



ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 61 NO.2

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2016

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Coming Events	1	In this issue you'll find some recent announcements, a summary of some changes to Bandit 4.0, and a few pictures from recent events.
Announcements	2	
2015 Wasserfall Award	3	
Bandit 4.0 Notes	4	As always, you can help to fill the OBBA newsletter by sending us news and events from your banding operation, research, or any other interesting notes related to bird banding in Ontario.
Picture Gallery	7	
OBBA Directors	8	
Membership Renewal	9	Send to Jim Smith at benavis@sympatico.ca

COMING EVENTS:

- Eastern Bird Banding Association Meeting, April 8-9, 2016.
Blackwater Falls State Park in Davis, West Virginia, <http://www.easternbirdbanding.org/>
- North American Banding Council Meeting, April 10-11 - following EBBA Meeting.
www.nabanding.net
- Great Canadian Birdathon - any day in May. Support the OBBA, or your local bird observatory!
<http://birdscanada.org/birdathon>

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ISSN 1485-4893

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

BIRDERS AND BANDERS WANTED:

Canadian Migration Monitoring Network (CMMN) stations across the country, many of which are in Ontario, are looking for birders and banders who are interested in gaining the experience of a lifetime volunteering or working for the birds. Visit the CMMN web-site – www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/cmmn/ for more information about stations near you and opportunities offered. Population trends, seasonal abundance graphs, and other summary statistics from the CMMN are available from Nature Counts at www.naturecounts.ca.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE JANETTE DEAN AWARD

Every year the OBBA gives the Janette Dean award to individuals that have made outstanding contributions to bird banding in Ontario. If you would like to nominate a fellow bander to receive the Janette Dean Award, send a written nomination with a brief explanation of the candidate's qualifications to Stu Mackenzie—smackenzie@birdscanada.org

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH THE OBBA TODAY!

Please fill out the renewal form on the next page to make your contribution to the Ontario Bird Banding Community or contact Barbara Campbell—Barbcampbell52@gmail.com. A renewal form is at the back of this newsletter or can be found online at http://ontbanding.org/OBBA_Membership_form.pdf

Do you have a picture similar to the following that we can use in future newsletters? If so, please send to Jim Smith.



Rock Point volunteers, Spring 2015

2015 Wasserfall Award: Summary Report by Andrew Coughlan

Awardee: Explos Nature for the Observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac

Project title: Pilot project to develop an adequate monitoring program to study population trends for five species of neotropical passerines

The *Observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac* (Tadoussac Bird Observatory, OOT) is a member station of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network and is currently developing a spring program to adequately monitor species of boreal forest-nesting warblers in Québec. The project received a joint Baillie Fund and Wasserfall Award of \$2,000 in 2015, which helped cover running costs and purchase of mist nets, a Foxpro NX4 call system and banding pliers. 2015 was the first of a 3-year pilot study to test and fine-tune an active capture method using audio lures to attract nocturnally migrating warblers to a banding site just before dawn. This technique was developed in Mexico by Manuel Grosselet and is new to warbler banding in Canada. The use of audio lures significantly increases the number of birds caught, and a very high proportion of the individuals are ones that migrated during the previous night. Therefore, this technique helps provide a better understanding of migration phenology, and allows the evaluation of different physiological parameters. Furthermore, it allows an apparently unbiased evaluation of the age structure of the population sampled.

Last year, the active capture technique was employed between May 14 and June 6, and focused on the Orange-crowned Warbler (*Oreothlypis celata*), Mourning Warbler (*Geothlypis philadelphia*), Magnolia Warbler (*Setophaga magnolia*), Bay-breasted Warbler (*Setophaga castanea*) and Wilson's Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*). Species selection was based on the following criteria: 1) A monitoring need had been highlighted and the outlined priority actions included better tracking in the boreal forest and during migration; 2) There was a significant lack of monitoring in eastern North America, particularly in Québec and the Maritimes; and 3) The age of the birds could be determined with relative accuracy during the spring migration. The results obtained in the first year were promising for 4 of the 5 species tested, with 18 Orange-crowned Warblers, 25 Bay-breasted Warblers, 75 Magnolia Warblers and 289 Wilson's Warbler being caught, greatly exceeding previous passive trials. Although only 18 Orange-crowned Warbler were banded, the results suggest that this is an early migrating species, as all the individuals were captured before May 25. Information about the migration phenology of the Orange-crowned Warbler in Québec is lacking and the current project could help fill this gap.

Finally, the educational component of this project meant that nearly 170 students were able to learn about bird banding and about neotropical songbirds nesting in the boreal forest. The project also provided valuable technical training in bird banding for wildlife technicians, biologists and students.





Get your teams set up and get registered: <http://birdscanada.birdathon>

Start collecting pledges and on registering designate which ever organization you wish to support. Remember that Canadian Migration Monitoring Stations get 75% of money raised returned to them. The remaining 25% goes to Bird Studies Canada to support the James M. Baillie Memorial Fund, and other research and conservation efforts across the country.

Get out in a day in May and see how many species you can find. Some pledges are based on number of species your team finds and others pledge a lump sum. Not only can you designate your own station but you can also designate Ontario Bird Banding Association.

BANDIT 4.0: by Jim Smith

Have you made the switch?

The advice from the technicians for this version of Bandit is to make sure that you submit all data to the Banding Office before you switch. If you don't do this you will find that all of your How Aged and How Sexed data now shows up as an error message. As an error message nothing will be submitted to the Banding Office.

Extending the above to this coming year means that if you have switched to 4.0 that unless you use the new codes for how aged and how sexed you will not be able to submit your data.

In talking with the Bandit Help desk I did find out that data will be submitted if you leave the How sections blank. If you fill them in with the old codes you are back to error messages.

I also understood from the same conversation that not filling in the How columns will eventually result in a letter from the Bird Banding Offices. You will notice in 4.0 that there is also tables to record mortality of not banded birds. Ageing using moult is also included in 4. Unlike other versions of Bandit all data is submitted to the Banding Office not just the areas that formally showed up as yellow. So whichever column you use will be submitted so watch out for the error messages. So here are the new codes. Have fun.



OBBA Newsletter

How Aged Code	How Aged Description	Code status	Age Code To be used with	Comments
AM	Auxiliary Marker on bird at capture	current	Any age	Birds with auxiliary markers (like web tags) and no Federal band or with foreign bands may be micro-aged. Can be used with recaptures for ages beyond SY, TY
BO	Behavioral observation	current	HY, AHY	Includes singing, incubation, mating/copulation, etc.
BP	Brood patch	current	AHY	Generally used for How Sexed, but can be used to age AHY only.
BU	Bursa of Fabricius	current	Any Age	Most useful in waterfowl
CA	Calendar	current	AHY	For AHY (instead of Unknown) between January 1st and beginning of normal fledge time, depending on species, latitude. For birds that can't safely be called SY.
CC	Combination of characteristics/measurements	current	Any Age	Characteristics or measurements that, alone, would not be usable. Describe in Remarks
CL	Cloaca	current	Any Age	Waterfowl cloacal exam, male cloacal protuberance, distended cloaca of female shorebirds.
EG	Egg in oviduct	current	AHY	Generally used for How Sexed, but can be used for AHY
EY	Eye color	current	HY, SY, AHY, ASY	
FB	Fault bar	current	HY,SY	Uniform fault bar on juvenile tail feathers (Fig. 19 in Pyle, vol 1, Fig. 18 in vol. 2), sometimes in juvenile remiges.
FF	Flight feathers (remiges), condition or color	current	HY, SY, AHY, ASY	Wear, freshness or color of primaries, secondaries or tertials.
IC	Inconclusive, Conflicting	current	U, AHY, ASY	Generally used with age U, but can be with AHY or ASY if micro-ageing characteristics are conflicting or inconclusive.
LP	Molt limit present	current	HY, SY (passerines); greater than HY (raptors)	In passerines can distinguish HY from AHY (Fall) or SY from ASY (Spring) in secondary coverts or alula. Or in raptors, among secondaries and primaries (AHY, SY, ASY, TY, ATY)
MB	Mouth/bill	current	HY, AHY, SY	Refers to mouth/bill color, or bill shape, culmen length, striations (hummingbirds), depending on species
MR	Actively-molting remiges	current	AHY	Useful in late Summer/early Fall for AHY in species with partial preformative molt. Not to be used with species that have a complete pre-formative molt.
NA	Not attempted	current	U	Age U only
NF	Nestling recently fledged, incapable of powered flight	current	L	Usually ages L, but HY under certain circumstances.
NL	No molt limit	current	AHY, ASY	In Passerines, can distinguish AHY from HY (Fall) or ASY from SY (Spring) in secondary coverts or alula. Or in raptors, among secondaries and primaries (HY, SY)
NN	Nestling in nest (altricials), downy young (precocials)	current	L	Use for age "L" only. This does NOT mean an adult who has young in nest.
OT	Other	current	Any Age	Explain how aged in Remarks
PC	Primary covert wear and/or shape	current	Any Age	Primary Covert shape can be used (with experience) for ageing many species. Primary covert wear is especially useful for ageing woodpeckers (Pyle fig. 122)
PL	Body Plumage	current	HY, SY, AHY, ASY	Color of or patterns in body feathers, including head, breast, back, coverts.
RC	Re-captured bird with USGS band	current	Any Age	Can be used with recaptures (including replaced bands) for ages beyond SY, TY.
SK	Skull	current	HY, AHY, (SY)	Most useful for HY vs AHY. Some species are slow to pneumaticize and can be called SY.
TL	Tail length	current	Any Age	Only useful for ageing in a few species.
TS	Tail shape or wear	current	HY, SY, AHY, ASY	Generally, badly worn and/or pointed in HY,SY and less worn or rounded in AHY, ASY



OBBA Newsletter

How Sexed Code	How Sexed Description	Code status	Comments
BO	Behavioral observation	current	Includes singing, incubation, mating/copulation, etc.
BL	Body Plumage	current	Color or pattern in body plumage including head, breast, back.
BP	Brood Patch	current	Use only with females.
CL	Cloaca	current	Waterfowl cloacal exam, male cloacal protuberance, distended cloaca of female shorebirds.
CC	Combination of characteristics/measurements	current	Characteristics or measurements which alone would not be useable. Describe in remarks.
DN	DNA/chromosome analysis	current	
EG	egg in oviduct	current	Female only
EY	Eye color	current	Iris color. Also lack of flecks in Black Oystercatchers
FS	Feather Shape (Primaries or tail)	current	Useful for Hummingbirds, Woodcock and Snipe.
IC	Inconclusive	current	To be used with sex U only
LL	laparotomy/laparoscopy	current	Need specific authorization
MB	Mouth bill	current	Refers to mouth/bill color, or bill shape, culmen length, striations (hummingbirds), depending on species
NA	Not Attempted	current	To be used only with sex U
OT	Other	current	Explain how sexed in Remarks
RC	Sexed upon recapture	current	Birds recaptured that when first banded were too young to sex.
TL	Tail length	current	Used with caution for sexing. HY can average shorter.
WL	Wing length	current	Used with caution for sexing. HY can average shorter.



OBBA 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:



Always an enjoyable occasion with a great group of friends and speakers. The 2015 Janette Dean Award was presented to Rick Ludkin (pictured right).

Canadian Migration Monitoring Network semi-annual meeting in Winnipeg at Oak Hammond Marsh, MB.

The 10th semi-annual meeting of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network – Réseau canadien de surveillance des migrations (CMMN-RCSM) was hosted by Delta Marsh Bird Observatory at the [Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre](#) in Stonewall, Manitoba from 10-13 March. 30 representatives from 13 stations gathered for two days of updates, technical and scientific presentations, planning and development sessions.

The mission of the CMMN-RCSM is to contribute to conservation, knowledge, and public understanding of Canadian migrant birds and bird migration through a collaborative network of independent migration monitoring and research stations (bird observatories). It is a collaborative initiative among these member stations, Bird Studies Canada (BSC) and Environment and Climate Change Canada's - Canadian Wildlife Service (ECCC-CWS).



ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION (2015-16)

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Ontario Bird Banding Association

CharitableRegistrationNo.873195960RR0001

www.ontbanding.org

2016 Membership Application or Renewal

Name: _

Address: _____

City____Prov: __

Postal Code: __ Phone: () _____-

Email:

NOTE: ALL CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE OBBA WILL BE ELECTRONIC. IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE A HARD-COPY OF THE MATERIALS, NEWSLETTER AND/OR JOURNAL, YOU MUST SPECIFY BELOW.

- Please send me the Newsletter by regular mail
- Please send me the Journal by regular mail

Membership Category:

- Life Member(\$400), tax receipt issued
- Individual/Family/Household (\$20)
- Student (\$10)
- Outside of Canada and United States—\$10 mailing surcharge

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

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

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19 Harwood Lane
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