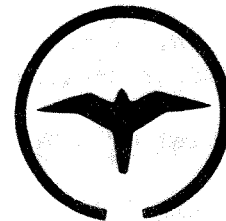


# ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

1976

NOVEMBER MEETING - On Monday, November 22, at 8.00 P.M. at the home of Ted Dinniwell, 7 Esquire Place, Hamilton, (389-3416). This will be a members night. Come and tell us about your current project, or bring some slides (good or bad) for us to identify.

## REPORT ON THE LUTHER MARSH CANOE TRIP - July 11, 1976

The Luther Marsh Canoe Trip, on July 11, started off with that atmosphere of cheerful confusion so characteristic of all arrangements made personally by the President; in this case, unbeknown to us, the Hamilton Naturalist's were also holding a canoe outing at the same time and it took some time to disentangle our canoeists from theirs, especially as we wanted to go in opposite directions. Ultimately we set out from a gravel track known locally as the Bootlegger's Road (a reminder that, whatever prevails in the effete suburbs of Toronto, free enterprise is not entirely dead in Wellington County) and proceeded alongside Big Island, where Black Terns dive-bombed us and Long-billed Marsh Wrens sang in the cat-tails. From there we inspected the now-defunct site of the Heronry, and paddled around Heron Island to see whether the Wilson's Phalaropes were there. In fact they were not, but by way of compensation a Red-necked Grebe surfaced right in front of us; Luther is now probably the only regular breeding site for this species in Southern Ontario. Small flocks of Gadwall were everywhere - this duck has increased amazingly at Luther, and from being a rare breeder is now perhaps the second or third most abundant nesting species. We then went over to Esker Island, one of the few on which dry-shod landing is possible, and ate our lunch. The meal was enlivened by a second Red-necked Grebe swimming nearby. The sky was now threatening thunder, but we set out in an attempted circumnavigation of the North Bog, an attempt which foundered as we became entangled in a drowned cedar forest. Distant views were had of the new location of the Heronry and it appeared that nesting success had been good, with two or three well-grown young in each nest. In view of the weather, and time, we decided that rather than cross the main body of the lake to look at the Phalaropes on Prairie Island, we would stay in the sheltered waters west of Big Island. On the way back to the cars we had a good view of one of the new Osprey eyries (again, a species which is doing very well at Luther; from 1960 to 1974 there was one breeding pair, in 1975 two, and this year at least three).

Luther Marsh is without doubt the best inland marsh in Ontario - in fact, arguably the best marsh altogether - and it is fortunate that it is now getting the protection it deserves. It makes for a very good canoe trip; in order to protect the breeding birds, the owners, the Grand River Conservation Authority, now allow boats on the lake during the breeding season only with prior written permission. The success of this policy was evident during our trip.

## BANDING EQUIPMENT

I am going to try to publicize sources of banding equipment in North America. The only Canadian source of mist nets that I know of is Conservation Enterprises, owned by Kathleen Wasserfall. In addition to the supplies listed below she also sells top

quality bird seed. You can get more information from Conservation Enterprises, 58 Edgar Ave., Thornhill, Ontario (phone 416-221-2304).

LIST OF NETS

NYLON FOWLING NETS (- 4 SHELVED, BLACK DYED)

REGULAR NYLON NETS

70D/2-2LP	1" mesh	2 x 9 metre	\$ 7.50
"	1½" mesh	2 x 9 metre	6.00
"	1½" mesh	2 x 12½ metre	7.00
110D/2-2LP	2½" mesh	2 x 9 metre	8.00
"	2½" mesh	2 x 12½ metre	9.00
"	2½" mesh	2.6 x 12½ metre	9.50
210D/3-3LP	3-15/16" mesh	2.7 x 18 metre	21.00

NYLON TETHERED TOP NETS

70D/2-2LP	1½" mesh	7 x 30 feet	8.75
110D/2-2LP	2-3/8" mesh	7 x 42 feet	10.00

Sectional steel Poles, ½" x 5', 4 pieces to one set are \$7.00 per set. They can also be cut to any other specification.

RETURNS OF INTEREST - from Dennis Rupert

RED-TAILED HAWK - (Band no. 737-02944) Banded near Fingall, November 13, 1970 CHYU), recovered 5 miles S.E. of Thamesville, December 1974. The hawk was shot.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK - (Band no. 1013-44321) Banded at Point Pelee, September 18, 1973 (HYM), found dead near Haliburton, June, 1975.

EDITORIAL -

I have received a note regarding the article "Gull Becomes a Goose" in the July-September newsletter. The writer points out the distinct possibility that the error lies with the banding office or bander. He recalls finding a dead Red-Phase Screech Owl that was banded and promptly reported the recovery. The C.W.S. forwarded a certificate informing him that it was a Ring-Billed Gull!! Moral - check your banding schedules!

I am always in need of banding news. I would especially like to receive information on various suppliers of banding material.

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