

ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 1973

DUCK BANDING-1973 by Robert Hubert

The results of my 1973 banding report are from one location. This location is known as Carr's Bridge.

This area is the result of a large dam located about one and one-half miles south of Carr's Bridge and has dammed Kettle Creek making a large reservoir of approximately 150 acres of water. The area I am interested in has been created due to overflowing of the Kettle Creek thus creating a large area about three feet deep. In this flooded area large beds of pond weeds occur. Duck weed is quite abundant and large stands of cattail provide ideal cover for broods. Willows border the creek while on the side hills are large coniferous plantations interspersed with deciduous trees.

In the immediate area I have in the past, put up about thirty wood duck nesting boxes. These boxes are on steel poles in the water and twenty-five of the boxes have racoon guards. The guards are of conical shape about three feet in diameter. Of the thirty boxes checked, nine had successful nesting and one box which was unprotected had six eggs which were destroyed by racoon.

An interesting note is the fact that the nest destroyed occurred August 26 which is later than any record I have on nesting.

Two days previous to this I had seen the female wood duck enter the nest box. Further evidence to a late nesting was the fact that I trapped three young along with the adult female on August 30. These young were about one week old.

The trap I used was of the lily pad design about eight feet in diameter. I used one inch welded wire four feet high with one inch chicken wire on the top. Because of the heavily silted bottom, I made a platform for the trap. The platform was of two sheets of 4' x 8' plywood fastened to a frame of 2" x 4". The frame was fastened to steel poles so I was able to have the trap at any depth of water desired. Unfortunately, because of the dry summer we had, the area I had the trap located in became too dry and I had to discontinue banding on September 16th. I banded the following at Carr's Bridge:

	<u>Local M</u>	<u>Local F</u>	<u>HY M</u>	<u>AHYM</u>	<u>HY F</u>	<u>AHY F</u>	<u>Total</u>
Mallard	1	1	46	3	24	1	76
Black			1		2		3
Wood Duck	3	4	18		14	2	41
Blue winged Teal			24	7	19	3	53
Green winged Teal	-	-	<u>1</u>	-	-	-	<u>1</u>
	4	5	90	10	59	6	174

I also banded for the Ministry of the Environment at Fingal using their bands. I banded from August to the middle of September the following:

Mallard,411; Black,35; Blue Winged Teal,97; Green Winged Teal,7; Pintail,2; American Widgeon,1; for a total of 553 birds.

I would like to thank the Atlantic Flyway Council for their financial assistance.

The above material was forwarded by Don Baldwin in response to my plea for Newsletter material. In his letter Don states that-

"Bob Hubert is now the TOP amateur duck bander in Canada. He bands more ducks per season than any other non-professional. His report is of interest to all banders as an example of what a dedicated amateur can do with his spare time."

Spring Field Meetings- by David Brewer

With their usual impeccable sense of timing your executive arranged the spring field trips on two of the foulest days of the year. The April 28th banding workshop in Puslinch Township was washed out from the beginning- it was impossible to use mist-nets in that weather. Though one determined party which came from Toronto went on down to Walsingham in Norfolk County and was rewarded by the sight of a male European Ruff in full breeding plumage. The Ruff is, of course, a very rare vagrant in Canada, but a male in full display plumage is almost unprecedented.

The Wye Marsh trip on May 26 was only a partial disaster. The rain held off during the morning sufficiently to allow a walk around the nature trails, where a good selection of spring warblers were seen. The highlight, however, was a pair of male short-billed marsh wrens singing in competition from two territories on either side of the boardwalk. An intrepid party then took off through the marsh proper in an overloaded canoe and was thoroughly soaked for its pains. Despite the rain, though, long-billed marsh wrens and least bittern were seen. It was decided unanimously to hold another field trip next year and hope for better weather.

October 23,1973 Meeting -by Ted Dinniwell

David Hussell spoke on bugging birds nests. He recorded by electronic and photographic equipment the visits of snow buntings and lapland longspurs to their nests. One visit to the nest was recorded on one frame of film. A clock was beside the nest so that the time was also recorded. Frequency of visits was plotted on a graph as to time of day, time after hatching, and brood size.

Tree swallow nest visits were recorded electronically as to frequency and duration of visit. The questions to be answered were. Does brood size affect the visiting rate? Does the visiting

rate vary with the availability of food? Does the visiting rate vary with the amount of crying of the young?

The calling rate increases as the young get older and in larger broods.

Banding records received from John Miles

Spring banding at Wingham, Ont.- May 6-21, 1973.

208 birds were banded. -38 species

yellow-shafted flicker,1; hairy woodpecker,1; downy woodpecker,1; eastern kingbird,3; Traill's flycatcher,1; least flycatcher,4; black-capped chickadee,4; catbird,27; brown thrasher,3; American robin,15; wood thrush,3; Wilson's thrush,3; warbling vireo,1; blue-winged warbler,3; Tennessee warbler,1; orange-crowned warbler,1; Nashville warbler,7; yellow warbler,31; palm warbler,2; northern waterthrush,2; mourning warbler,2; Maryland yellowthroat,5; Canada warbler,1; American redstart,1; red-winged blackbird,15; Baltimore oriole,6; cowbird,4; American goldfinch,18; eastern towhee,1; savannah sparrow,2; vesper sparrow,5; field sparrow,5; white-crowned sparrow,4; white-throated sparrow,5; Lincoln's sparrow,1; swamp sparrow,2; song sparrow,11

Summer banding at Hornepayne, Ont.-June 29-Aug. 10, 1973.

343 birds (38 species) were banded. A cut over area (cut 1965) was the scene of banding operations. The regeneration growth is mainly aspens and small evergreens 10-15' high which is ideal netting country.

American sparrow hawk,1; nighthawk,1; yellow-shafted flicker,2; yellow-bellied sapsucker,2; hairy woodpecker,1; downy woodpecker,2; yellow-bellied flycatcher,3; Traill's flycatcher,24; least flycatcher,14; Canada jay,2; blue jay,4; brown-headed chickadee,1; brown creeper,1; winter wren,1; American robin,9; hermit thrush,4; olive backed thrush,11; ruby-crowned kinglet,3; cedar waxwing,2; red-eyed vireo,6; Tennessee warbler,3; Nashville warbler,3; Magnolia warbler,44; myrtle warbler,11; Blackburnian warbler,1; chestnut-sided warbler,17; bay-breasted warbler,1; oven-bird,4; mourning warbler,9; Maryland yellowthroat,19; Wilson's warbler,15; Canada warbler,3; American redstart,1; common purple finch,1; slate-coloured junco,3; white-throated sparrow,86; Lincoln's sparrow,27; swamp sparrow,1

One interesting banding recovery was a live release of a captured evening grosbeak in Saskatoon, Sask. by C. Stuart Houston, 863 University Drive, Saskatoon, on 04/30/73. This bird was banded by John B. Miles at Warton 04/17/72.

John also released alive this summer a foreign banded Tennessee warbler- no details yet as to where it was banded.

On Thanksgiving Monday he and his wife spotted a scissor-tailed

flycatcher 40 miles south of the Soo.

Richard Popko, 18 Strathy Rd. Ajax, Ont would like any information on returns for mourning doves in Ontario. He is conducting a study on our dove population and would appreciate any correspondence with banders who have captured mourning doves.

Scott Jones, 571 Albert St. Fredericton, N.B. is designing a long term project aimed at studying the common loon.

Banding workshop meeting at David Brewer's place on Sat. Nov. 24, 1973.

This is a banding training session . New members and potential banders can gain experience in trapping, netting and banding. Anyone is welcome to attend this. David Brewer will provide the instruction. Meet at 9.30 A.M. sharp outside the Aberfoyle Steak House on Highway 6 about one mile north of highway 401. This meeting will be cancelled if there is a rain storm, sleet storm, snow storm or any other type of very bad inclement weather.

Mist nets and a house trap will probably be used.
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The O.B.B.A. annual general meeting will be held on Sat. Feb. 9th at the planetarium next to the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto. Full details of this will be in the next newsletter.

Dec. Meeting- On Tuesday Dec. 11th. a meeting will be held at the home of Bob Cubitt, 28 Rockport Cres. Richmond Hill (416-884-1244). This will be a members night. Bring up to 6 slides either of general interest or of birds. We will have a quiz to identify birds, the poorer the slide and the more difficult to identify the better. Everybody please bring some slides and make a good sociable evening at christmas time. The meeting starts at 8p.m.
12th

March meeting- On Tues. March 12th at the home of Mrs. Heather Howkins, 24 Whitehall Road, Toronto (929-3992) Don Baldwin will be the guest speaker. His topic will be on the British Honduras. It will be a very interesting evening and a very good diversion from the wintry weather.

Jan. meeting- On Tues Jan. 8th at the home of Harold Richards, 37 Killdeer Cresc, Toronto, Ont M4J 2W7 our Jan. meeting will be held.

J. O. R. Roberts is speaking on hawk migration.

Material is urgently needed for the newsletter. Please mail to Dr. Ted Dinniwell, 7 Esquire Place, Hamilton, Ont. L9J 2R2