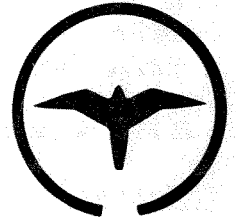


ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION



APRIL NEWSLETTER

Monthly Meeting:

Note that contrary to the last Newsletter, there will not be an indoor April monthly meeting. Members are encouraged to come out to the banding workshop.

Banding Workshop: Saturday, April 24, 1976 - 9:00 a.m.
David Brewer's
R.R. #1
Puslinch
(519) 824-4342

To get there, go north from the 401 on Highway #6 one mile, turn right (east) on Puslinch Road #23, go about one-and-one-quarter miles, make another right turn (south) and go for another mile. His place is on the left. In the event of rain, this workshop will be cancelled.

Long Point Bird Observatory Annual Meeting: Saturday, April 10, 1976

There will be an Open House at Backus House from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. followed by a roast beef dinner at the Port Rowan Community Centre at 5:00 p.m. (cost \$5.00). This year's guest speaker will be S. D. MacDonald, Director of the High Arctic Research Station. He will be talking on the Birds and Mammal Studies at the H.A.R.S. Please reserve before March 27, 1976 by writing L.P.B.O., P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario.

Notes From Harold Richards:

These were written last fall and contain some worthwhile information.

September Meeting

This meeting was held at the home of our Treasurer, Heather Howkins. Unfortunately, only six people attended. Everybody else missed a treat. The speaker was Dr. William Rapley, Veterinary Doctor of the Metropolitan Toronto Zoo. His topic was 'Birds of California' but there were interesting side excursions. One of these was an account of the birth of the orangutang at the zoo. Often, in captivity, such mothers kill their offspring, but not so in this case. The staff was not even aware that she was pregnant, and they had assumed that the father was too old for such projects.

Dr. Rapley's slides were delightful. He had a picture, for example, of a Humming Bird nesting in the vine of a plastic flower at a motel. There were also two Great Horned Owls nesting in the carved stone work in the front of a building. It was amazing how they blended into the background and could go unnoticed by pedestrians a few yards away.

The speaker drew our attention to a situation he found on several islands. Nesting colonies of several species occupying the same island had arranged themselves in concentric rings. The smallest species, terns, occupied the centre, then came a ring of larger birds, gulls, while a circle of still larger birds formed an outer circle.

Information Note

It seems that sometimes instructions from the Banding Office do not reach all of us. Do you know, for example, that we must not attempt to sex White-crowned Sparrows by measurement of the wing chord? The writer stumbled upon this information by accident. If you know of any other 'little secrets' of this nature, they might be publicized in a Newsletter. Tell our Editor.

Blue Jays

'Are members getting an unusually large number of Blue Jays in their backyards?' While eating dinner tonight, I watched no less than twelve Jays gobbling peanuts in my potter traps which were inoperative. During the last week, I have retrapped two wearing my bands, and at least eight years old. But the prize specimen was 813-19857, banded on June 5, 1966 as AHY. It must be a smart bird to survive for ten years. But in some areas he (or she) is a slow learner for I retrapped him (or her) on October 22, 1967, June 2, 1968, July 6, 1969, and October 27, 1972. The band was so thin that it had to be replaced.

Note From Ted Dinniwell:

A note on our January meeting.

About twenty members turned out at Harold and Gene Richard's home on January 27, 1976 for a highly enjoyable night. Barry Ranford gave an illustrated talk on 'The Birds of the Prairies and Foothills.' His spectacular slides were taken on a recent trip through central North America. The calibre of his photographs, some of which he merely attributed to 'luck', left all those viewing in awe.

Scott's Oriole Banded in Duluth:

The bird kept popping in the net (six times in all), and I finally telephoned Dr. Hofslund, Ornithologist at the Duluth branch of the University of Minnesota. Over he came, took a long look at the bird and said, 'Well Kon, I can't tell you what it is, but I can tell you what it isn't, and it isn't an Orchard. I grew up in southern Minnesota where there were Orchards and that definitely is not an Orchard Oriole.' He went on to say I should have colour slides made and send them, along with all measurements and information gathered to Dr. Harrison B. Tordoff, Director of the James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. It was done. Marj Carr kindly taking the pictures. A few weeks later, Dr. Tordoff wrote, pronouncing it to be a SY male Scott's Oriole, never seen in Minnesota before. It winters in Mexico, and breeds in the southwest, from western Texas to southeastern California, building its grassy pouch nest in yucca 'forests'.

Dr. Tordoff commented at length on the unusual feather wear. He said it suggested the bird may have been caged for a time. He said orioles are often caught and caged in Latin America. Then he wondered if the bird could have found its way to Duluth, caged, aboard a ship, then escaping or being turned loose when in port. Well, perhaps, but it does seem too great a coincidence, arriving during the heaviest influx of orioles in reverse migration.

The Scott's stayed in and around our yard for a full three weeks. It was seen by a number of MOU people. It never sang or called, to my knowledge (the song is said to be similar to the Western Meadowlark). It did, however, scold once and it sounded just like a Baltimore Checkering.

I banded a total of 153 Baltimores plus the Scott's within a nineteen day period. With three Baltimore returns, banded in 1971 and 1973. My banding buddy, Richard Davids, of rural Bagley, Minnesota was deluged with orioles too. He said he banded seventy without trying hard. Pete Ryan of Little Falls, banded his usual number of twenty-two.

When the last oriole was banded, my dear husband cast a disapproving look at my white tennis shoes, now generously spattered with Scott's Oriole Poo, and suggested they needed to be washed.

I bronzed them.....

Koni Sundquist
2903 Jefferson Street
Duluth, Mn. 55812

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NOTE: Dave Hussell was inadvertently left off the list of Executive that was printed last month. His mailing address is P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario, telephone - (519) 426-4831.

MATERIAL FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS ALWAYS WELCOME. PLEASE MAIL TO:

DAVID BROUGHTON,
4 HEDDINGTON AVENUE,
TORONTO, ONTARIO

