N

Ontario Bird Banding Association
March 1973
Newsletter

March Meeting

There will be a meeting on March 13, at 8 pm at the home of our new President, Dr. Edward Dinniwell, 7 Esquire Place, Hamilton.

The Speaker for the evening will be Jim Anderson of Dundas. Jim was to speak at the Nov. meeting last year, but was unable to attend due to bad weather. His topic will be "Goose Banding".

The directions I was given are as follows - Good Luck! :
Coming from Toronto, take the QEW to the 403. Leave the 403 at the Aberdeen intersection; go alone Aberdeen to Queen St., up to the top of the "mountain" (hill) to Garth St.; right along Garth to the first stoplight (Fennell St.) then to the second stoplight (Mohawk St.) past there to the first street (Darlington); turn left at the first intersection; go two blocks, turn right and it is number 7 Esquire Place.

I have a better idea - why not invest in a good street map of Hamilton?
Dr. Dinniwell's telephone number is 385-9654. Just in case!

Annual General Meeting

The 17 th Annual General Meeting of O.B.B.A. was held Feb. 17, 1973 in Toronto. The morning session was held at the Upper Canada College Preparatory School. Registration began at 9.30 and the meeting proper began at 10.20 with Vice-president Bob Cubitt presiding.

The minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were not available for reading at that time as Dr. A. Salvadori, who was in possesion of them, was in California.

President John Miles was not in attendance and was reported to be "somewhere" about 100 miles north of Manitouwadge. Consequently, neither did we have a report from the President.

Treasurer W.J.R. Wasserfall reported on the bank balance as of Dec. 31, 1972. The two remaining issues of Vol. 8 have yet to be paid for and will cost approximately the balance remaining — donations over the ordinary memberships will be greatly appreciated!

Bill Wasserfall, acting as Chairman of the Nominating Committee then proposed the following slate of officers for 1973:

President	Dr. E. Dinniwell, 7 Esquire Place, Hamilton 385-9654
Vice-presidents	Dr. David Hussell, Dept. of Ornithology, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queens Park, Toronto
	Dr. A. Salvadori, Computer Science, U. of Guelph, Guelph, Ont.
Secretary	Miss Jayne E. Evans, P.O. Box 551, Midland, Ont. 549-2106
Treasurer	Mrs. Heather Hawkins, 24 Whitehall Rd., Toronto 5 M4W 2C6 929-3992
Others	W.J.R. Wasserfall, 22 Poyorest Ave., Willowdale 221-9676
	Richard Popko, 18 Strathy Rd., Ajax
	Dr. David Brewer, 277 Arthur St. N., Guelph, 824-4342

The Point Pelee Bird Observatory report was given by Bill Wassenfall in the absence of the Chairman, Dennis Rupert, due to last minute difficulties. I would like to donate a whole future Newsletter to this report.

The Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Station report was given by Chairman Marshall Field. A complete report of activities at Hawk Cliff will be in Vol.8, No.3 of Ontario Bird Banding, soon to be published.

Geoff Holroyd, Chairman of the Long Point Bird Observatory then gave his report and illustrated it with slides. The full report will be in Vol 8, No. 4 of O.B.B.

Don Baldwin then gave a brief report on the activities of the Atlantic Flyway Council. (See next item in the Newsletter) Don also mentioned that funds are available from the Council for co-operative waterfowl banding and suggested that anyone interested should either try to work with another member already working on such a project or begin banding in a new area.

Editor Dr. David Brewer then reported that Vol 8, No.2 was ready for distribution and Vol. 8, Nos. 3 and 4 are nearly ready for publication. David then remarked on the Lack of good material and asked that members PLEASE send in somthing for future issues.

Anthony J. Erskine, of the CWS, then spoke to the members present and answered questions from the floor. The use of data was discussed, along with the new banding manual.

After luncheon, most members took advantage of the opportunity to visit the bird room at the Royal Ontario Museum.

Our Speaker, Helen Hayes, was introduced by Dr. Russell and gave a very informative talk, illustrated with excellent slides of the terns banded on Great Gull Is. One very interesting factor was that when abnormal, deformed chicks were sent away for analasis, there was found a greater concentration of PCB than either DDT on mercury though this does not necessarily mean that this was the cause. A question period followed.

After a coffee period, Ulrich Waterman reported on his recent activities at Malton Airport, banding Snowy Owls and other raptors. One male Red-tailed Hawk trapped that morning was given to Bob Cubitt, who was to release him at Newmarket the following morning. Ulrich's talk was also illustrated with slides.

Dr. David Russell then presented his report on his activities on Devon Island with Arctic passerines. His slides illustrated the ingenious method used to determine the amount of time a bird spent resting on the nest. With the aid of two tin cans with both ends removed, a perch, a clock and a camera-arranged so that each time the bird left the nest, it had to pass through one of the cans and alight on the perch, triggering the camera, which took one frame each time, including the time on the clock! David determined from his study that clutch size does increase in relation to daylength and latitude in Arctic passerines.

The meeting adjourned at 4.35. 41 members and friends attended.

Out-of-town members and friends were entertained for supper at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. Wassenfall. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you both for your kind consideration.

Later that evening, those who had attended the meeting were entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Don Baldwin. A roaring fire, good food and good company - and a jolly good time was had by all! Thankyou both also.

Atlantic Flyway Council - Ontario Information

Taken from the Memorandum from the Banding Committee, Atlantic Waterfowl Council.

Approximately 50 banding projects were conducted under the 1972 Co-operative Banding Programme in Eastern Canada. Included in that number was the Canadian airboat which operated in the Maritime Provinces; however, no U.S. airboats were operational in Eastern Canada in 1972. Eight of the stations banded Canadagoose, including a new location on the Twin Islands in the Northwest Territories operated by Don Baldwin of the Ontario Bird Banding Association. Another goose banding station on Cape Henrietta Marie banded both snow and blue geese.

Stations banding more than 100 Canada geese were Holiday Beach, Lake Erie District and the Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary in Ontario and the Twin Islands and District of Franklin in the Northwest Territories.

Following aerial surveys of the Twin Islands in 1970, it was deemed feasible to attempt banding of Canada geese in that area. The project was undertaken by Don Baldwin in 1972 and was successful in banding 591 birds during an 18 day operation. Of that number, 349 (59.1%) were adults. A total of 19 drives were made averaging about 31 birds per drive. Both overland and boat drives were conducted. The total summer population of Canada geese on the Islands was estimated to be 5,000 individuals. If undertaken, a reasonable target figure for 1973 operations is estimated to be 1,000 birds or 20% of the total population.

Member's Activities

Howard Krug, Chesley, Ont. has been banding herring and ring-billed gulls every summer for the past 37 years (1935) on the Bruce Penninsula and will continue to do so.
Bob Sutherland, 44 Baleberry Cres., Weston MP 3L2 is also banding herring and ring-billed gulls.
Frank Folembee, 8407 Pears Cres., Niagara Falls, is banding waterfowl and raptors on the Niagara Penninsula
David Brewer, 277 Arthur St.N., Guelph, is banding goldfinches in conjunction with Sandy Middleton, also of Guelph.
Bob Cubitt, 28 Rockport Cres., Richmond Hill, is banding Red-tailed Hawks, wherever he finds them!

Please send in a brief report, similar to the above for inclusion in a future Newsletter. Someone else may be doing a similar project and by getting in touch with each other, you may both benefit by an exchange of ideas, notes, etc.

Eggnappers!

In the spring of 1970, Alberta's only known remaining pair of nesting Peregrine Falcons laid four eggs, according to Richard Fyfe, a CWS biologist in Edmonton. The eggs were stolen shortly after - presumably by egg collectors.

A resulting investigation has brought to light many illegal collections which have been seized by the authorities. From the meticulous records kept by these collectors, it has been discovered that 'thousands' of Alberta eggs have found their way into foreign collections.

Now, Britain and the U.S. are working with Canada to combat 'eggnappers'. Britain has outlawed egg collecting completely and Canada has only allowed two permits this year, both to universities, to complete their collections.

From seized outdated catalogues, Wildlife officials found that Whooping Crane eggs sold for $45 a few years ago. California Condor eggs went for $750, rare Trumpeter Swan eggs for $100 each and a Passenger Pigeon egg for $10,000.

Patrols of known nests are made constantly when the breeding season is underway both night and day, by air, boat, car and on foot.

The Peregrine eggs stolen in 1970 haven't turned up in a collection yet. They might well be in Britain or the U.S.

The Peregrine couple didn't nest the next year either. Richard Fyfe suspects the eggnappers were waiting at the site for the eggs. But only the male came home, with a mate too young to nest.
from - Canadian Panorama, Star Weekly, March 3, 1973.

Co-operative Breeding Bird Survey of North America, 1973

As in previous years, the F.O.N. is coordinating the breeding bird survey for Ontario. Dr. Murray Speirs is the new Coordinator.

Survey routes have been selected at random in each one-degree block of latitude and longitude in which there are roads and observers. Each 24 ½ mile route, with 3-minute stops, spaced one-half mile apart, is driven by automobile. A route may be completed in 4 to 4½ hours, and needs to be run only once on any single day in June. The observer must drive to the specified starting point (which is usually far from his home) in time to begin one-half hour before local sunrise. All birds seen or heard at the 50 stops are recorded on special forms supplied, and the data forwarded to the Migratory Bird Populations Station, Laurel, Maryland, 20810. Copies are made available to the CWS. The data is transferred to machine punch cards and compiled and analyzed by computer.

The survey, if routes are run under comparable conditions from year to year, will provide a measure of the changes in abundance of breeding birds from year to year over most of North America. For comparability, the same observer should run the same route in successive years.

For 1973 we again need good field observers who are willing to co-operate in running the selected survey routes. Participants must be thoroughly competent in rapid field identification by sight and song. If you would be willing to participate in this survey during June 1973, please send your name and address to our coordinator: Dr. Murray Speirs, 1815 Altona Road, Pickering, Ont.

Also state how far from home you would be willing to run a route. (It is impossible to drive less than 50 miles and many routes may involve 200 miles or more from the nearest volunteer.) Route maps and instructions will be supplied to participants selected by the Coordinator.

A team of three, including a driver and timer, a recorder and observer would be ideal. Two can do it with effort, and one can do it alone with abnormal effort and strain.

IMPORTANT NOTE: would all participants who ran routes last year please confirm with Dr. Speirs that they are willing to run the same route in 1973, or notify him that their route is 'free'.

Omission

I am sure the description of the 'Unusual Sighting on the Bruce Penninsula' last month gave you the name of the rare bird (at least for us) - the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. Sorry, I wasn't trying to play games.

Aspergillosis

In the last Newsletter I mentioned the Goshawk invasion being part of a ten-year cycle and that most of the birds were doomed to the fatal disease - Aspergillosis. Perhaps I should enlarge on this for those who aren't familiar with this disease. The following information is taken from 'North American Falconry and Hunting Hawks' by Frank Lyman Beebe and Harold Melvin Webster, 1964.

"...the large number of immature Goshawks that move south at roughly ten-year intervals consist of, for the most part, doomed birds. They perish of frounce and aspergillosis, they are killed in pole-traps at game farms and shot by poultry farmers; and they also starve.

At the present time the most lethal disease likely to occur in the birds of prey is aspergillosis. The organism involved is a kind of mold, Aspergillus fumigatus. This fungus is not strictly a disease organism, that is, it can live, grow and sporulate outside of living tissue. For this reason there is always a possibility of birds becoming infected with it at any time. For some unknown reason, birds from cold climates seem to be especially susceptible to this disease. It is known in every zoological park and takes a frightful toll of such exhibits as the various species of penguins.

Aspergillosis is a fungus disease of the lungs and respiratory system. Inasmuch as birds have no diaphragm, and as the respiratory system opens into the hollow bones, this permits a very wide-spread infection.

The conditions under which a bird becomes susceptible are by no means clear, as all birds would seem to be about equally exposed. Not the least puzzling aspect of the disease is the occurence in some winter-caught (by a falconer) Goshawks taken at latitudes where sporulating fungus could not possibly occur at this season, except in living animals."

Canada's Water - For Sale? by Richard C. Bocking

This new book is about what is really happening to Canadian water resources. It pulls all the pieces of the debate together, and gives us a clear picture of the realities of water distribution on this continent - who wants it, who needs it, and who looks as though they're ready to give it away.

Author Richard Bocking challenges the myth that the US desperately needs our water and the corresponding belief (Canadian) in a boundless supply. It is research into the Columbia River experience, the Churchill River and James Bay indicates an undeniable pattern pointing towards massive water exports to the US, and resulting ecological havoc for Canada. in cloth $5.95

Available from the Nature Gift Shop, Federation of Ontario Naturalists, 1262 Don Mills Rd., Don Mills, Ont.

Safari to East Africa, anyone?

The Elsa Wild Animal Appeal of Canada is planning its second Annual Camera Safari to East Africa. Departing Toronto on July 3, the safari will include a visit with Joy Adamson, founder of the EWAA and author of Born Free. For further details, write:

The Elsa Wild Animal Appeal of Canada, Box 864, Postal Station K, Toronto 12, Ont.

Inland Bird Banding Association

The Inland Bird Banding Association will be holding its 51st. Annual Meeting at Hawk Ridge, Duluth, Minn. this year on Sept. 14 -16.

This is an excellent place to view migrating hawks each fall and members of O.B.B.A. have been invited to join them at their meeting. Anyone wishing do do so could contact me, perhaps we could get together a car load or two and travel together. Accomodation will be arranged, but further details will be in a forthcoming News-Letter.

News From British Columbia

Up on the Skeena River in far northern British Columbia there once lived Columbine, a skunk. She had twins so identical she could only occasionally tell them apart. Columbine named one "In" and one "Out". One day In left the burrow and was gone for such a long time mother became worried. She sent Out out to get In to come in. Out searched for an hour, found his brother and brought him safely home to the Skeena skunk sanctuary. Columbine asked Out how he managed to find his brother.

"Simple," he said, "instinct."

Recoveries

Recently I sent in two reports to the banding office for other people, (Not members) and here are the results:

A Blue Jay, found near Barrie, Ont. last winter by Gordon Bestweatherick was originally banded by Warren Lamb, near Port Huron, Mich. on May 2, 1969. The bird was at least one year old when banded. The bird was found dead.

Mr. and Mrs. Boyon, of White River, Ont. found a male Evening Grosbeak hit by a car and took him home and nursed him back to health. The bird had been banded when at least one year old by John Miles at Wiarton on Jan 16, 1971. The bird was found on June 17, 1972.

Postal Codes, Etcetera

- Please send in your new postal codes so that the membership list can be updated as soon as possible.
- At the same time, don't forget to mention your present banding project.
- Thankyou - to all those who have sent in their dues for 1973. Those who have not received their membership cards for the current year have not paid their dues. A renewal form is at the end of the Newsletter.
- Anyone who has an idea for a meeting, or who knows of a Speaker they would like to hear, or who may like to be a Speaker themselves even, please contact the president or myself. We are in need of a few ideas!

Dr. E. Dinniwell, 7 Esquire Place, Hamilton 385 -9654

Miss Jayne E. Evans, P.O. Box 551, Midland L4R 4L3 549 - 2106

It seems that I am not the only one who becomes excited over seeing a Peregrine Falcon. Our new Treasurer, Heather Hawkins, saw one near Ajax and dashed out over the ice to keep it in view longer and fell through the ice — twice!

URGENTLY Needed!

Anyone having a CLEAR photograph of any of the following birds, please lend it to the association to be used in a display for the F.O.N. Annual Meeting at the end of April. Write your name and address on the back of the photo and mail it to Jayne Evans, P.O. Box 551, Midland, Ont. Great care will be taken of your pictures and they will be returned to you immediately after the meeting. Credit will go to the person responsible for the photographs.
Please do this if you can - the display will aim at trying to explain what we do as banders, and hopefully will attract some new members too.
Pictures needed: Chickadee, or any bird requiring a size 0 band
Ovenbird, or any bird requiring a size 1 band
Downy Woodpecker or Wood Thrush etc, requiring a size 1A band
Cedar Waxwing, Song Sparrow, etc., requiring a size 1B band
Robin, Red-winged Blackbird etc. requiring a size 2 band
Blue Jay, Yellow-sh. Flicker, etc, requiring a size 3 band
and so on, for size 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 etc. A Golden Eagle, anyone? If you have only slides, please donate the price of a print to the display and send the print - all pictures will be returned.

LONG POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY

Long Point will be celebrating its second Annual Meeting again this year over the weekend of March 31 April 1. A banquet will be held on saturday evening and this year, a larger hall has been reserved, as last year, many people who didn't make a reservation had to be turned away. This year, they hope to accomodate everyone, but it would be a good idea to write to Geoff Holroyd, Dept. of Zoology, University of Toronto and make a reservation for the banquet.

During the day, you will be able to observe the many species of waterfowl to be found in the area, along with thousands of migrating blackbirds, etc. and the Whistling Swans.

There are several good motels in the area and nearby towns.

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Please renew my membership with the Ontario Bird Banding Association for the year of 1973.

Enclosed is my cheque / money order for $.....

Regular Membership $6. Family $7. Student (18 yrs. and under) $2.

Name.....

Address.....

City.....Prov./State.....Postal Code.....

Mail to: Miss Jayne E. Evans, Secretary, O.B.B.A., P.O. Box 551, Midland, Ont. L4R 4L3

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