.m. E.S.T. Mr. & Mrs Gray and Mr. & Mrs. Wasserfall were hosts. Some 14 members and guests were present.

Bill Wasserfall reported that Marshall Field has so far banded 700 plus ducks at the sanctuary pond in Long Point Provincial Park this fall. The catch consisted of a high proportion of Blue winged Teal including 5 foreign recoveries and 88 Wood Duck. (Subsequent reports indicate the total banded is now around 1,000 including 700 plus Blue winged Teal). Marshall reports that the recommended #5 band is not satisfactory for all Blue winged Teal. It readily slips off the smaller ones and on these a #4 band appears to be satisfactory.

Bill went on to report that continuous coverage at the tip of the point was just getting under way. The director Dave Hussell has been away most of the summer and is presently in England. A migration workshop was reported being held at the L.P.B.O. the weekend of September 21st/22nd organized by the F.O.N. with the co-operation of the O.B.B.A.

John Miles working in the Dundas marsh with mist nets was reported to have banded 2,448 birds of 65 species between June 1st and September 7th. (John reports these included 530 Redwings, 565 Bank swallow, 735 Barn swallow, 66 Duck of 4 species mainly teal, and a number of rails and other marsh species).

Ruth Erickson reported on Bradley's Marsh. Bob Wright has been unable to operate the station this year and Ruth has taken over assisted by Jerry Wilcox and Mr. & Mrs. Trobaugh. They are using  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " and  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " mesh mist nets and working weekends only had banded 520 birds since the end of August. They are taking weights and wing measurements. Two interesting Kinglet recoveries (these will be reported in detail in a future newsletter along with other foreign recoveries etc.) were reported, one from the Bruce Peninsula, the other from Louisiana.

Les Gray reported 900 Evening Grosbeaks banded last March in Montreal in addition there were 22 retraps of foreign banded birds dating back to 1955. The gull colony, mostly Ring bills, on Moffatt's Island will probably be destroyed for the World's Fair site. Les also commented on the 50% retrap rate of summer banded song sparrows in comparison with the low retrap rate for Robins - none of 200 and 100 banded in successive years.

J. Roberts noted that Pelee fall banding had got under way the previous weekend with location of the trailer and collapsible Heligoland trap at the Point, and the banding of 29 Sharpshins (the meeting weekend accounted for about another 90 and the total banded should now be over 200). Mr. Roberts commenting on weights and measurements generally noted that data taken on birds in their breeding areas would provide valuable comparison with those trapped during migration. While the R.O.M. has a good collection of skins from Ontario, data from Quebec is particularly hard to come by.

Les Gray showed his conical Bal-Chatri trap. He uses mice as bait. The trap has 50 to 75 nooses of 11 lb. test nylon. The trap is particularly effective on hawk owls and Kestrels but will catch other species eg. Swainson's Hawk, Short-eared owl.

Jo Simonyi who was elected a cooperating member at the meeting demonstrated a Verbaill trap he had made and donated to the O.B.B.A. He also described the Deaugazo trap which is particularly useful for trapping Peregrines.

O T H E R   N E W S.      John Lunn has left Toronto to take up a post as Superintendent of the new National Park at Louisburg Cape Breton. Terry Carr has left the Island School but the banding operation there is being continued.