

ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

Observatories: Long Point Bird Observatory, Point Pelee Bird Observatory, Publication: Ontario Bird Banding

FEBRUARY 1985

Please send articles
David Lambie, Editor,
4-64 Cedar Street,
Guelph, Ontario, N1G 1C5

OBBA 1985 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, 9 March 1985

Royal Ontario Museum Planetarium Auditorium
Queen's Park Crescent, Toronto

AGENDA

9:15 - 9:45	Registration
9:45 - 9:50	Welcome and Introductory Remarks
9:50 - 10:00	President's Report -- Peter Lockhart
10:00 - 10:10	Treasurer's Report -- Bob or Fran Hubert
10:10 - 10:20	Editor's Report -- Bruce Duncan
10:20 - 10:30	Election of Executive Committee Members -- Bruce Duncan
10:30 - 10:45	Coffee

STATION REPORTS

10:45 - 10:55	Guelph Banding Station	-- David Brewer
10:55 - 11:05	Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Station	-- Don Fowler
11:05 - 11:15	Long Point Bird Observatory	-- David Shepherd
11:15 - 11:25	Ottawa Bird Observatory	-- Joanne Dean or Rick Poulin
11:25 - 11:35	Prince Edward Point	-- Ron Weir or designate
11:35 - 11:45	Southwestern Bird Observatory	-- Ed Keith
11:45 - 11:55	Toronto Bird Observatory	-- George Fairfield

11:55 - 13:30

LUNCHINVITED SPEAKERS

13:30- 13:50	Banding Situation in Canada	-- Steve Wendt, CWS Ottawa
13:50 - 14:10	OBBA'S Snow Bunting Project	-- Wayne Ferguson
14:10 - 14:20	OBBA'S House Finch Project	-- Erica Dunn
14:20 - 14:40	MNR Trumpeter Swan Project	-- Harry Lumsden
14:40 - 15:00	Banding Forest Birds in Malaysia	-- Charles Francis

An evening social function will be held at Locke House,
FON headquarters, time and other details to be announced
at the meeting.

ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

1984 12 31

	<u>1984</u>	<u>1983</u>
RECEIPTS		
Memberships:		
family	1118.26	290.00
single	484.00	657.00
student	28.00	18.00
	<u>1,630.26</u>	<u>965.00</u>
U.S. exchange	52.62	18.67
Donations	243.00	--
Birdathons	156.49	38.37
Annual General Meeting:		
Registration	192.50	134.00
Snow bunting draw	44.00	--
Sale of drinks	11.00	--
Sale of journals	79.25	66.77
Bank interest	42.32	55.61
Jim Baillie Fund	275.00	--
	<u>2,726.44</u>	<u>1,278.42</u>

EXPENSES		
Postage	397.41	850.04
Bank charges	36.60	19.20
Supplies	70.90	2.33
Journals/newsletters	1,143.97	1,293.06
Annual General Meeting:		258.97
travel	50.00	
drinks	11.00	
rental of room	80.00	
F.O.N. - Locke House	25.00	
Membership F.O.N.	25.00	25.00
	<u>1,839.88</u>	<u>2,448.60</u>
	886.56	(1,170.18)
Balance forward, end of previous year	<u>227.22</u>	<u>1,397.40</u>
Balance, December 31	<u>1,113.78</u>	<u>227.22</u>

Memberships	152	144
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Bank Accounts:	
Chequing	\$402.89
Savings	710.89
	<u>\$1,113.78</u>

Audited and found correct.
D. E. Fowler,
January 11, 1985.

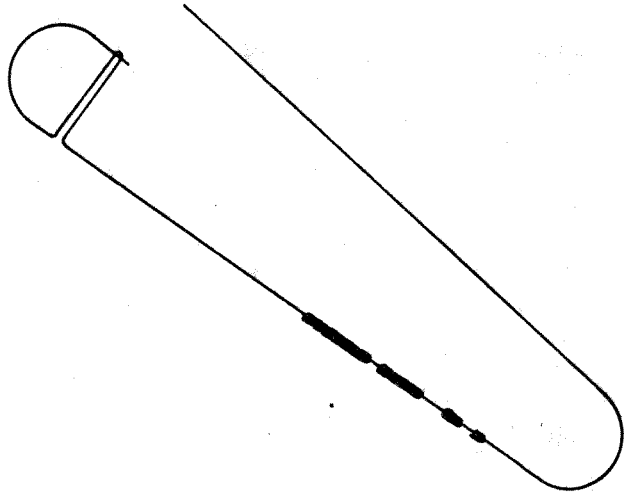
PASSING OF AN OBBA FOUNDER

October 15, 1984 was a particularly sad day for the OBBA . On that day W.W.H. (Bill) Gunn passed away. Bill Gunn had been one of the original members of OBBA and his work on bird songs made an important contribution to the knowledge of each of us who work with birds. This is not the place to outline all of Bill's contributions. It simply acknowledges our debt to Bill Gunn and our condolences to his family. To each of Bill's friends and each family member we send our love and support.

BEATING THE BANDS ---Dr. W.D. McIlveen

In the December, 1984 Newsletter, Bruce Duncan discussed briefly, a method of controlling bands on the original wire or string as the bands come from the bird-banding office. I would like to share the method that I use to control my bands. Basically, the technique involves placing the bands on large "safety pins" with separate pins for each band size. The "safety pins" are constructed from wire coat hangers, so the cost is negligible. The hook, along with the twisted section, is cut from the coat hanger and discarded. The larger piece is straightened as much as possible. It is then bent as shown, starting at the folded notch. The smooth, rounded curves can be achieved by bending the wire around an object, like a small jar or can with a diameter of 3 to 4 cm. The smooth curve is needed to allow the smaller bands, in particular, to slide smoothly on the wire. The ends are cut to length and filed to remove any sharp edges.

Save the finest wire for the smallest wire for the smallest bands. Slide the bands onto the completed pin, the last to be used first. A tag can be added to the top to identify the size of band on the pin. The bands can be taken from the completed pin, one at a time, as needed. The pins can be hung on the wall, if you have a permanent banding shelter or they can be maintained in individual pockets of a canvas roll-up kit, such as mechanics use for their wrenches.



EDITOR'S NOTE : This is the type of "band-control" system I use and I agree with Dr. McIlveen, it is simple and cheap . I do not use coat-hanger wire, however, I find welding rod cheap and easily available at welding outlets.

WEIGHT-WATCHERS FOR BIRDS ?????

Western Bird Banding has announced the availability of its monograph Body Weights of 686 Species of North American Birds by John B. Dunning Jr. This compilation covers most of the birds regularly occurring north of Mexico. It is arranged in 6th edition AOU checklist order and is available for \$15.00 (U.S.) prepaid for 5 copies or \$3.75 (U.S.) for a single copy. Orders may be directed to : John Truan, Assistant Treasurer, WBBA,
3314 W. Glenn Drive,
Phoenix, AZ, 85021,

A LONG-DISTANCE RECOVERY -- David Brewer

Black-capped Chickadees are the mainstay of many a back-yard banding station. Fearless, gluttonous and easily caught, it is at times, a problem to keep them out of the traps. In the eyes of most banders, they have, in fact, only one major drawback -- **they never go anywhere**. Indeed, the only Canadian species which is less prone to migrate is probably the Labrador Duck. This extreme sedentarioussness is borne out by the recoveries in the Canadian banding records. Over 99% of the thousand-odd recoveries show **zero** movement.

However, from time to time , at rare and irregular intervals, wanderlust does seize a portion, at least, of the Black-capped Chickadee population and substantial -- sometimes spectacular -- flocks can be seen at such places as Pelee or Long Point, often in the company of Boreal Chickadees. In fact, three of the four long-distance recoveries of this species in Ontario occurred during just such an event ; all were banded at Pelee and retrapped at Long Point during a major chickadee movement in 1962. Despite this, most bird-banders are resigned to the fact that the chickadees they band today will continue to infest their banding stations, setting off their Potter traps and scaring away other species, until they die of old age.

It therefore, came as something of a surprise for me to receive a recovery notice of a Black-capped Chickadee, banded on November 18, 1983 , being retrapped by the Ottawa Banding Group on the following May 17. The distance travelled was approximately 400 Km (250 miles). I had, in fact, noticed what may have been a minor influx of chickadees at the time of banding. This manifested itself in the appearance of a considerable number of unbanded birds in a population which is normally almost entirely banded by mid-October. The implication of this is that there may have been a small movement of , presumably, birds of a more northerly origin in the late fall of 1983 and that the Ottawa group intercepted one of these birds on its return journey to points unknown. A corollary of this is, should we again see a major flight of chickadees, a concentrated and organized banding effort, **Province-wide** , might well yield some very interesting results.

UNOFFICIAL BIRD BANDS --- Bruce Duncan

For banders who are questioned about bands not issued by Fish and Wildlife Service, the following information may be of use.

Racing pigeons are outfitted with solid aluminum or plastic-coated aluminum bands of varying colours -- pink, blue and metal are ones I have seen. The bands have no address but instead have CU , CRPU , PB or PBE indicating "Canadian Union", "Canadian Racing Pigeon Union" and (now I'm guessing) "Pigeon Band" and "Pigeon Band E _____". Other initials, such as, HAM MT (Hamilton Mountain) or WW (Waterloo-Wellington) indicate the club, the owner belongs to. Often, the year of hatch of the bird is given (e.g. 77 or 78) and an owner number as well.

I have been told that there is no return address because lost pigeons are not wanted: if they fail to come home once, they may do it again and so are not the most desirable stock to maintain. The solid bands are, of course, slipped over the feet of nestlings at an early age.

(UNOFFICIAL BIRD BANDS CONTINUED)

Occasionally, I have been asked about aluminum butt-end bands that have a number (e.g. 176) and nothing else. These have been used for pheasants and even some domestic fowl, and during 1980 and 1981 were placed on some raptors trapped at Toronto International Airport by the bird control contractors and released elsewhere. The Ministry of Natural Resources at Maple can provide information on hawks with these bands. I have removed the butt-end bands and placed FWS lock-on bands on the Red-tailed Hawks I've retrapped.

I know of one other butt-end aluminum band with a number plus "GRCA Cambridge Ont" on it. These are used on pheasants, ducks and geese raised at Fairlake Wildlife Management Area and later released by the Grand River Conservation Authority throughout the watershed of the Grand River.

Does anyone else know of other "unofficial" bands in use? I would be interested in such information and urge you to write the Newsletter Editor.

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
HAWK AND OWL REMOVAL AND BANDING

--- Bruce Duncan

On 17 occasions, beginning in February, 1982, John Slaytor and Wilf Emonts, who were contracted by Toronto (now Pearson) International Airport to control birds, brought to me live-trapped hawks and owls for banding. A total of 127 raptors of 4 species (see Table I) were banded at that time and released at Taquanyah Conservation Area near Cayuga (about 90 km SW of the airport, as a Redtail flies). This sort of banding would provide information on how many birds return to the airport. This is an important consideration for the Airport Manager. It could also provide information on where other birds go which always of interest to banders.

Table I
Number of Raptors Banded, 1982 - 1984 *

YEAR	REDTAIL	ROUGHLEG	SNOWY OWL	GREAT HORNED OWL
1982	43	9	4	0
1983	39	4	4	2
1984	7	3	10	2
TOTALS	89	16	18	4

[* Dates of banding:

1982 : Feb 15; Feb 24; Mar 3; Mar 10; Apr 16; Sep 9; Oct 14; Nov 24; Dec 29

1983 : Jan 17; Feb 2; Feb 21; Mar 14; Apr 10; Apr 26

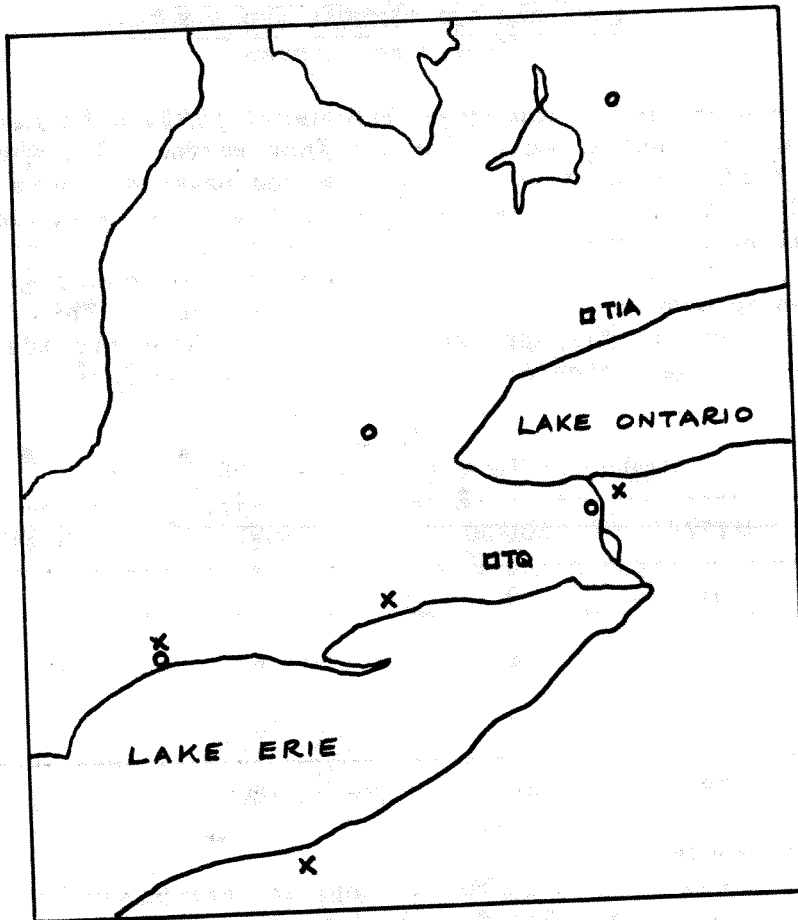
1984 : Feb 6; Mar 15]

The age breakdown is given in Table II. For Snowy Owls, I used the key from B. Josephson, 1980. Ageing and Sexing Snowy Owls , Journal of Field Ornithology 51(2): 149-160.

Table II
Ages of Hawks and Owls Banded, 1982-1984

SPECIES	HY / SY	AHY / ASY	U
Redtail	66	23	
Roughleg	7	7	2
Snowy Owl	12	5	1
Great Horned Owl	2	2	

There have been a total of 12 band encounters, all of Redtailed Hawks during the two years of the project. The map below details these.



TORONTO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
Red-Tailed Hawk Band Encounters
(one additional recovery in
northeastern Tennessee)

The square () labelled TIA is Toronto International Airport; that labelled TQ is Taquanyah Conservation Area. There have been 5 retraps at the airport. Note, that circles on the map are banding or release sites for birds subsequently retrapped at TIA.

Band Encounters (Redtailed Hawks)

1. 877-29008 HY banded Sep 23, 1979 at Hawk Cliff, Ont; retrapped TIA winter 1983
2. 877-64205 ASY banded Apr 12, 1982 at Mountsberg Wildlife Area, Ont; retrapped at TIA, Feb 2, 1983
3. 877-45476 U banded Aug 8, 1980 at TIA and released at Niagara Falls Ont; retrapped at TIA, Apr 26, 1983
4. 877-45477 U banded Aug 28, 1980 at TIA and released near Minden, Ont; retrapped at TIA Apr 26, 1983
5. 877-45428 ASY banded Sep 9, 1982 at TQ; retrapped at TIA, winter, 1983

The incomplete data on dates and ages are a result of a somewhat casual attitude by the then current and former contractors. The previous organization, Bird Control and Consultants Service, had used pheasant bands with a 3-digit number and NO address. These were organized and supplied by the Ministry of Natural Resources. I removed these and replaced them with the bands noted above.

The x's noted on the map are locations of Redtail recoveries of the ones banded and released at Taquanyah:

6. 987-28109 HY banded Oct 14, 1982 at TQ; recovered near Niagara, NY
JAN 30, 1983
7. 987-28110 HY banded Oct 14, 1982 at TQ; recovered near Nanticoke, Ont,
Dec 1, 1982
8. 1207-03733 ASY banded Feb 24, 1982 at TQ; recovered near Weston, Ont,
Jun 17, 1982
9. 1207-03737 ASY banded Feb 2, 1983 at TQ; recovered near Lake Loramie
State Park, OH, Nov 20, 1983
10. 877-45401 ASY banded Mar 14, 1981 at TQ; recovered near New Tazewell,
TN, Feb 2, 1984
11. 877-45448 HY banded Dec 29, 1982 at TQ; recovered near St. Thomas, Ont,
Jan ??, 1984

The Tennessee bird is not shown on the map. Also, the bird found dead near Weston, Ont is in the same 10 minute block as TIA (434-0793)

There is one interesting result so far. The two Redtails whose ages were known and that were retrapped, removed, banded and then released at Taquanyah AND then returned to the airport were both adults (ASY). There were two others who did the same thing but whose ages were unknown, having been "banded" by the former contractors. The returnees could be adult year-round residents who have established territories at or near the airport and who found their way back despite the 90 km distance. It would be certainly interesting to know the number of Redtail nesting territories at TIA and to band as many of the summer residents as possible to see how many stay throughout the year. Their numbers are undoubtedly augmented by winter visitors as well as the other species noted above.

This project deserves more study, I feel. Unfortunately, the present

(TIA HAWK AND OWL REMOVAL AND BANDING CONTINUED)

contractor, Ulrich Waterman, is not bringing the birds to me for banding. You may also be interested to know that Slaytor and Emonts are two of the many people charged with offences under the Import and Export Act in connection with the capture and smuggling of falcons from Canada.

POTTER TRAP HAZARD-PREVENTION -- David Lamble

In January 1983 I began to band in winter finches in the parking lot of my apartment building. It was a silly place to band since there was no cover of any magnitude there and we back onto an Ontario Hydro parking lot complete with trucks and transformers. However, the birds did not seem to mind and I banded about 1000 birds of 20 species. I was delighted !!!

However, I found that at temperatures of -10°C and less there was a danger of the soft moist parts of the bird becoming "stuck" to the wire mesh of the Potter traps. In on case, a bird had an eyeball frozen to the mesh and the injury resulted in loss of the eye. This was particularly distressing to me since I am clearly responsible for the health of birds in my care.

There were really only two options open to me. I could stop banding when the temperatures fell below minus 10 or I could seek some way to lessen the conductivity of the wire mesh. The second option seemed the best for me. As a result, I began to spray my cages with a Polyurethane lacquer used on boats. I found that it could be applied easily to the Potter traps in **TWO** applications (one inside and one outside). I found that in 1984 I had no incidents of the type in 1983. A further application this year seemed necessary and I repeated it. I have had no problems this year either (although I have had almost no birds either !!!)

I would recommend treatment to all metal capture devices used to capture or transport birds in temperatures below minus 10 degrees Celcius.

HELP ! HELP ! HELP ! HELP ! HELP !!!!!!!!

I have been on the phone to a number of people who promised me articles on their bird-banding operations. A few did come in -- for those, I am very grateful. However, I need more -- lots more. I am willing to put anything in the newsletter that is relevant to OBBA. I do not "edit" in the sense of determining if something is good enough. I simply make sure the spelling and grammar are correct (I hope). You all have something worthwhile sharing with the rest of us --- PLEASE.