

Ontario Bird Banding Association

October 1972 Newsletter

October Meeting

The October Meeting will take place this year over the Thanksgiving Weekend, Oct. 7, 8, 9, at Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Station, near St. Thomas, Ont.

The activities will start with raptor banding on Sat. morning. The members of Hawk Cliff will give a demonstration of the equipment used at the station during the afternoon when the hawk flights have stopped for the day.

Sunday and Monday, regular operations will continue. Visitors staying in the area for the whole weekend will be welcome to assist.

Camping will not be allowed at the Station as this is on private property. There are various parks close by however, such as Springwater Park, near Onwell on Hwy 3, on the Provincial Park at Port Bruce. St. Thomas has several good motels for those who do not wish to camp.

Persons interested in this weekend meeting, please drop a line to the Secretary of Hawk Cliff, Mrs. Sheila Fowler, 17 Fifth Ave., St. Thomas, Ont.

This will be the last outdoor meeting of the year for O.B.B.A. members and will provide an excellent opportunity for getting acquainted with Hawk Cliff, its operations and its members.

A diagram showing how to get to the trapping station is not available at the time but Mrs. Fowler will be pleased to send directions to those who write to her in time to allow a reply.

September Meeting

The September Meeting was held at the Interpretive Centre of Point Pelee on Sat. Sept. 9.

The topic of the evening was the Monarch Butterfly. Mr. El Keith of Windsor spoke about his experiences banding the Monarchs during the two weeks of each fall at the Long Point Bird Observatory.

To complement his own excellent slides, Mr. Keith had a collection of slides lent by Dr. Unquhart, head of the project, of the University of Toronto.

Recoveries of his own banded Monarchs have shown that they migrate south on many different angles - including one that went north!

The meeting was attended by 24 members and visitors. Most arrived on Sat. morning and of course, the daylight hours were spent banding.

The banding trailer has been set up at the Point but operations will not begin until Sept. 14.

Luther Marsh

In the last Newsletter, there was a rough outline of the plans for the Luther Marsh Wildlife Area. Members were asked to write voicing their concern over the rare bird species' habitats which will be endangered by the development of the Marsh.

My own letters received this reply (in part) from the Grand River Conservation Authority,.....

"The development of the interior road system which is the subject of a present controversy was, and is, considered absolutely essential for the carrying out of the objectives of the management plan. It is not the Authority's intention to allow any development or activity that would be contrary to this plan and thus interfere with the uniqueness of the wilderness environment.

Your concern about the future of the Luther Marsh is acknowledged. Undoubtedly the collective concern of naturalists will have considerable influence on the necessary management of the area in the months and years ahead."

The "management plan" referred to is a lengthy 50 page document. Interested persons are welcome to visit the Grand River Conservation Authority office at 6 Jaffray St. in Galt and study the plan in detail.

I wonder what the Ospreys think of that?

The Common Loon in Algonquin Park

A study of the Loon in Algonquin Park in recent years produced some evidence of thinning egg shells and this seems to be having some effect, for reports on the breeding success this year are not very encouraging.

Many observations of non-breeding Loons have been made and at least two nest failures are known. On the other hand, several successful nestings have been noted and there are innumerable small lakes in the Park where the Loons may still nest in peace.

However unintentional, human interference probably accounts for a few failures and with the increase in popularity of camping..... poor Loons! And poor us, because there is nothing to compare with the call of a Loon while lying snuggled in your sleeping bag. Except perhaps the songs of a nearby wolf pack!

Mr. Russell J. Rutter of Algonquin Park did mention a bright spot in that one pair of Loons did raise young on a small lake quite close to the highway which they had not used before.

An extensive study of the breeding Loons may reveal a more comforting picture but until then, we can only hope.

To digress from avi fauna for a moment, some of you may be interested in the wolves of Algonquin Park and will enjoy reading "The World of the Wolf" by Mr. Rutter and Douglas H. Pimlott. The book is available from both the F.O.N. and the Canadian Nature Federation Bookstores. Also a very exciting record, "The Language and Music of the Wolves" (\$5.95) is available from the same sources.

Help!

Although this is the newsletter of the Ontario Bird Banding Association, I have encountered great difficulty in finding banding news - no one seems to want to share their experiences. So, to make the Newsletter more worth while, I am going to fill the space with notes about birds un-banded (and so on) until someone helps me out a little with some news items. Please?

Record for Simcoe County

Ste. Marie 1, Midland, Ont. was the scene of great excitement (for a few people anyway) when a Prothonotary Warbler flew into a picture window of the office there in early June of this year. Mrs. Fran Westman of the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre identified the dead bird and we hope to have the full story in an upcoming issue of O.B.B.

Something Free !!!

The second edition of Arctic Ecology Maps is now available from the Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa. The 35 maps and 324 pages of descriptive reports is based on preliminary data and observations. They present a summary of wildlife

resources throughout the Canadian Arctic, as well as giving accounts of wildlife distributions, numbers, migrations, reproductive areas, etc. This series is designed as a preliminary guide for wildlife conservation and is aimed at anyone, including industry and fishermen, undertaking field activities in the Arctic.

I have taken the liberty of sending a current membership list to the Ontario Forest Information Service. They publish a quarterly newspaper "The Forest Scene" as a public service, so there will be no charge. I hope you will find this as interesting as I do, as it often contains bird notes and things of interest to the general naturalist. The next issue is the Sept / Oct edition and this is about to go to press.

Inland Bird Banding Association

In the June Newsletter, there was an item about I.B.B.A. and a form for anyone interested in joining this fine organization. In haste was, I forgot to give you the address of their Treasurer. I apologise for this omission and would like to correct my mistake at this time.

Membership with I.B.B.A. is \$4. Sustaining \$10. Life \$25. (May be paid in 5 annual payments)

The publication is Inland Bird Banding News and is a bi-monthly issue.

Send applications to Merwood Chipman, Treasurer, I.B.B.A., Route 2, Wausau, Wisconsin 54982.

Recovery Information

The Brown-headed Cowbird we trapped at Winton on May 2, 72 by John Miles was banded at Wausau, Wisc. on April 1, 72, by H.A. Mutch. Band #78-138732

A Wood Thrush #070131251, banded by E.J. Stankovich, Saginaw, Mich. Sept. 23, 71, was recovered by John at Winton, May 15, 72.

A Redwinged Blackbird #0692119442, banded at Hamilton by John Oct. 1, 66 was recovered by Mrs. Horst Mann, Toronto May 20, 72.

A Catbird #070131082, banded by John at Hamilton, July 8, 67, was recovered by E.R. Dinniwoll, Hamilton, June 3, 72.

Buffleheads

The Canadian Wildlife Service now have published the fourth monograph "Buffleheads" by A.J. Enkin, 240 pages, illustrated. Price (hard covers only) : \$7.50. Catalogue No. P65-714.

This is available by mail from Information Canada, 171 Slater Street, Ottawa. Please enclose a money order or cheque made out to the Receiver General of Canada.

Everyday life, social behaviors, migration, nesting biology, distribution and just some aspects of buffleheads described in the first monograph on a duck of the tribe Mergini.

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