

ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

I neglected to ask in my last column whether members prefer a Saturday or Sunday date for the Annual General Meeting. There was quite a bit of discussion of this at the last Executive meeting with the consensus being that the lower traffic volume, availability of parking and less crowded restaurants gave Sunday some distinct advantages. We'll plan next year's meeting for Sunday again, unless we hear differently from you.

Our next Executive meeting will be at 7 pm on Wednesday, July 23, 1986 at John Miles' home in New Hamburg. We will be discussing band sizes and some small birds' leg sizes (problems!!!), a major co-operative banding project, an American Kestrel project involving CWS and the duties of the 2 editors. If you are interested in attending, contact John Miles at the following number 1-519-662-3419 for directions. Members are welcome at Executive meetings and are free to express their opinions although do not cast votes. A report on the banding session at the I.O.C. in Ottawa will also be made and will appear in the next Newsletter.

Don't forget the fall meeting on Sunday, October 26 at Kortright. If you have suggestions for speakers or films for this meeting or the Annual General Meeting in 1987, please pass them along to Bill Read or myself.

The Ontario Bird Banding Editor tells me that the 1985 banding reports have arrived in good numbers but that if anyone hasn't sent theirs in, he'd be pleased to receive it as soon as possible. See the last Newsletter for the form and mail it to the address noted.

Good banding !!!!

HELP, HELP, HELP !!!!!

This is a skimpy newsletter!!!! That is due to a "bare cupboard". I have no articles from anyone in OBBA. I will take anything of interest to banders. It does not have to be long. If you are uncomfortable with writing, just jot down a few point form notes and I will "flesh-it-out"

FURTHER EVALUATION OF MARKING METHODS FOR BLACK AND TURKEY VULTURES

[this article is a summary of an article found in Journal of Field Ornithology Vol. 56 No. 3 pages 251-257 -- authored by T.M. Sweeney, J.D. Fraser and J.S. Coleman]

A safe and effective means for marking vultures has been sought since a suggestion by Henckel that lesions may be caused by fecal accumulation on leg bands used on Turkey Vultures. As a result many authors have used streamers and various patagial markers on raptors. This article attempts to evaluate the method of attachment of cattle eartags as patagial markers on the behavior and social status of Black and Turkey vultures.

The authors captured a number of vultures and placed patagial tags on the birds and then released them. A few other birds were captured and banded with either standard metal bands or Teflon bands. These latter birds were held in captivity.

The results were interesting. The wing-tagged birds were apparently unaffected by the tag in their behaviour or social status. However, the metal tagged birds did develop some inflammation on the legs and the bands were removed to prevent any damage. The Teflon banded birds did not show any problems on the banded legs. But the Teflon bands were more easily removed by the birds.

The authors also found that the tags were sufficient to identify roosting birds, although not very good for flying birds. Also, it is worth noting that none of the birds observed again appeared to have lost a tag. The authors felt that this method was a good alternative to traditional banding.