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## NEWSLETTER

### THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 27 & 28, 2010 AT BSC

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Bird Studies Canada in Port Rowan again this year. The AGM will continue the two-day event schedule with the Saturday agenda following the format of previous years, and an extended banding and/or an in hand specimen practical session being the focus of the Sunday. There is a registration fee of \$5.00, payable at the door.

#### Lunch Arrangements

Coffee and donuts will be served. There will be a midday meal/buffet organized for Saturday at a local restaurant, cost not available at this time.

#### Evening Social

On the Saturday evening there will be a social held locally (probably at Old Cut) following the meeting. A meal will be served between 18:30 and 19:00. The cost will be in the range of \$10-15 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.

Bill Read will be selling natural history books in the foyer with 10% of proceeds being donated to OBBA.

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The Newsletter is published three times a year - Winter, Spring and Fall - by the Ontario Bird Banding Association. Deadlines for receiving material for publication are December 15, April 1 and July 15. Material received after the deadline will be held over and considered for inclusion in the next issue. Articles should be submitted electronically, unformatted in Times New Roman, to the newsletter editor. Photos and drawings should be submitted in jpeg files.



The objectives of the Ontario Bird Banding Association are the study of ornithology, especially by means of banding and other marking techniques; the promotion of ornithological investigations and the publication of scientific and educational papers pertaining to these subjects, particularly within the Province of Ontario; and co-operation with organizations with similar objectives.

The views and opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of each contributing author and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of the Ontario Bird Banding Association or its management.



Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> 2010

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 2010 Executive – Audrey Heagy
10:20 – 10:40	Slides/Quiz
10:40 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:15	Station reports - Haldimand Bird - Holiday Beach - Hawk Cliff  Banding Office Report
12:15 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 14:45	It's a jungle out there – Using miniature cameras to observe Wood Thrushes in southern Ontario - Lyle Friesen, CWS
14:45 – 15:30	Tracking Short-eared Owls in Ontario and beyond - Hazel Wheeler, BSC
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee
15:45 – 16:00	Quiz results
16:00 – 16:45	Exploring Stopover Ecology with Radio Telemetry: What is the scale of a stopover? - Stu Mackenzie
16:45 – 17:00	Bucket raffle draw
17:00 – 18:00	FREE TIME
18:00 - 22:00	Social at Old Cut, Dinner at 18:30 <u>BYOB</u>

## EDITOR'S NOTES



In December I received a call from a woman near Belleville about an unusual hummingbird at her feeder. It was there when she returned from a trip overseas so the arrival date is unknown. The following week I visited and was fortunate enough to band a healthy HY-M Rufous Hummingbird. The bird disappeared with a high pressure system and clear skies about two days after banding.



A Great Egret banded as a nestling on Chantry Island in June 2009 by Chip Weseloh and myself was resighted in South Carolina in September.

Quite a few NSW0 were recaptured in Ontario and the U.S. again this fall.

This is my final issue as editor of the Ontario Bird Banding Association Newsletter. Over the past nine years, I have enjoyed talking with members about submissions, receiving feedback on articles, and all the small tidbits that people have sent under the heading “just thought you might be interested”. I hope that everyone will stay in touch and continue to send me personal tidbits as they go about their banding/birding activities.

One thing that I won't miss is the “gremlins” in the computer that change photos, fonts, etc. after the final layout and approval has been completed.

Stu Mackenzie will be the newsletter editor beginning with the Spring 2010 issue. I know he will do a great job and hope that he enjoys it every bit as much as I have. Please send all future newsletter submissions to him at [s\\_a\\_mackenzie@yahoo.ca](mailto:s_a_mackenzie@yahoo.ca)

David Lamble has located someone who can repair old banding pliers and make new banding pliers to order. He is very happy with the pliers that he has had repaired and is testing a new combination plier. For more information, contact David directly [dlamble@hotmail.com](mailto:dlamble@hotmail.com)



Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> 2010

07:00 – 12:00 A prolonged banding session at a local banding site if the weather permits.  
(site to be determined on the Saturday)

If the weather is not cooperating there will be a hands-on moult/measuring/ID solving session using skins or specimens

12:00 Close of Conference

**Bed and Breakfast List for Port Rowan Area – provided by Terri Groh**

More information about listings at [www.bbcanada.com](http://www.bbcanada.com)

Prices range from \$60/per night  
(Ice fishing season may affect availability and price)

Abigail’s Bed and Breakfast	519- 586-8777
The Bay House Bed and Breakfast	519-586-3337
Bay Ridge	519-875-2944
Brambles Bed and Breakfast	519-586-9173
Brookvale Bed and Breakfast	519-586-9545
Kinda Cute Bed & Breakfast	519-586-9744
Green Valley Bed and Breakfast	519-586-3799
Marsh Landing Bed and Breakfast *(May – Dec)	519-586-7777
Season’s House Bed and Breakfast	519-586-2778
The Coach House on Erie	519-586-2832

Bird Studies Canada also has bunks available at Old Cut – contact LPBO in advance to reserve

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

<b>Renew your membership</b>	<b>due now</b>
<b>Ontario Eastern Bluebird Society AGM at the RBG in Burlington</b>	<b>March 13</b>
<b>EBBA AGM – Rocky Gap State Park, Maryland</b>	<b>April 9-11</b>
<b>Deadline for submissions for the Spring 2010 newsletter</b>	<b>April 1</b>
<b>North American Bluebird Society Conference - hosted by the OEBS at the RBG in Burlington</b>	<b>September 9-12</b>

**JANETTE DEAN AWARD RECIPIENTS – Sheila and Don Fowler**

Eric Machell

A reception was held on Saturday January 9th when the Janette Dean Award was presented. The reception was attended by over twenty people; in addition to several OBBA Board Members, the Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Group was well represented. There were also several other friends and well wishers in attendance. This award is typically presented at the OBBA AGM, but we were advised some time ago that this year’s recipients would be out of the country at that time this February.

In 1970 Sheila and Don Fowler were asked by Bob Hubert and Marshall Field if they would be interested in trapping and banding raptors. They showed interest and after visiting Hawk Cliff to see the operation became members. They have remained very in the Hawk Cliff Raptor Banding Group since that day. In fact at the first official meeting of the organization Sheila agreed to be the Secretary Treasurer, a position she still holds.

Since that day they have each banded a truly significant number of migrating hawks. Given the number of American Kestrels Don has taken out of the nets it is a wonder that he has any fingers left from all the bites they have given him over the many years he has maintained Station 5, which sits on the shore of Lake Erie. Sheila being of the fairer and gentler sex has preferred tangling with larger birds particularly Red-tailed Hawks at Station 3. It is said, that on one occasion on catching an eagle, and having no large can to keep it in, she removed her belt and fastened it around the bird in order to immobilize it while she dealt with it.



At one time they were both involved in banding migrating hawks close to the Niagara Escarpment near Hamilton. Sheila and Don also were among the first in the St. Thomas area to maintain a Kestrel nest box trail.

They are both avid travelers particularly to Western Canada and Florida, and keen birders wherever they are. They typically make a trip to see their daughter in Florida at the time of American Thanksgiving. Their fellow banders at Hawk Cliff always willing to share information with their friends are always keen to see Sheila and Don return, so they can tell them of all the good hawks they missed in their absence.

Don has to be the most dedicated bander in the group. When everyone else has long gone for home he will stay till late in the day at Station 5 patiently waiting in the hope that a flight will occur. Sheila will often go to keep him company – she probably thinks that if she didn’t she would scarcely see him at all.

We wish them well and may they both continue to see, catch and band many more raptors in the future.