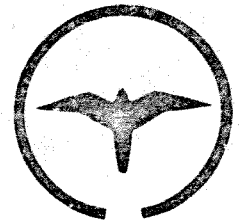


ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION



1979 1980
DECEMBER - JANUARY 1979 NEWSLETTER

WINTER BANDING ACTIVITIES - SNOW BUNTINGS

Are you interested in getting out of the house during those cold winter months? If so, why not spend some time banding Snow Buntings? I am looking for people to assist in a project designed to track the movements of Snow Buntings that move through Southern Ontario during the winter. If you are a licensed bander, or someone who would like to help, but you don't currently have a permit, I would like to hear from you. For those people who do not have a permit, I will try to put you in touch with someone in your area who is involved in this project. This project is not restricted to those living in Southern Ontario; we would like to include anyone who is interested, regardless of his/her locality.

The method that I have found successful over the past two years is to bait an area where the snow blows free, such as the side of a quiet road. Ground traps with dimensions of 4 feet long, 2 feet wide and 1 foot high, made of one-inch square welded wire work well. I have two holes on each side offset from the ones on the opposite side. The holes are 4 inches by 4 inches with a funnel made of one-inch chicken wire, which extends into the trap 6 inches and is tapered to approximately 3 inches. All of my traps have wire floors. There are two holes on the top 10 inches by 10 inches with a wire lid 12 inches by 12 inches to allow the birds to be removed. If you don't have long arms, it would be a good idea to either shorten the length of the traps to 3 feet or install a separator.

Perhaps you have some ideas of your own that you would like to pass on to other members. If you do, or would like to be part of this project in any way, please write to Peter Lockhart, 86-520 Rossland Rd. E., Oshawa, Ont., L1G 2X5, telephone (416) 579-1185.

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR BIRD PROJECTS

The James L. Baillie Memorial Fund for Bird Research and Preservation invites applications for grants to support projects on Ontario birds in 1980.

The Fund's aim is to encourage field studies by amateur naturalists and to support projects which increase or disseminate knowledge of birds in their natural environment or contribute to their preservation. Priority will be given to projects which involve volunteer naturalists in research or fieldwork and to applicants who do not have access to other sources of support.

GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR BIRD PROJECTS (cont'd)

Examples of eligible projects might include (but are not limited to) individual or group research by amateur naturalists, distributional or other surveys using information contributed by volunteers, analysis and publication of data gathered by bird watchers (e.g. Christmas Bird Counts), and publication of local guides or checklists.

Grants will not normally exceed \$750.00. Applications are due by December 31, 1979, and should be submitted on application forms obtainable from the Secretary, James L. Baillie Memorial Fund, c/o Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 170, Port Rowan, Ontario, NOE 1M0.

The James L. Baillie Memorial Fund approved five applications totalling about \$3,000 in 1979. The Fund is financed in part from the proceeds of the Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Count (Baillie Birdathon). Donations to the Fund are tax deductible and may be sent to the address given above.

PROJECT INFORMATION REQUESTED

The 1980 edition of the Directory to Co-operative Naturalists' Projects in Ontario is now being compiled. The Directory is designed to publicize volunteer naturalists' projects and attract wider participation in them. Selected project descriptions are published in the Nature Projects section in the Ontario Naturalist, as well as being included in the Directory.

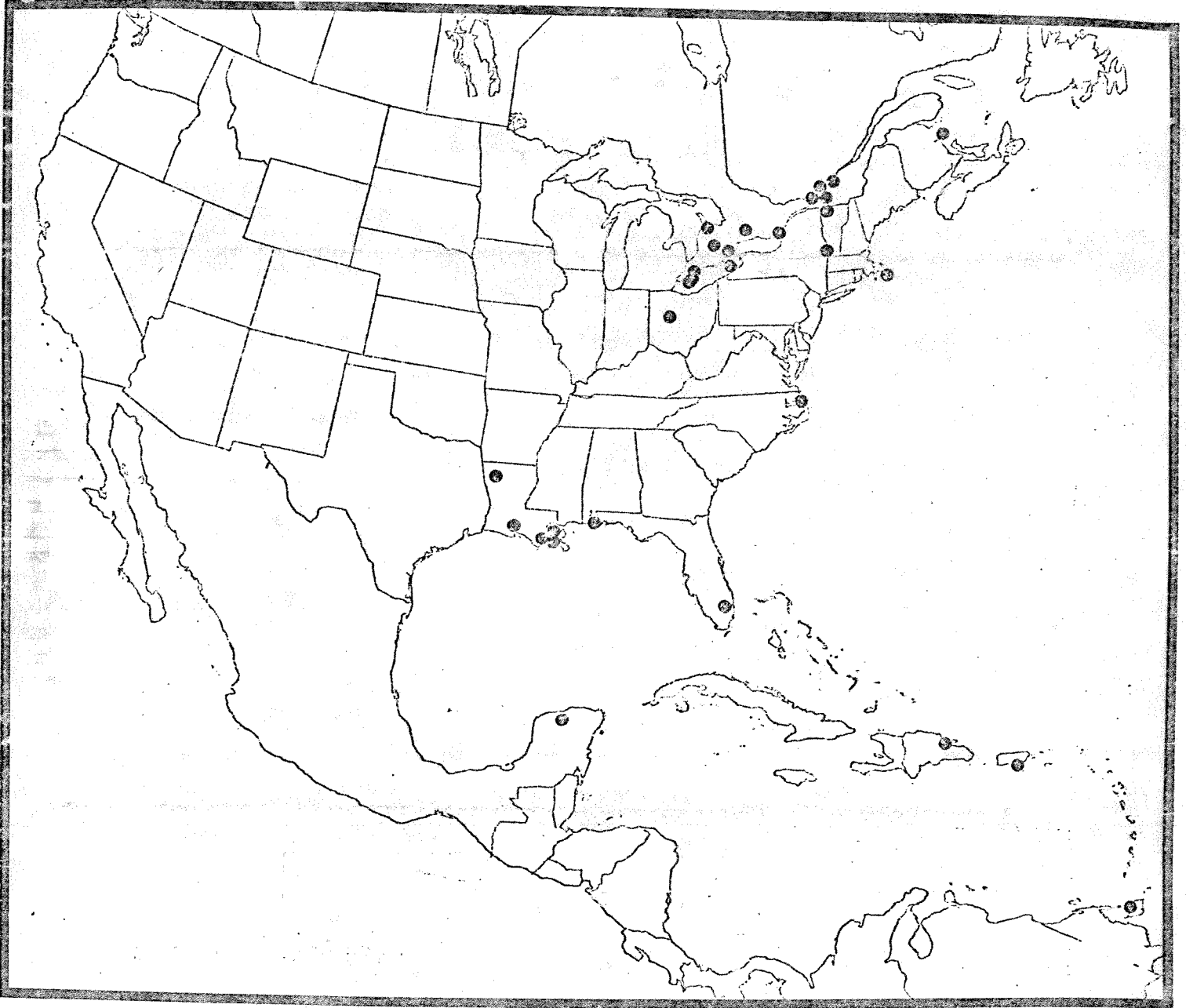
Examples of projects in the 1979 Directory include Christmas Bird Counts, inventories of natural areas, and county plant and bird checklists. Most projects were bird studies, but there was an increase in projects on other subjects, and it is hoped that this trend will continue.

If you are undertaking a project which you think may benefit from inclusion in the 1980 Directory, please send information on your project to the Editor by December 31, 1979. Project descriptions should preferably be submitted on questionnaire forms obtainable from David J. T. Hussell, Editor, Directory to Co-operative Naturalists' Projects, Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario NOE 1M0.

IBBA - INLAND BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

The Inland Bird Banding Association is now publishing an excellent quarterly newsletter full of interesting notes on bird banding, trapping techniques, recoveries, personal sketches and notes on the literature. A subscription to IBBA (\$10.00 per annum) brings this and the quarterly journal "Inland Bird Banding". The membership secretary is Mrs. Willetta Lueshen, R.2 Box 26, Wisner, Nebraska, 68791, U.S.A. We strongly encourage members of OBBA to join our sister organization.

RECOVERIES OF BLUE-WINGED TEAL (ANAS DISCORS)
BANDED AT MOUNTSBERG, ONT.



This computer-generated map shows all recoveries of Blue-winged Teal (*anas discors*) received up until May, 1979 which were banded at the Mountsberg Wildlife Centre, R.R. #2, Campbellville, Ontario (approximately 65 km west of Toronto).

About 1,200 Teal have been banded since operations began at Mountsberg four years ago; however, no recoveries have been received for the 1979 season, so the recovery locations indicated really only represent recoveries from about 900 banded birds.

ONTARIO RAPTORS ASSOCIATION

The Ontario Raptors Assogation has a very commendable project. Using pigeon-baited Swedish Goshawk traps, they are catching owls and hawks on pheasant and game farms. Thus, they are saving many raptors from the irate farmers who would otherwise be using shotguns and pole traps. The trapped birds are transported to Toronto to be released after being banded by some of our members. The banding can be useful in persuading the farmer that the hawks do not immediately return to kill his pheasants.

NOTICE OF MOTION

At the next Annual Meeting of OBBA, I shall move, or cause to be moved, the following ammendment to our Constitution:

On page 2, under the heading "Officers and Management" add the following sentence to the end of Item 8:

"The offices of Membership Secretary and Treasurer may be combined in one person".

Harold Richards

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MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY NEW YEAR, GOOD BIRDING, AND PLEASE KEEP
SENDING NEWSLETTER MATERIAL.

Peter Lockhart

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