



NEWSLETTER

THE ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 23 & 24, 2008

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Bird Studies Canada in Port Rowan again this year. The AGM will continue to follow the two-day event schedule with the Saturday agenda following the format of previous years, and workshops and practical presentations being the focus of the Sunday. There is a registration fee of \$5.00.

Lunch Arrangements

Coffee and donuts will be served. There will be a midday buffet organized on Saturday at a local restaurant "Neighbours". Cost will be \$12 per person and includes tea or coffee.

Evening Social

On the Saturday evening there will be a social at Bird Studies Canada following the meeting. A meal will be served between 18:30 and 19:00. The cost will be in the range of \$10 - 20 per person, with the actual cost being announced at the meeting, and will be payable at registration. Members and guests planning to attend are encouraged to BYOB.

Bucket Raffle

As in previous years a bucket raffle will be held. Any member wishing to donate a prize should bring it to the meeting or if they prefer contact any board member.

Show and Tell

Note that on day two there is an item on the agenda titled "Show and Tell" Attendees are invited to bring a small number of slides/photographs, or other items of interest, and encouraged to show them to the group.

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Saturday, February 23rd 2008

09:00 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 10:20	Business meeting Introductions – Eric Machell Presidents Report - Eric Machell Treasurers Report – Audrey Heagy Election of an Auditor – Audrey Heagy Nominations & Election of 2008 Executive – Audrey Heagy
10:20 – 10:40	Slides/Quiz
10:40 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:15	Reports Long Point Bird Observatory - Stu MacKenzie Pelee Island Bird Observatory – Graham Gibson Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory Canadian Migration Monitoring Network Report Banding Office Report – Lesley Howes
12: 15 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 14:40	Eastern Loggerhead Shrike update, Breeding and movements in the last few years – Jessica Steiner/WPTC
14:40 – 15:00	Wheatear Banding - David Hussell
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee
15:30 – 16:00	Quiz results
16:00 – 16:15	Janette Dean award
16:15 – 16:50	Banding of Rare Breeding birds in 2007 – Martin Wernaart and David Okines
16:50 – 17:10	Bucket raffle draw
17:10	Close of day one of general meeting
17:15 – 18:00	Stainless steel banding demo/workshop
18:00 - 10:00	Social at BSC, Dinner at 18:30, <u>BYOB</u>

Sunday, February 24th 2008

07:00 – 09:00	Banding at a local banding site (to be determined on the Saturday)
09:00 – 09:30	Travel to BSC
09:30 – 12:00	Coffee/mingle NSWO Project – A group discussion Various nets and traps – Martin Wernaart and David Okines
12:00 – 13:00	Free time/Lunch
13:00 – 14:00	Sunday workshop Eastern Bluebird workshop – Bill Read Show and tell – Banding pliers and removal devices
14:00 – 14:30	Coffee
14:30	Close of Conference

Accommodations for the AGM – provided by Terri Groh

Local Bed and Breakfasts - all listed at www.bbcanada.com

Abigail's Bed and Breakfast edgewood@kwic.com 519-586-8777

The Bay House www.thebayhousebb.com 519-586-3337

Brambles Bed and Breakfast taylorpm@amtelecom.net 519-586-917

Brookvale Bed and Breakfast Ltd. brookvale@amtelcom.net 519-586-9155

The Coach House on Erie (519) 586-2832

Country Garden Bed and Breakfast www.bbcanada.com/3603.html 1-877-310-5133

Green Valley Bed & Breakfast (519) 586-3799

Kinda Cute 519-586-9744 or 1-866-900-1104 (toll free)

Marsh Landing Bed and Breakfast mfoster7@aol.com 519-586-7777

The Peacock Roost (519) 586-9607

Seasons House mmudford@sympatico.ca 519-586-7096

DATES TO REMEMBER

Renew your membership	due now
Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society AGM at the RBG in Burlington	March 15
Deadline for submissions for April 2008 newsletter	April 1

EASTERN BLUEBIRD BANDING

The Eastern Bluebird has made a remarkable comeback in the past twenty years, thanks to many dedicated Bluebirders who maintain nest box trails throughout Ontario. During the 2007 breeding season, members of the Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society (OEBS) reported over 2,000 bluebirds successfully fledged from their nest boxes.

Banding research by OBBA members is underway in some parts of the province. Bill Read, president of the OEBS, has banded over 5,000 bluebirds in the past twenty years. David Lamble and Bryan Wyatt are also banding bluebird nestlings in their areas.



Female returning to feed nestlings

A recent project was started in Bruce and Grey counties by Cindy Cartwright in 2005 to learn more about nest site fidelity and pair bonding. Adults are banded with a combination of three colour bands and the standard metal band. Bluebirders maintaining the nest box trails keep track of adult pairs and which boxes they are using by sighting the colour band combinations. Several thousand bluebirds have fledged from nest boxes supplied by the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association (SSA) in this area over the past ten years but there has been no way for them to determine how many return to the area to breed.

Gerry Powers checking nest boxes



The SSA provided funding for colour bands and nestlings are colour banded with a single colour by hatching year. SSA member Gerry Powers reports nest boxes with bluebird nestlings to Cindy along with the estimated age, and the nestlings are banded at the appropriate age.



returned to nest box

The colour bands will also help the OEBS to determine where some of the wintering bluebirds observed on Christmas Bird Counts were fledged.

Last year, members of the OEBS discussed developing a common protocol for banding nestlings in Ontario. More details will be discussed at the OEBS AGM in March.

Bluebirds with colour bands can be reported to Cindy Cartwright at pom@bmts.com or Bill Read at info@billreadsbooks.com

Banded nestling ready to be

photos by Cindy Cartwright

Bill Read will be presenting an interesting and informative workshop on Eastern Bluebirds at the OBBA AGM during the Sunday sessions. Plan to attend the AGM to learn more.

ON-LINE NEWSLETTER

Each year the cost of mailing the OBBA newsletter to members increases in January when Canada Post raises their rates. Anyone interested in helping OBBA decrease expenses can opt to access their newsletter from the OBBA website by sending Cindy Cartwright an email at pom@bmts.com. Visit the OBBA website at www.ontbanding.org and click on the "members-only" tab on the left side of the page. The user name is **obba** and the password is **obbanews**. You can either read the newsletter on-line or print a copy with colour photos. Additional articles and items that could not be included in the newsletter due to space limitations are also posted in this section.

EDITOR'S NOTES

In memory – we are sad to report the deaths of Betty Wasserfall and Don Baldwin.

"Don Baldwin was one of the founding pioneers of Long Point Bird Observatory. On the Victoria Day and Civic Holiday weekends in 1959, Don, his wife Maureen, and David Hussell hiked out to Courtright Ridge carrying tents and banding equipment, to investigate the prospects for establishing a banding station at the "Breakwater," the southwest end of the ridge. Pleased with what they found, Don and David, along with Jim Woodford and Bill Wasserfall, contributed the money to purchase a 1947 Jeep, which served as LPBO's means of transportation for the next two years.

The first memorable trip to the Tip of the Point was made on Thanksgiving weekend 1959. Thus the die was cast and LPBO was officially launched in the spring of 1960. Don was active in the development of the observatory, both in the field and serving on the initial organizing committee and later on the LPBO Board, in the 1960s and well into the 1970s, and intermittently thereafter. Don was employed in the ornithology department in the Royal Ontario Museum in the early 1960s. Later he became a natural science teacher at Upper Canada College. After retirement from teaching, he and Maureen moved to Grand Manan, New Brunswick, where they operated a B&B for several years and led nature tours. A few years ago they came 'home' to Port Rowan and Don could often be found at LPBO's Old Cut field station watching birds, observing the banding, or reminiscing about the early years of LPBO. He will be fondly remembered and missed by those who knew him". – *BSC News, January 11, 2008 issue*

Bill Wasserfall was an active founding member of OBBA and his wife, Betty, hosted many post-AGM meetings in their home during the early years of our organization. Their participation decreased in recent years so many younger members of OBBA may not have met Betty. But long time members are sure to remember and miss her contributions to our early years.

OBBA Newsletter – In an effort to make it easier for members to contribute to our newsletter, the publishing schedule will be changed to April, August and January starting after this AGM. The April issue will include details of the Annual General Meeting. Hopefully this will allow banders time during the quieter periods after spring and fall migration monitoring to contribute interesting articles, banding highlights, and observations.

Membership – If you haven't already renewed your OBBA membership, you can renew at the AGM or by mailing a completed membership form to Audrey Heagy (address on back page).
