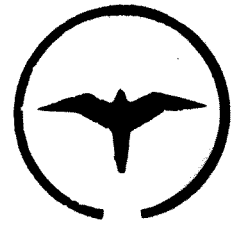


# ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION



## December Newsletter

December Meeting - There will not be a December meeting.

January Meeting - Tuesday, January 18, 1977, 8:00 pm, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Richards, 37 Kildeer Crescent, Toronto (425-4069). The speaker will be Dr. Dave Joyner of the University of Guelph. His topic will be waterfowl management. We would like to see a good turnout at this meeting.

### Banding Recovery of Evening Grosbeak

An Evening Grosbeak, AHY-M, banded at Guelph on November 30, 1975 was recovered at Minnedosa, Manitoba, (about midway between Winnipeg and the Saskatchewan border) on May 11, 1976. The band number was read through binoculars as the bird visited a feeder. Minnedosa is 1,060 miles (1700 km) WNW of Guelph.

Of the six hundred-odd Grosbeaks banded in Guelph and Puslinch there have now been four recoveries; quite an acceptable rate. The other three were all in Ontario, at Ancaster, Paris, and Ottawa.

A. Salvadori

### Duck-Banding at Mountsberg

Mountsberg is a water impoundment owned by the Halton Region Conservation Authority about ten miles south of Guelph. It comprises about one thousand acres, much of it shallow water and wet woodland, and is one of the best inland areas in the region for ducks and shorebirds. It is also the site of a Wildlife Education Centre operated by the H.R.C.A.

This spring it was decided to set up a duck-banding operation on the lake. One funnel trap, which had already seen much honourable service at Dundas, was borrowed from Jim Anderson, and another was quickly built. A number of heart-shaped traps made of wire-mesh were also made but were soon found to be impractical and were discarded.

Operations started in early May and continued until freeze-up which this year was on November 9th. Initially trapping was very slow, with only thirty ducks banded in the month of May; however, these included some interesting species, such as Gadwall, both Scaup and Bufflehead. Wood Ducks were caught in some numbers, and as the season progressed whole broods of Wood Ducks would enter the traps. Three Hooded Mergansers were banded at this time, having entered the trap along with Wood Duck families with which they frequently associated.

However, things did not really warm up until July, when there was a sudden influx of young ducks. Between July and September about three hundred Blue-winged Teal were banded, the great majority being young birds. At about the same time the Mallard population rose spectacularly, and during August about six hundred were caught. This continued through September and October. Black Ducks, which had initially constituted less than ten percent of the catch, represented more than half of the birds caught in late October. A few other species were banded in smaller numbers - Pintail, Redhead, Green-winged Teal, and in late October, Coot. One Ruddy Duck was captured. Although we were only operating two small traps, things became very hectic in October. On one day, October 26th, one hundred and seventy-four ducks were handled. Traps were inspected three times per day; the maximum catch in one trap at one time was sixty-four, described by Martin Wemaart, who had the unenviable task of sorting them out singlehanded, as "wall-to-wall ducks". Most of the birds banded at this time were hatching year.

Forty-one foreign retraps were taken; however, at the time of writing, details were only available on eight, consisting of three locals (two Mallard, one Blue-winged Teal); one Mallard and one Black Duck from New York State; one Mallard from Pennsylvania; one Mallard from Wisconsin; and one Mallard from St. Thomas, Ontario.

A grand total of 3,048 birds were banded, broken down as follows:- Mallard 2028; Mallard x Black Duck Hybrid 29; Black Duck 435; Gadwall 7; Pintail 8; Green-winged Teal 5; Blue-winged Teal 315; Wood Duck 196; Redhead 6; Greater Scaup 1; Lesser Scaup 1; Bufflehead 1; Ruddy Duck 1; Hooded Merganser 3; Coot 12. Total 3,048 of 14 species and one hybrid.

Banding was performed by M. Wemaart, assisted at various times by G. Hutton, L. Simser and D. Brewer, under the master permit of A. Salvadori.

### Banding Equipment

Thanks to one of our American members, William Pepper, I now have a good listing of U.S. sources for banding equipment. I'll put them in the next several newsletters.

Potter traps - a Guelph group is now selling these for \$5 each. Please contact Toni Salvadori, 17 Colborne Drive, Guelph, Ontario.

Mist nets, etc - Bleitz Wildlife Foundation, 5334 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, California, 90027. (They offer a large selection of sizes, meshes, colours, etc., but often sold out of a particular type. The nets seem pretty good, but I suggest you write for an up-to-date catalogue).

Banding pliers - R.N. MacDonald, 850 Main Street, Lynfield, Mass., 01940. These are offered in the following sizes and prices:-  
For 0-1A Bands - \$7.50 + \$1 for Can. postage  
For 2 & 3 Bands - \$7.50 + \$1 for Can. postage  
For 3A Bands - \$6.50 + \$1 for Can. postage  
(These are very good - they reduce the chance of overlapped bands and include a split pin for opening bands).

### Homing Pigeon Bands

From time to time banders come across homing pigeon bands. For information about these contact Mr. D. Shleifer, 88 Dorset Drive, Bramalea, Ontario (phone 453-8993).

### Editorial

The 1977 Annual Meeting is shaping up quite well. Dr. R.I.G. Morrison of the Canadian Wildlife Service will be our main speaker, talking on shorebird banding in James Bay. The meeting will be on Saturday, February 19 at the Planetarium in Toronto.

The 1974 Long Point Bird Observatory Annual report is being issued with this newsletter. It counts as one of the 1976 issues of the O.B.B. journal.

The long awaited annual banding report has suffered production difficulties but should be available shortly.

As usual I'm in desperate need of material.

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