



NEWSLETTER

OBBA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2009 OBBA AGM will be held Saturday February 28th and Sunday March 1st at Bird Studies Canada's headquarters in Port Rowan. Please put those dates in your diary and make plans to attend the meeting. Further details will be included in the next newsletter.

If anyone has any posters that they would like to display at the AGM please contact Audrey Heagy at ahogany@bsc-eoc.org or 519-586-9464. Suggestions for presentations/speakers should be sent to Martin Wernaart as soon as possible. Martin can be reached at 519-586-9545 or naturesadvantage@amtelecom.net

If anyone knows of somebody that they think should be nominated for the **Janette Dean Award**, please contact Eric Machell with details at elmachell@aol.com or 519-582-4738.

Don't forget to start collecting items for the bucket raffle.

DATES TO REMEMBER

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EDITOR'S NOTES

In memory - We sadly report that Bill Ansley passed away on October 1, 2008. Many people enjoyed meeting Bill at OBBA's 50th Anniversary Celebration at the 2008 AGM. Bill was well known among banders when he was head lighthouse keeper at Long Point during the early years of Long Point Bird Observatory. Bill is pictured below with several of the original LPBO banders.



Bill Ansley, Bill Wasserfall, David Hussell, Pat Woodford, Jim Woodford, and Marshall Field

OBBA is fortunate to have members who have made significant contributions to ornithology through their banding efforts over the past 51 years in Ontario. The call for nominations (below) is from the Bird Studies Canada News. Past recipients of the award include OBBA members Erica Dunn and David Hussell. Do you know of an OBBA member who should be nominated for either our own Janette Dean Award or the D.H. Speirs Award in 2009?

“Call for Nominations for the D.H. Speirs Award

18 October 2008 – The Doris Huestis Speirs Award is the most prestigious award given by the Society of Canadian Ornithologists (SCO), and is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding lifetime contributions to Canadian ornithology. Past awardees include amateur ornithologists, as well as professionals who work at museums, government agencies, private companies, and universities. [Visit the SCO website](#) for more information on the award and previous recipients.

Nominations for the 2009 Speirs award will be accepted until June 1, 2009. To nominate a candidate, contact Dr. Marty Leonard, Department of Biology, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4J1; telephone (902) 494-3540 or email mleonard@dal.ca. Please provide the nominee's name, and supporting information that describes the nature and scope of his or her contributions and impact in Canadian ornithology. This could include efforts to advance conservation, science, and/or public education.”

NABC MEETING REPORT

David Okines

Publications. The committee has received a draft of the waterfowl manual, with the expectation that it will be published later this year. Two additional species accounts have been received and are under review. English, French and Spanish versions of the Study Guide, Passerine Manual, Trainers Manual, Hummingbird Manual, and Shorebirds Manual will be available for download from the NABC website soon.

International. NABC has participated in all three WHBBN meetings, promoting sound and ethical banding, training and education and presenting the updated poster and fliers in three languages. Participation has allowed NABC to interact with an international group.

Training and Education. The BBO specimens collection has now been photographed and put onto CD, it can be used together with the collection or alone as a training tool. The NABC evaluation 'report card' is now being adapted by the BBO into a checklist to show banders what skills they should develop, together with a form to indicate what and how many birds they have banded. These tools are used to help new banders understand skills that are needed before applying for a permit in Canada.

Certification. All available data on 325 Banders and Trainers have now been entered in the Access program developed by programmer Dave Hansen. There has been a low response to recertification.

Evaluation. Applications for an evaluation session involving more than one candidate must be sent to the Certification Committee chair no less than 60 days in advance of the session. The Certification Committee chair will accept applications for individual evaluations no less than 14 days in advance of the evaluation, provided that the written test can be made available in that time. Any evaluation session must include at least one Trainer who has previously participated in an evaluation session

A sample test that includes all aspects of the written test, with a key that includes some marginal answers and how marginal answers would be graded, will be provided on the web. Applicants may then take the exam with confidence knowing the range of questions to expect.

A candidate for certification at the Bander level who fails an evaluation because of only a few failed sections, but who shows overall proficiency, may be allowed to re-take only the failed sections during a later evaluation session or individual evaluation if so recommended by the Certifying Trainers. A candidate may now be tested for both Bander and Trainer level certification at the same session but they still have to pass the Bander level before attempting the Trainer level. The committees approved a modification of the appeal policy by adding that "appeals have to be made within 60 days of the session."

BBL Report. New hirings include a biologist, an encounter data processing manager, and a bio-technician. There is a new call center vendor, Tucson based, which will provide 24/7 service. Improvements have been made to Bandit as of March 7, 2008, with the next version available in August 2008. The program can now handle large files, and offers user defined fields. 1.9 million bands were distributed in 2007.

Animal Care Training Module – This module will assist graduate students and others who may be starting work with migratory birds for the first time, to help them navigate the permit and animal care systems in Canada and provide information on the ethical use of animals in research. Key points include planning a study, bird capture, restraint, health evaluations, banding and marking. The module will soon be on line in Canada, with a link on the BBO site.



2009 Membership Application or Renewal

Membership fees are due in January

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ Prov: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

Email: _____

Please indicate below if you would prefer to receive an “electronic only subscription” and save OBBA the postage costs. Membership dues still apply (but no mailing surcharge for overseas members).

Electronic only subscription (You will receive an e-mail notification when new issues of the newsletter and Journal are available).

Membership Category:

- Life Member (\$400), tax receipt issued**
- Individual/Family/Household (\$20)**
- Student (\$10)**
- Mailing Surcharge outside of Canada and United States (\$10)**
(No surcharge for electronic only subscription)

Additional Donation: \$ _____, tax receipt issued if \$10 or more.

Make cheque payable to: **Ontario Bird Banding Association**

Mail to: **Audrey Heagy, OBBA, 273 Charlotteville Road 2,
RR # 2, St. Williams, ON N0E 1P0**

JUST FOR INTEREST

The majority of banders in Ontario are aware that the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) and the US Banding Office occasionally use different alpha codes for the same species. The most common difference encountered in Ontario is probably the codes for Yellow-rumped Warbler - YRWA according to AOU, MYWA and AUWA in the banding manual.



Large flocks of geese are forming throughout Ontario preparing to migrate. James Turland, a Bruce County birder, sent this photo of several Cackling Geese mixed in a flock of Canada Geese.

According to the AOU, Canada Goose is CANG and Cackling Goose is CACG.

The banding office splits it further as seen in the table from the US Banding Office website www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbL/manual/bandsize.htm

172.0	Canada Goose	CAGO	8
172.1	Aleutian Canada Goose	ACGO	7B
172.2	Cackling Goose	CACG	7A
172.3	Large Canada Goose	LCGO	8
172.9	Small Canada Goose	SCGO	7B

Some OBBA members actively work with school groups to encourage an interest in the environment. Bruce Murphy submitted this information for banders interested in attending this upcoming symposium.

Environmental Education Symposium, Ontario Ministry of Education Westin Harbour Castle Hotel – Toronto, February 24 - 26, 2009

The Ontario Ministry of Education is pleased to announce this upcoming environmental education symposium. The symposium will launch the Environmental Education Policy Framework and showcase environmental education initiatives and resources for Ontario teachers.

In addition, the symposium will provide boards and schools with tools to implement the key recommendations included in the report, “*Shaping Our Schools, Shaping Our Future*”. It will bring together delegates from schools, school boards, and other educational and environmental stakeholders from across Ontario to share successful models, partnerships, practices and resources.
