

OBBA Library
Backus House
Box 160
Port Rowan, ON
NOE 1M0

Ontario Bird Banding Association



MARCH 1982 NEWSLETTER

ANNUAL MEETING -- Editor

The 1982 annual meeting was again very successful. The business meeting was well attended, as were the afternoon sessions. All stations reported more or less successful years. The afternoon talks held everyone's interest and once again the evening get-together at Locke House became the perfect ending to an enjoyable day. Detailed minutes will be included in the next newsletter.

BANDING SNOW BUNTINGS NEAR ST. THOMAS -- Marshall Field

In February 1980, I established a location 5 km southeast of St. Thomas, Ontario, for the purpose of banding Snow Buntings. It was situated on a dairy farm, as the manure spreading operation was a great influence in drawing birds into the area. Also, I was able to do the actual banding inside the cattle shed which was a great help especially in severe 'Snow Bunting weather'.

Birds banded between February 2 and March 14, 1980, were: Horned Lark - 13, Snow Bunting - 353, Lapland Longspur - 6, for a total of 372 birds.

The following winter (1981) Bob Hubert of St. Thomas, joined me in the Snow Bunting project at the same location and we used a maximum of four ground traps approximately 60 x 80 cm. White millet was the bait most often used.

Permission was granted by the Canadian Wildlife Service to colour mark Snow Buntings in co-operation with the Master Colour-Marking Project initiated by Peter Lockhart and Don Pope. Our colour of non-toxic dye was pink. The dye was applied to the white secondary wing feathers and allowed to dry before the birds were released. We were able to band and colour-mark 500 Snow Buntings. The response from the local people sighting pink birds was very good, probably as a direct result of the story about the project published in the local paper.

The dispersal pattern from the banding location was primarily in a westerly direction. Many feeding stations within the limits of St. Thomas reported pink birds feeding within a flock. Through personal conversation with Peter Lockhart, I learned that a pink bunting had been retrapped near Barrie in March 1981. At the time of writing, no official word has been received from the Canadian Wildlife Service Banding Office.

Longspurs and Horned Larks were a bonus supplement to the Snow Bunting banding program. One white-faced Lark trapping casualty was sent to the Royal Ontario Museum where it was identified as the Hoyt's subspecies. A high percentage of larks had yellow throats and yellow above the eye; features of the northern race.

Birds banded between January 2 and February 12, 1981 were: Horned Lark - 139
Snow Bunting - 789 (of which 500 were colour marked), Lapland Longspur - 185
for a total of 1,113 birds. To date there have been no recoveries and one
return.

We appreciate the opportunity of trapping birds on the dairy farm of Mr. Bob
Wilson.

UPDATE ON HOUSE FINCH AGEING -- Kathy Klimkiewicz

(from letter January 1982)

Recent evidence indicates male House Finches cannot be aged by covert colour.
Also, early hatched young can undergo a complete post-juvenal moult; therefore
moult of flight feathers cannot be used to age AHY in the fall. House Finches
undergo the post-juvenal moult, partial to complete, July through September.

CALL FOR PRESENTATION OF PAPERS -- JOINT MEETING OF BANDING GROUPS

This is the preliminary announcement of a meeting to be held in November 1982,
which will involve the banding organizations of Michigan, Ohio and Ontario. Our
members have been invited to submit papers, as indicated below.

Avifauna researchers, especially those utilizing leg banding or other marking
techniques, are invited to submit short abstracts for oral presentations.
Especially sought are stimulating presentations of either technical or general
interest, 10 - 20 minutes in length - though longer papers may be considered.
Use of slides or other audio-visual support is recommended. Meeting location
will be in southeastern Michigan. Deadline for submission of abstracts is
June 1, 1982. Send abstract and background information for speaker's
introduction to Michigan Bird Banding Association, c/o Mr. Richard Wolinski,
3143 Braeburn Circle Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48105, U.S.A.

REQUEST FOR SLIDES

Many of you may know that the Royal Ontario Museum's Department of Ornithology
has a large slide collection. Many of the birds of the world are represented.
The collection is used primarily for research presentations but the slides can
also be checked out by the general public for their own use. Unfortunately,
the passerines of Ontario are badly represented in the collection, with the
slides of many species being simply photographs of paintings. In addition there
are few photographs of birds in their natural habitats. As bird-banders are
often photographers, and many take several slides of the birds they have banded
the ROM is requesting from banders donations of any unwanted bird slides of
reasonable quality for the collection. Please send slides to: Dr. Ross James,
Dept. of Ornithology, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park Cresc., Toronto,
Ontario. M5S 2C6

TORONTO BIRD OBSERVATORY ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The 1982 Annual Meeting of the Toronto Bird Observatory will be held at 8.00 pm on 21 April 1982 in Room 432 of the Ramsey Wright Zoology Building (located on the corner of Harbord St. and St. George). All members and interested public are invited. The agenda for the evening includes a short business meeting to elect new directors, some presentations on various bird studies and a mystery bird slide quiz. Refreshments will be provided. For more information contact: Chris Risley (416) 883-4689.

ONTARIO ORNITHOLOGISTS' MEETING

This year's Ontario Ornithologists' meeting will be at the University of Guelph in conjunction with the Ontario Ecology and Ethology Colloquium (OEEC). The meeting will be on Wednesday, 28 April, in the Botany, Genetics and Zoology Building. Registration will be that morning. The OEEC will be on 27-28 April; if you would like more information about the OEEC program, accommodations etc, please contact Dr. David Noakes, Dept. of Zoology, University of Guelph, N1G 2W1.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT THE SHIELD CENTRE

Two positions are available for year-round staff naturalists to assist in organizing and supervising participant-funded field studies. Location: just west of Algonquin Provincial Park. Duties include: 1) supervising established programs, ie, breeding bird studies, migration counts, nest records etc. 2) design and direct original program of field studies for the centre. Experience: previous work on field studies, ability to identify species, teaching/natural history interpretation, bird banding experience a definite plus. Salary negotiable, based on qualifications and experience. For information contact: Ron Storey, P.O. Box 961, Haliburton, Ontario KOM 1S0 Telephone (705) 448-2602.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

BIRDS OF POINT PELEE -- Alan Wormington

The Birds of Point Pelee is a planned major publication which will detail the abundance, timing of migration, nidiology, migration behaviour etc. of Pelee's 350 bird species, in addition to introductory chapters on ornithological history, Point Pelee habitats and special features, and an indepth review of migration patterns in this region. The study area is the present Christmas Bird Count 15 mile diameter circle which compasses Point Pelee National Park, Wheatley Provincial Park, and all of Leamington and Wheatley.

Observers are requested to BRING their field notes to the Park Visitor Centre AT ANY TIME where relevant information will be extracted. This method has been found to be the least time consuming for everyone concerned, taking no longer than one to three hours, even for those with years of field notes. (If this is not

feasible, contact the organizer).

An open invitation is extended to anyone with an interest to examine the progress of the project thus far.

Contact: Alan Wormington
Visitor Centre
Point Pelee National Park
Leamington, Ontario N8H 3V4
Telephone (519) 326-1124

O.B.B.A. MEMBERS NOT PAID FOR 1981 -- Robert Hubert

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| John Buckalew | William Pepper |
| Ralph Cartar | Lawrence Pharo |
| Michael Clark | Richard Popko |
| Peter Fox | Wm. Rayner |
| Chas. Francis | Tony Roach |
| Mike Furber | Chandler Robbins |
| Colin Griffiths | Les Rutherford |
| William E. Hewitt | L. A. Smith |
| Scott Jones | Doug & Karen Taylor |
| Warren Lamb | Ian Temple |
| Gary Miller & Mary Asselstine | Mr. Benyl B. Thompson |
| Vincent Moase | John & Kathleen Wilson |
| Kevin McLaughlin | Ron Wilton |

All Members listed are requested to pay their 1981 dues. Otherwise you will be dropped from our membership.

ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE IN PORT ROWAN -- Harold Richards

If you are going to Long Point to view wildlife or band birds, there is a new establishment open offering overnight accommodation at a reasonable price.

For more information contact:

Lorraine Towriss Telephone: (519) 586-2441
30 Ellis Street
Port Rowan, Ontario
NOE 1M0

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

LEAST BITTERN STATUS -- Craig Campbell

In 1981 colleagues and I began a survey of the past and current status of the Least Bittern in southern Ontario. We have concentrated our research and field work on the coastal marshes of Lakes St. Clair, Erie and Ontario; we are also interested in changes in its status in nearby Great Lakes areas.

This work has been undertaken with the aid of the Long Point Bird Observatory. Our investigation has centred on field surveys, the Ontario Nest Record Scheme, major collections such as that of the Royal Ontario Museum, historic literature and interviews. Please send information on status and possible factors affecting status to : C. A. Campbell, 294 Albert St., Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3T8.

ROBIN PLUMAGES -- (Rev.) R. Charles Long

About two years ago Harold Richards suggested that perhaps 'Banders' could aid me in my Study of the American Robin especially as it relates to Plumages. It may be a surprise to most to learn that little has been done on Robin plumages, since Jonathan Dwight Jr.'s 1900 'The Sequence of Plumages and moults of the Passerine Birds of New York': 313, 314. There is therefore a pressing need for further study on this topic. In particular it would be appreciated if information on the following parts could be recorded.

- I Head colour
 - a) distinct from back colour (ie. black)
 - b) similar to back colour (ie. olive)
 - c) inner scapular region forming a partial or distinct V.

- II Back colour
 - a) grey
 - b) black

- III Breast colour
 - a) orange
 - b) brick-red (cinnamon)
 - c) with or without
 - i) extensive white edging
 - ii) grey breast band

- IV Bill colour
 - a) horn (=immature and winter)
 - b) dull yellow base with most of bill horn (=1st nuptial plumage)
 - c) yellow with tip horn (=females and most males)
 - d) bright yellow (=males only)

- V Wing coverts
 - a) reduced
 - b) extensive
 - c) whitish
 - d) buff
 - e) orange centre

- VI Molt
 - a) extent of molt (e.g. # of feathers lost, replaced)
 - b) shape of feather

- VII Wing measurement (flattened only) please note wear

- VIII Tail spot
 - a) length from inner most point of white to termination of tail

- IX Culmen length

- X Miscellaneous behavioural notes

All who participate will be duly acknowledged.

O.B.B.A. Baillie Birdathon Birder -- Chris Risley

Dear O.B.B.A. Member:

This year I will be taking part in the Baillie Birdathon on May 1, at Long Point. As the official club representative I would like your support in helping me raise funds for the O.B.B.A. and bird conservation.

I will be identifying as many species as I can and I would like you to sponsor me for any amount per species that I count that day. A 15¢ a species pledge would thus be worth \$15.00 if I count 100 species.

This year I'll have some tough competition, in that Roger Tory Peterson is participating but I think I can do just as well or better than him. I'll be using his new book and more importantly I know a few good spots he doesn't know. If my past counts at this early date are any example, I expect I'll see about 90 to 95 species but of course I'll be trying hard to see more.

I hope you will seriously consider sponsoring me (use the tear-off coupon below). Your pledge will benefit both the O.B.B.A. (we receive a percentage) and the bird conservation efforts of the Baillie Fund and the Long Point Bird Observatory. After the count, I will send all my sponsors a letter with a list of the birds I recorded and an account of my day.

Chris Risley.

Tear off and mail to:

Chris Risley
151 Ruggles Avenue
Richmond Hill, Ontario
L4C 1Y3

(Please mail before 25 April)

I pledge _____ for every species identified by Chris Risley in the May 1 Baillie Birdathon at Long Point.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please check here if you wish a receipt for tax purposes

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 1982, PLEASE DO SO NOW!!

ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

I wish to begin/renew membership in the Ontario Bird Banding Association in the class of membership checked below:

- Regular \$8 Family \$10 Student \$2

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTAL CODE _____

Make cheques payable to: ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION and mail to Mr. Bob Hubert, OBBA Membership Secretary, 10 Paulson Ct., St. Thomas, Ont. N5R 1M9.

We would appreciate your giving us the following information:

Please indicate whether you belong to any of the following organizations:

- Toronto Bird Observatory
 Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Station
 Prince Edward Point Observatory (= Kingston Field Naturalists)
 Long Point Bird Observatory

If you belong to LPBO and OBBA, you receive 2 copies of the LPBO Annual Report. If you wish to receive only one copy, check here:

Please check if you currently hold a Canadian banding permit: master permit
 sub-permit

If you are not now a member of a bird observatory, but would like to be, you may join at the same time as you join or renew OBBA membership, by checking off the appropriate boxes below. Write a single cheque or money order to OBBA for the entire amount due both to OBBA and the bird observatory(s) joined, and mail to the OBBA Membership Secretary (address above).

| <u>Observatory</u> | <u>Membership fees</u> | <u>Membership benefits</u> |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Long Point Bird Observatory | <input type="checkbox"/> Regular \$15 <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$18 <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Retired \$6 | 3 newsletters, annual report, chance to attend annual meeting and banquet and to participate in volunteer program. |
| Toronto Bird Observatory | <input type="checkbox"/> Regular \$5 <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$8 | Newsletters, annual report, chance to participate in volunteer program. |
| Prince Edward Point Observatory | <input type="checkbox"/> Regular \$6 <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$8 <input type="checkbox"/> PEPO special report only, \$1.25 | 4 issues of "Bluebill", plus special issue for PEPO annual report; meetings, chance to participate in KFN and PEPO activities. |
| Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Station | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting \$5 | Newsletters, chance to support one of Canada's few raptor study stations. (Annual report published in OBBA journal). |

