

ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 1971 NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER MEETING

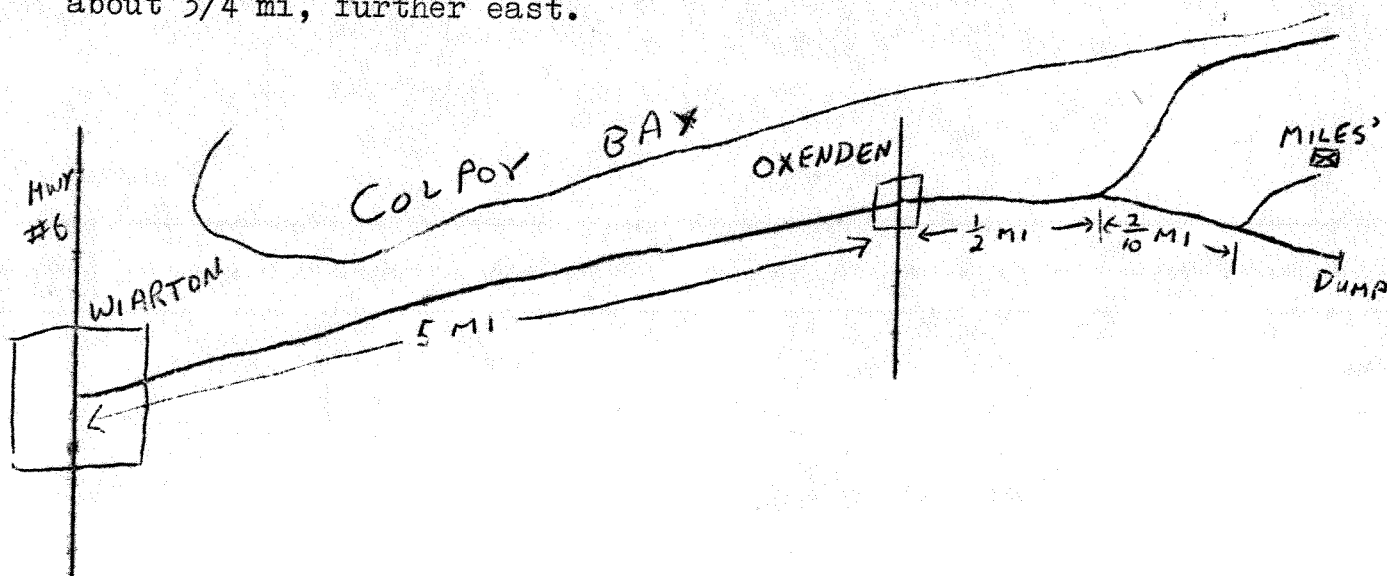
This year, our September meeting will take the form of a "Band-In", September 17-19, at the home of John Miles, near Wiarton. John has a 40-acre farm which he describes as "brush, overgrown fields and escarpment bluffs overlooking Colpoy Bay." The Bruce Trail and Bruce's Caves are on the property.

Members who have banding equipment are asked to bring their own; the idea is for everyone to choose a location on the property and see what they can get. If you do not have equipment, come anyway--there will be lots of people needing help.

Members wishing to camp overnight on the property may do so; John's kitchen facilities will be open to everyone. Evening activities will include a showing of members' slides--bring some along!

It is hoped that as many members as possible will attend for at least part of the week-end. This should be a particularly good opportunity for new members to get acquainted and get some field experience.

How to get there: Take Hwy. 6 to Wiarton; turn east on Frank St. (there are a Gulf and a Shell station at the intersection) and drive about 5 miles to the village of Oxenden; Miles' farm is about 3/4 mi, further east.



MAY MEETING

The May meeting was held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. W. Wasserfall, Tuesday, May 18, with fourteen members present. John Roberts presided. Dave Hussell and Dave Brewer had recently been at Long Point, but had nothing unusual to report. John Roberts reported no big days at Whitefish; he said more than 100 Long-eared Owls had been banded there. Dave Brewer, the speaker of the evening, entertained us with slides of his birding and collecting trips in Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: LEAD POISONING

Each year, more and more lead pellets are dumped into our marshes during the hunting season. The problem of lead poisoning in waterfowl resulting from the ingestion of the spent lead pellets by the birds during their feeding activities is of great importance across North America. A conservative estimate of its damage would be in the order of 1-2% of North America waterfowl population, each year. Birds which are suffering from lead poisoning first become weak and unable to get airborne. The wings usually droop partially opened with the primaries dragging at the sides. The birds later have difficulty in walking and become fatigued very easily, resting frequently with their sternum on the ground. Often in this weak condition the birds will make their way into dense cover to await death or marsh predators. A green-stained vent and extreme loss of weight are good signs of lead poisoning in birds found dying or dead. We are currently studying various aspects of the lead poisoning problem and are interested in its distribution in Ontario.

We would be grateful to fellow members who might find suspected lead-poisoned waterfowl, if they would notify Dr. Lars Karstad, Wildlife Disease Section, Department of Pathology, Ontario Veterinary College, Guelph, Ontario.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: SANDERLING

During the autumn migration of 1971, the Long Point Bird Observatory hopes to band and colour-mark several hundred Sanderling at Long Point, Ontario. Information on the movement of these birds away from Long Point will facilitate research presently underway on the energy requirements of their migration. We would appreciate it if everyone sighting these birds would report their observations to:

Long Point Bird Observatory,
269 Beta Street,
Toronto 14, Ontario, Canada.

The following information would be appreciated:

Date and time of observation
Location, including nearest city or town
Colours: note--birds will be coloured on the breast and the abdomen with two of the following colours: red, orange, pink, purple, yellow, green, blue, brown, black, and white (no colour).

Leg that has been banded: this will tell if the bird is an adult or an immature.

Any other information on what other birds are with the marked individuals would be very useful.