

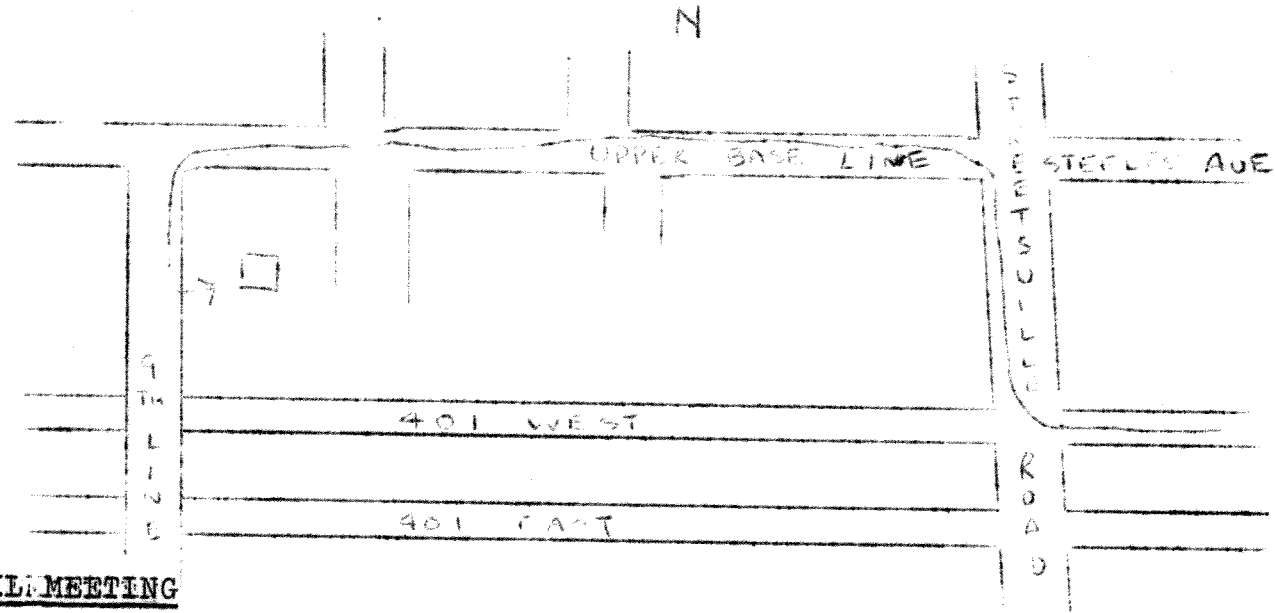
May 1965

ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

MAY NEWSLETTER

MAY MEETING

The May meeting of the Ontario Bird Banding Association will be held at the home of Mr. Joe Simonyi. The map below shows how to reach his home.



APRIL MEETING

The April meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. Richards. Fifteen members were present. The name of the O.B.B.A. publication has been changed to "Ontario Bird Banding" and the first issue under the new name will be out in June. D. Baldwin reported that about 250 diving ducks (mainly Redheads) had been caught at Long Point.

Dr. Lars Karstad and Dr. Peter Kirmse described the study which they are conducting on pox lesions in wild birds. They outlined the aims of this study. The appearance of these lesions was described and illustrated with pictures. All banders are urged to co-operate in this study and more information about it is given below.

D. Baldwin brought Museum skins of the Red-winged Blackbird.

POX-LESION STUDY

Drs. Peter Kirmse and Lars Karstad, of the Ontario Veterinary College, Guelph, are requesting the cooperation of O.B.B.A. members in reporting the occurrence of disease in wild birds. The prime purpose of their study is to determine the frequency of occurrence and significance of avian pox virus infections. This is most commonly seen in passerines and occurs as nodular or warty protuberances on the feet, legs, or other unfeathered parts of the skin. Sometimes lesions occur around the eyes. Records of all such cases should be kept and whenever possible birds should be held captive and Dr. Kirmse or Dr. Karstad notified.

Another disease appears to be prevalent in redwings and grackles. This is infestation by a burrowing mite, causing skin changes which can easily be mistaken for foot pox. Nine of 20 redwings trapped at LPBO Area 4, the weekend of April 16-18, were found to have mite infestations. The feet and shanks of these birds were enlarged, scaly and fissured and the lesions were at first thought to be foot pox. Biopsies from these lesions contained burrowing mites.

Detailed instructions for collecting and forms for recording observations can be obtained from Dr. Karstad.

Address: Dr. Lars Karstad
Ontario Veterinary College
Guelph, Ontario

Telephone: 824-4120 - Ext. 597
Home - 824-3898

What appears to be pox lesions were found by Dr. Kirmse on two juncos, two flickers, a field sparrow, three golden-crowned kinglets and a brown creeper, all trapped at Long Point during the week of April 18-24.

An immature female Whistling Swan was seen feeding alone in the marsh for 3 days. On April 24th it was found dead and it was autopsied by Dr. Peter Kirmse. Death was attributed to peritonitis, secondary to perforation of the lower intestine. The means by which the perforation occurred could not be determined. The bird was emaciated.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

The annual membership dues of \$2.00 should be paid at the next meeting or sent immediately to the secretary - Mrs. J. Woodford, 76 Glentworth Rd., Willowdale.

WORKSHOP MEETING

The O. B. B. A. will be holding a Workshop Meeting on Sat. June 5, 1965 at the Island Natural History School, Toronto. In the morning such topics as weighing and measuring; aging and sexing of birds will be discussed and demonstrated. The afternoon session will stress trapping methods. Members are urged to keep this date open for an interesting and informative meeting. More detailed information will appear in the next newsletter.

P. S. Woodford,
Secretary, O.B.B.A.