

ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER MEETING

The December meeting will be held on Tuesday-December 10, 1968, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. McKeating, 24 Hurley Cres., Scarborough, Ontario, at 6 p.m. Mr. Gary Page will discuss 'Trapping of raptors'. He will show a number of methods, one which involves a nylon stocking.

NOVEMBER MEETING

The November meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D.H. Baldwin, Tuesday November 12, 1968 with 32 members present. The meeting began with the speaker of the evening, Mr. D. Baldwin. Last year Don banded geese on the Ungava Peninsula. 3500 adult, non breeding birds were banded. This group consisted of 1 or 2 year olds, old enough to breed but unable to find mates, shot or sickened birds, or females who had lost eggs and would not nest again. They banded only 200 young. This year they wanted mainly young birds so the party went later in the season, August. The object was to find the young with their parents. This banding operation was run using 2 planes, which flew the tundra or coastal strip in search of geese. A helicopter flying in a straight line and a Beaver which traversed about the axis maintained radio contact. Once geese were spotted, it was the helicopters job to round them up. As family groups did not want to be brought together this posed a problem in keeping them in one group. After the geese were rounded up the helicopter would land the bander at a suitable location on the shore while the beaver kept the geese reasonably together. The bander would then start setting up the trap which consisted of 2 wing walls and a narrow opening leading into a collecting pen. When the trap is assembled the geese are driven in by the helicopter. The young and adults are separated immediately to save trampling and the young put in separate pens. The geese are then banded, aged and sexed and let go in one lot to prevent the separating of family groups. A total of 1400 geese were banded, 900 immatures. A very successful trip, and an interesting talk.

F.O.N. CHRISTMAS CARDS

F.O.N. Christmas cards for 1968 are still available. The card features a Blue Jay on a branch of red oak, painted by Robert Bateman. The price is \$2.63 per dozen including tax. Masti-notes are also available at the same price as the cards. These may be purchased at the next meeting or ordered from the secretary, Miss A. Wasserfall, 22 Roycrest Ave., Willowdale, Ont. Unfortunately, last years card- Snow Bunting is no longer available.

LONG POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY

HIGHLIGHTS - August 19 to October 30

The last half of August was relatively uneventful with small movements of Warblers (mainly Yellow, Canada, Northern Waterthrush, Blackburnian and Magnolia, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (August 21, 22, 23), Red-breasted Nuthatches after August 20 and Tree Swallows (1600 on August 29).

Sharp-shinned Hawks began to appear consistently on August 29 and continued throughout September and October reaching a peak of 170 on September 21. Kestrels and Harriers appeared intermittently throughout the fall and peaked about September 12 (20 Kestrels and 11 Harriers). Peregrines were observed on October 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 and a single Merlin on October 3.

As well as the aforementioned observations, the following influxes occurred during the fall:

- Sept. 1 - Dowitcher Spp. (17)
- Sept. 2 - Tree Swallow (1000)
- Sept. 5 - A large flight (120) of Yellowlegs (mostly lesser) were observed circling Area 1 during some inclement weather.
- Sept. 6-8 - Thrushes, mainly Swainsons (150) and Warblers (16 Sp.) including Blackpoll (500), Palm, Mourning and Tennessee.
- Sept. 10-11 - Purple Martin (200), Blue Jay (68), Goldfinch (500)
- Sept. 14 - Red-breasted Nuthatch (50), Brown Creeper (150), Thrushes, Swainsons (21) and Greycheeked (13) warblers, mainly Blackpoll (110) and Rusty Blackbirds (110)
- Sept. 21 - Flickers (27), Blue Jay (40), White-breasted Nuthatch (18), Swainsons Thrush (35), Greycheeked Thrush (30), Blackpoll and Palm Warblers (200) each.
- Sept. 22 - Blue Jay (200), House wren (28), Catbird (40), Brown Thrasher (16), warblers (17 Sp.) including Nashville (38), Blackpoll (19) and Yellowthroat (21). Also the first major sparrow influx of the fall. Savannah (90), Junco (23), White-throated Sparrow (110) Lincoln's Sparrow (75) and Swamp Sparrow (150).
- Sept. 28 - Hermit Thrush (16), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (100), Myrtle Warbler (110)
- Sept. 29 - Common Tern (300)

Scaup and Merganser Spp. occurred regularly after October 4.

- Oct. 5-6 - Flicker (200), Red-breasted Nuthatch (35), Brown Creeper (25), Orange-crowned Warbler (7), Myrtle warbler (400), Junco (100)
- Oct. 10-11 - Starling (500), Goldfinch (250), Junco (200)
- Oct. 13-14 - Water Pipit (35), Grackle (3000), Rusty Blackbird (1000), Song Sparrow (20)
- Oct. 19 - A large and unusual grounding of Meadowlarks (500) of which 32 were caught and banded. Grackles (9000), White-crowned Sparrow (70), White-throated Sparrow (20), Swamp Sparrow (25), Song Sparrow (65)

The remainder of October was dominated by a scattering of sparrows. October was an excellent month for Saw-whet Owls with approximately 50 being banded. There was no lighthouse activity this fall and the shorebirds continued light throughout the season.

OTHER INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS

- Whimbrel - August 21 (3), September 4 (3), September 5 (1), September 6 (1), September 10 (1)
- Little Blue Heron - one immature on August 23
- Chat - September 2
- American Avocet - September 7
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper - September 13
- Willet - September 28, 29, 30
- Golden Plover - September 29
- Red Phalarope - October 6
- Tufted Titmouse - October 24, 25, 26

LONG POINT CHRISTMAS COUNT

The Christmas Census at Long Point this year will be held on Sunday December 22, 1968 and is being organized by Mr. J.B. Miles. Anyone may take part in this census. Contact Mr. Miles at:

Day: Toronto 429-1177
Evening: Hamilton person to person collect JA-2-6160

A. Wasserfall,
Secretary, C.S.B.A.