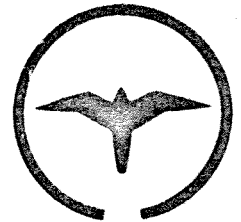


ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION



APRIL - MAY 1979 NEWSLETTER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: MARCH 3, 1979

The annual general meeting was held on Saturday, March 3, 1979 at the McLaughlin Planetarium, Toronto.

After registration, David Brewer, President, called the meeting to order and asked members and visitors to introduce themselves. David Broughton, Vice-President summarized the minutes of the 1978 annual general meeting. After minor corrections, these were accepted.

David Brewer gave a combined President's, Editor's and Banding Report. 1978 was noted as a successful but not particularly spectacular year. There had been a small increase in membership (10%) and the banding operations had expanded, notably with the operation of the new Toronto Bird Observatory. The journal is being published on schedule and copies of the latest issue were available at the meeting. Dr. Brewer and Dr. Tony Salvadori now have access to banding records from 1921 to the present and will be summarizing the information from all of Canada. A first report should be ready in six months.

Warren Russell gave the Treasurer's report noting a successful year financially.

STATION REPORTS

David Hussell reported highlights of the Long Point Bird Observatory year, mentioning that 14,026 birds of 141 species had been banded, the third highest total ever. He also expressed a particular desire for all observatories and stations to do more than just band. A great deal of additional data can be gathered and analyzed and would add substantially to information on Ontario birds. Dr. Hussell also mentioned the Jim Baillie Memorial Bird Count and the LPBO annual meeting, both to be held on April 28.

Fred Cooke highlighted the Prince Edward Point Observatory's year which saw 17,023 birds of 143 species banded largely through the work of three summer students hired by the Observatory. He noted particularly that 500-plus acres on the point has been purchased by the Canadian Wildlife Service and is now known as the Prince Edward Point Wildlife Area. A publication on saw-whet owl migration at the point will be appearing shortly.

The Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Station 1978 activities were mentioned briefly by Marshall Field and augmented with a ten minute film from Don and Sheila Fowler. About a thousand fewer hawks were banded in 1978 than in 1977: 2273 in all.

David Broughton presented information on the first year of operation of the Toronto Bird Observatory, noting the problems and successes and also asked for assistance with this year's program from the general membership. Some 1500 birds of 81 species were banded in 1978 and this and other information will appear in the soon-to-be-published first annual report.

Tony Salvadori talked particularly about some of the difficulties experienced by the Guelph Banding Group this past year and emphasized the need for care in recording information. The Guelph Group banded 15,475 birds of 141 species in 1978. They are organizing a gull banding expedition in June after a successful one last year and also will be banding raptors in northern Mexico in December and January.

Dr. Graham Cooch of the Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, discussed what the Bird Banding Office has been working on recently and also asked for greater cooperation from banders in sending in records. Apparently a number of banders have been tardy in doing so and the Banding Office may take drastic action---in fact revoking banding permits. Dr. Cooch also mentioned that a policy on release of banding data will be developed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

David Broughton, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers for 1979 which was accepted by the membership on a motion by Ed Keith, seconded by Murray Speirs:

President:	D. Brewer	
Vice-President I:	P. Lockhart	
" "	II: E. Dunn	Others: D. Hussell
Membership Secretary:	H. Richards	C. Risley
Recording Secretary:	B. Duncan	R. Cartar
Treasurer:	F. Barrett	L. Simser

Following lunch, Gerry McKeating introduced Dr. William Clark, Director of the Raptor Information Center, Washington, D.C.; who presented a slide program on raptor banding at Cape May, New Jersey. This was an excellent presentation showing trapping techniques, the makeup of the fall hawk and owl flights, the general flyways, sex and age ratios of birds caught, and specific information on merlins, the third most common species banded!

After a coffee break, Bruce Duncan gave a presentation on "Banding Returns of Hawks Banded Along the North Shore of Lake Erie.", emphasizing recoveries and retraps by season.

Jim Jones of the University of Toronto presented a paper on "Radiotelemetry Studies of White-throated Sparrows", noting especially the sizes of "singing territories" and the larger "non-singing territories" which overlap other birds' "singing territories".

Bill Clark informed us of the work of the Raptor Information Center through another slide presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15, Mr. F. Barrett was kind enough to offer to host anyone who wished to order a takeout supper and George and Jean Fairfield also invited members to their home for an informal get-together.

Bruce Duncan
(Secretary-Recording)

WINTER BANDING IN DURHAM REGION

- PETER LOCKHART

Two years ago, I started banding Snow Buntings in Whitby Township, Durham Region, in an effort to determine the makeup of the winter population in this area. I also hoped to shed some light on their movements during this period and to determine the breeding locations of this population. During the winter of 1978, I was only able to sex the Snow Buntings. Of the 81 birds that I banded, 51 (63%) were males and 30 (37%) were females.

In addition to the Snow Buntings I also banded 103 Lapland Longspurs and 92 Horned Larks. In spite of the fact that there were many more Buntings present than the other two species, I always seemed to catch less Buntings. The conclusion that I reached is that the Snow Buntings are much more wary of my wire ground traps than were the Longspurs and Horned Larks. It is also interesting to note that the greatest number of Lapland Longspurs that I observed in any flock was 15 and yet on January 29, 1978, I banded 37 and on February 5, 1978, 28. From this I conclude that there are probably a lot more Lapland Longspurs in Southern Ontario during the winter than we had previously realized.

The winter of 1979 was quite different from 1978. Although small flocks of Snow Buntings were seen early the Large flocks did not arrive until the last week in January and were gone again by the early part of March. Although I was only able to band on 4 days the results were much more satisfying than the winter of 1978. I banded 446 individuals including 425 Snow Buntings, 10 Lapland Longspurs and 11 Horned Larks. The Snow Bunting population was made up of 325 (76.5%) males and 100 (23.5%) females. Of the males 227 (69.8%) were AHY and 98 (31.2%) ASY.

A comparison between the retraps of the winter of 1978 and 1979 is also interesting. The 1978 banding period covered 49 elapsed days with activities on 19 days. There were no retraps of Snow Buntings but a Lapland Longspur was retrapped 42 days after being banded on January 21, 1978. Other individual retraps were for periods of 34 days, 28 days, 27 days and 8 individual birds retrapped after 7 days. There were 2 retraps of Horned Larks, 1 after 15 days, the other the day after being banded. The 1979 retraps were not as significant. There were 3 Lapland Longspurs retrapped 6 days after banding and the first retrap of Snow Buntings - 3 individuals retrapped the day after being banded. A preliminary supposition is that the Snow Buntings are continually on the move throughout the winter whereas the Lapland Longspurs and Horned Larks remain in the same area throughout the entire winter.

I would be very interested in hearing from anyone having experiences with banding Snow Buntings during the winter.

COMING EVENTS

May 12, 1978 - Banding Workshop, Lot 27, Conc. 4, Hope Township. Peter Lockhart's swamp. Directions: 401 east to Newtonville Road, (55 miles east of Toronto), North $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to Hwy #2, east 5 miles to Northumberland Road 65, north $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles past first cross roads to property on the left.

June 2, 1978 - Cande Trip to Luther Marsh. Directions: 1 mile south of Monticello, follow the signs north from Hwy #9. Bring your own canoe or call David Brewer at 519-824-4342 to arrange to share one or if you can accommodate a passenger. If weather is windy a hike around Luther Marsh will be held instead. Meet at the dam at 9:00 a.m. Bring a lunch.

June 9, 1978 - Weekend Banding Trip. Toni Salvadori is organising an expedition to the islands in Lake Huron near Southampton to band young Gulls and would appreciate help. This trip will begin on the evening of Friday, June 9, weather permitting. Anybody with a boat and outboard motor will be particularly welcome. Please call Tony at 519-821-2257 at least 2 weeks prior to June 9th.

BANDING RECOVERIES - From the Guelph Group

1087-38577 Mallard HY-M banded at Mountsberg Conservation Area near Campbellville, Ontario, $43^{\circ} 20' N$, $80^{\circ} 00' W$ on October 27, 1976. Shot, band returned, Ocean shores, Washington U.S.A. $46^{\circ} 50' N$, $124^{\circ} 10' W$ on November 19, 1978. This recovery is our first from the Pacific Shore, and in fact is about 20° of longitude further west than any previous recovery from the Guelph Area.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you have not yet paid your 1979 membership dues please send the payment to the Membership Secretary, Harold Richards, 37 Killdeer Crescent, Toronto, Ontario, M4G 2W7. Regular \$6.00, family \$7.00 and Student (under 18) \$2.00. A red mark on your address label indicates that, according to our records, you have not yet paid.

FUTURE NEWSLETTERS

I am in need of articles for future newsletters. Please share your experiences with other members. What have you been doing in the way of banding recently? Do you have any sightings or recoveries that are of interest to others? Are there answers to questions that you would like to see in a newsletter? Do you have any comments (good or bad) about the way in which O.B.B.A. is being operated? Don't be apathetic! Contact the editor of the newsletter and share your thoughts.

Peter Lockhart
86-520 Rossland Road E.
Oshawa, Ontario
L1G 2X5 (416-579-1185)

P.S.: As you may have already noticed, the latest issue of OBB was incorrectly numbered. This issue (Hawk Cliff annual report 1977) is actually Vol. 12, No. 2.