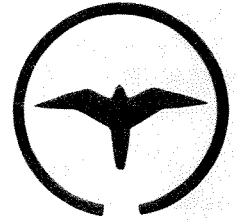


ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION



JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER, 1976
NEWSLETTER

The program for the balance of the year is shaping up well. There will be a banding workshop at David Brewer's in the near future, and an indoor meeting on Monday, October 4, 1976 at 8:00 p.m. at the home of Don Baldwin, 47 Duggan Avenue, Toronto. Duggan Avenue is off Avenue Road opposite Upper Canada College. Parking is limited in this area. At this meeting, Mr. Jim Richards of the Durham Region Field Naturalists will be the guest speaker.

Notes from Harold Richards:

Membership List

Late in April, a letter went out to each of the fifty-eight (58) members who had not renewed their O.B.B.A. Memberships for 1976. Thanks to the thirty-eight (38) who replied, either with a resignation or a payment; some even sent welcome donations. The replies enable us to keep the mailing list up to date.

From the other twenty (20) who have not yet used the stamped, addressed, return envelope, a reply would still be very much appreciated. Please reply to:

Harold Richards
Membership Secretary
37 Kildeer Crescent
Toronto, Ont., M4G 2W7

Gull Becomes a Goose

Banding returns are so welcome that we certainly should not poke fun at people who make them. However, some deserve a chuckle. Example: "I found a dead goose in the field that wore a band that I am now returning to you. It was trapped in a fishing line that I am enclosing." It was a Herring Gull banded by Alf Bunker, 06-30-63, at Trois Pistoles, Quebec. It was found dead in August, 1974.

Bluebird Trails - from Leo Smith:

You can reckon on 110 good nestings from my Bluebird boxes placed fifty miles north west of Toronto. These are first broods from 500 houses. Tree Swallows were late but Bluebirds were early, and this accounts in part for the success. The figures are 100 percent greater than for 1975.

At the time of writing, my second broods are doing reasonably well because the Swallows are leaving and only Wrens are offering competition. I have forty-four pairs of Bluebirds, second broods, carded.

Weaver Finches are giving me a hard time. Two of my best areas in Uxbridge Township have been devastated and I have taken out a dozen boxes and will have to remove four more. One area in Mono Township had the Weaver Finches in and I had to go out and cut cedar posts in Adjala and get them dug in and then change the localities of nesting boxes. Without the co-operation of farmers and landowners, this would not be possible.

My four Wood Duck boxes seem to breed only Starlings. It was said to me once, "The Wood Duck is scarce because of over hunting." My experience is that it is being made extinct, in natural surroundings, by the encroachment of the alien Starling. Many trails are left unattended and breed Sparrows, the enemies of our fine songbird. Thus, poorly maintained Bluebird projects may actually be doing our "bird of happiness" a disfavour.

Selective disease attacks elms but not maples, chestnuts but not oaks, rabbits but not sheep. Thus, it should be possible to find a natural germ that kills imported pesky birds and then produce a virulent strain of that germ. Then artificial nesting sites would become obsolete because all natural cavities would be available to Purple Martins, Great-crested Flycatchers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Wood Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, etc. I am operating a successful Bluebird trail, but Bluebird trails are not the answer.

Maitland River Bird Observatory - from John Mills

Here are the spring banding totals from John's area on the Maitland River, about five miles west of Wingham. The area consists of five acres of river bottom comprised mainly of white cedar, hemlock, and dogwoods. Banding was carried out from April 3rd to June 27th with up to twenty-two mist nets and one house trap.

Killdeer	1	Blue-winged Warbler	1
Spotted Sandpiper	1	Tennessee Warbler	30
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	Orange-crowned Warbler	2
Screech Owl	1	Nashville Warbler	2
Belted Kingfisher	2	Yellow Warbler	6
Common Flicker	3	Magnolia Warbler	39
Pileated Woodpecker	2	Cape May Warbler	39
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	Black-throated Blue Warbler	5
Hairy Woodpecker	4	Yellow-rumped Warbler	28
Downy Woodpecker	6	Black-throated Green Warbler	8
Eastern Kingbird	4	Blackburnian Warbler	12
Great-crested Flycatcher	15	Chestnut-sided Warbler	2
Eastern Phoebe	1	Bay-breasted Warbler	34
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2	Black Poll Warbler	4
Traill's Flycatcher	1	Palm Warbler	1
Least Flycatcher	21	Oven-bird	14
Eastern Wood Pewee	7	Northern Water-thrush	4
Olive-sided Flycatcher	2	Mourning Warbler	5
Bank Swallow	4	Northern Yellow-throat	13
Rough-winged Swallow	4	Wilson's Warbler	2
Barn Swallow	3	Canada Warbler	12
Blue Jay	8	American Redstart	7
Black-capped Chickadee	5	Bobolink	2
White-breasted Nuthatch	2	Red-winged Blackbird	41
Brown Creeper	4	Baltimore Oriole	53
House Wren	2	Common Grackle	12
Catbird	45	Cowbird	50
American Robin	24	Scarlet Tanager	18
Wood Thrush	7	Cardinal	1
Hermit Thrush	2	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	36
Swainson's Thrush	45	Indigo Bunting	3
Grey-cheeked Thrush	2	American Goldfinch	43
Veery	9	Savannah Sparrow	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	Dark-eyed Junco	39
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	4	Tree Sparrow	15
Cedar Waxwing	36	White-crowned Sparrow	4
Common Starling	2	White-throated Sparrow	8
Red-eyed Vireo	14	Lincoln's Sparrow	6
Philadelphia Vireo	2	Swamp Sparrow	6
Warbling Vireo	9	Song Sparrow	42
Black and White Warbler	9		
Golden-winged Warbler	2		

From American Birds -
Kirtland's Warbler Recovery

A Kirtland's Warbler was a window casualty in Cincinatti on September 27, 1975. Records indicate that the bird, a male, was banded as a nestling four years earlier south east of Mio, Michigan, was retrapped and colour-banded in Michigan two years later and some twenty miles north of its hatching location, and had successfully mated. This record is apparently the first recovery of a banded Kirtland's Warbler outside of Michigan.

Prince Edward Point Observatory -

The 1976 meeting of the O.B.B.A. was eventful in that the new Prince Edward Point Observatory was represented by Fred Cooke and Ron Weir, and a report was presented. The following is an excerpt from the 1975 Report, first printed in The Blue Bill, Vol. 22, No. 4, December, 1975.

Since the KFN-Parks Canada signing of the five-year license for the P.E. Pt. lighthouse in the spring of 1975, much progress has been made in getting our Observatory into operation. The vigour and vitality that the KFN applied to the first season's operation have been remarkable. Interior renovation of the vacant lighthouse was spear-headed by Gord McGibbon and his workers during the late spring and summer. Netting and banding were started in mid-August and were mainly confined to weekends due to the daily work commitments of most participants. By early November, our netting activities had all but ceased mainly due to the lack of heating in the lighthouse.

Two projects were carried out away from P.E. Pt. itself. The first involved banding in July of 74 Canada Geese and Mallards on Amherst Island by Helen Quilliam and Bob Stewart. These birds were all raised in captivity, many of them by Jeff Matthews at Wemp's, and after banding were released to the wild. It will be interesting to see if the Canada Geese can sustain a breeding colony. The second project was aimed at the shorebird migrants in the Amherstview Lagoon. We hope to learn something of the moult sequence, age and sex breakdown of these migrants and to try to determine what differences exist between these and the shorebirds choosing the coastal route from Canada/U.S.A. to South America. Highlights of the banding were the Godwits and Phil Little's nearly becoming permanently embedded in the mud and ooze.

At P.E. Pt. itself, 2,034 individual birds were banded representing 99 species. Excluding those retrapped on the same day as original banding, some 68 retraps are in our records. The summary table of all those banded is given below, Table 1. One can observe visually the high turnover of migrants through P.E. Pt. as wave after wave flies into the harbour area from locations further west. This becomes quite obvious as one tends the mist nets in that area. The retrap data bears this out. The heavy invasion (1,000's) of Black-capped Chickadees was a typical example. Of the 338 banded, there were only 10 retraps. Saw-whets were even more elusive. Stopover times of some retraps were interesting. One Hermit Thrush was banded on August 28th (then in heavy moult) and retrapped September 20th. Another was banded on September 13th and retrapped October 19th. The Swainson's Thrush banded on August 24th must have enjoyed its experience since it was retrapped on August 28th again on September 6th and retrapped on October 18th.

TABLE 1 - Birds banded summer and autumn, 1975

Canada Goose	24	Swainson's Thrush	213
Mallard	50	Gray-cheeked Thrush	/
Sharp-shinned Hawk	10	Veery	27
Broad-winged Hawk	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	56
Semipalmated Plover	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	74
Killdeer	6	Water Pipit	2
Black-bellied Plover	1	Cedar Waxwing	4
American Woodcock	1	Solitary Vireo	13
Common Snipe	1	Red-eyed Vireo	63
Spotted Sandpiper	1	Philadelphia Vireo	9
Lesser Yellowlegs	10	Warbling Vireo	1
Pectoral Sandpiper	71	Black & White Warbler	16
White-rumped Sandpiper	5	Tennessee Warbler	1
Least Sandpiper	4	Nashville Warbler	11
Dunlin	24	Yellow Warbler	12
Semipalmated Sandpiper	101	Magnolia Warbler	70
Hudsonian Godwit	20	Cape May Warbler	10
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	Black-throated Blue Warbler	31
Black-billed Cuckoo	5	Yellow-rumped Warbler	134
Screech Owl	1	Black-throated Green Warbler	8
Long-eared Owl	1	Blackburnian Warbler	5
Saw-whet Owl	83	Chestnut-sided Warbler	13
Whip-poor-will	4	Bay-breasted Warbler	49
Common Flicker	1	Blackpoll Warbler	17
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	4	Ovenbird	41
Hairy Woodpecker	1	Northern Waterthrush	11
Downy Woodpecker	5	Mourning Warbler	2
Eastern Kingbird	2	Common Yellowthroat	7
Great Crested Flycatcher	6	Wilson's Warbler	14
Eastern Phoebe	2	Canada Warbler	22
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	15	American Redstart	22
Traill's Flycatcher	8	Red-winged Blackbird	3
Least Flycatcher	57	Northern Oriole	1
Eastern Wood Pewee	18	Rusty Blackbird	2
Empidonax	1	Scarlet Tanager	17
Bank Swallow	1	Cardinal	1
Barn Swallow	17	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	21
Blue Jay	12	Purple Finch	6
Black-capped Chickadee	338	American Goldfinch	19
Boreal Chickadee	2	Rufous-sided Towhee	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	6	Savannah Sparrow	10
Red-breasted Nuthatch	26	Grasshopper Sparrow	1
Brown Creeper	105	Dark-eyed Junco	12
House Wren	1	Tree Sparrow	6
Winter Wren	11	Chipping Sparrow	2
Gray Catbird	9	White-throated Sparrow	76
Brown Thrasher	2	Lincoln's Sparrow	7
American Robin	7	Swamp Sparrow	1
Wood Thrush	4	Song Sparrow	60
Hermit Thrush	58		

Editorial -

Many of you will be saddened to hear that our Treasurer Heather Howkins is moving to New Jersey. Heather has been a dedicated volunteer and active bander, and we shall all miss her good company. Your Editor has taken on the Treasurer's duties.

I am repeating the usual appeal for material. My banding news for future Newsletters has reached an all-time low.

David Broughton