

# OFO



# ONTARIO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

OFO NEWSLETTER NUMBER 22

NOVEMBER 1990

Well, as many of you are aware, the Annual General Meeting was held at Erindale College this year. From everything that I've heard, it was a huge success. The facilities were clean, modern and ideal. The attendees threw accolades our way throughout.

Services offered included raffles, door prizes, awards for the Baillie Bird-a-thon and the photo contest, guest speakers, ID quizzes and field trips, a great banquet, a huge book sale, and much more. The attendance was down marginally from previous years, but still about 100 people enjoyed the day.

Welcoming remarks from President Ron Scovell outlined the activities of the club this year. Recurring problems with the production of Ontario Birds have plagued us for years now. Recently we have hired a new printer who hopefully will get us back on track. Al Sandilands, the current editor, has advised that he will be retiring at the end of 1990. A new editor will be found, but in the interim, we still desperately need more articles for publication, as we've exhausted our present reserve. Once again you have a chance to immortalize yourself in print - so "let's get busy". Margaret Bain has graciously offered to act as assistant editor for OFO. Her duties will be to contact potential authors and coerce them to write something for the journal. So beware if Marg calls you in the middle of the night! Our new book "The History of Ornithology in Ontario" is almost ready for publication, and we hope to have it available for April or May of 1991, in time for Pelee and certainly in time for the AOU Conference next August. Additionally, we have been working on site guides to various areas of interest to birders in Ontario. To date we have commissioned articles on Hamilton, Peterborough, Pelee, Sarnia, Rainy River, Niagara and Rondeau.

A slate of field trips for 1991 was presented at the conference and for your convenience we have appended a copy to this Newsletter for your use. Some discussion ensued as to the viability of having these outings, as attendance is generally poor. However, it was decided that they are an essential service and will be continued indefinitely. They're designed for you, so why not take advantage when they're offered.

The OBRC (Ontario Bird Records Committee) announced its slate of officers for 1991. Doug McRae (Chair), Marg Bain (Secretary), Dennis Rupert, Mike Runtz, George Wallace, Nick Escott, Kevin McLaughlin and Ron Pittaway will fulfil these duties beginning in 1991.

P.O. BOX 1204, STATION B, BURLINGTON, ONTARIO L7P 3S9

The Baillie Bird-a-thon was a huge success again this year with almost \$120,000 raised. OFO members raised about \$5000.00 themselves. All contributors and sponsors and organizers are to be commended for their efforts. Jeff Skevington who saw 168 species of birds and Arthur Langford who raised \$4522.50 shared the honours of the OFO Trophy this year.

For the second year Swish Maintenance sponsored a calendar slide contest for OFO members. The winner's picture will be featured on the 1991 Swish calendar (available from any Swish Maintenance outlet - Peterborough, Kingston, Ottawa, Barrie, Whitby, and Mississauga or by writing Mr. Mike Ambler, Swish Maintenance Ltd., 500 Hopkins Street, Whitby, Ont., L1N 2B9). Six entrants submitted 50 slides for review, and the team of four judges (three employees of Swish and John Carley) chose the winners as follows:

- First Prize: (\$250.00) was awarded to Mike McEvoy for his Black-and-White Warbler
- Second Prize: (\$100.00) was awarded to Geoff Carpentier for his Common Loon, and
- Third Prize: (\$50.00) was awarded to Barry Cherriere for his Short-eared Owl

The plans are to run this contest again next year so start snapping and be ready when we announce the next one. Congratulations to all entrants and to the winners. Special thanks go out to Swish and to John for sponsoring and running the contest.

The 1991 Board of Director's for OFO was also presented at the meeting. Acclaimed were:

Geoff Carpentier	Ron Scovell	Bill Crins
Gerry Shemilt	Trevor Levere	Dan Stuckey
John McCauley	Mitchell Tempkin	John Olmsted
Gail Worth		

The culmination of the day entailed excellent talks by David Brewer on Sparrows and Peter Hamel on the Queen Charlotte Islands. Sincerest thanks go out to all who helped organize this year's meeting, especially Victoria Carley who was so instrumental in its success.

The spring meeting will be held at Pelee from May 17-19, 1990. We've reserved camping sites at Black Walnut Campground. So if you'd like to camp with us, please reserve your place now! If camping's not your style, see you there anyway.

As so many of our members are world travelers, we thought it would be fun if you would submit your bird lists for 1990. We will attempt to collate a composite list for all members for that year worldwide. Please include dates of trips, location, & scientific names for non North American species. Send them directly to me.

In the News:

1.    Quetico Discovery Tours announces that they are offering canoeing/hiking trips into Quetico Provincial Park that are primarily of interest to birders. For more information contact: Quetico Discovery Tours, P.O. Box 593, Atikokan, Ont., POT 1C0.
  
2.    The Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch is a new organization that was formed in March 1990 to study the migrational patterns of hawk movements in Ontario. For information on participating and/or joining the organization, contact: Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch, John Stevens, Membership Director, 1365 Bayview Avenue, Unit 3, Toronto, Ont., M4G 3A5.
  
3.    The Holiday Beach Migration Observatory needs you! After 17 years of field experience, they are in need of volunteers to assist in their counts of hummingbirds, diurnal raptors, passerines, ducks and shorebirds. Contact them at Holiday Beach Migration Observatory, 109 Taylor Ave., Chatham, Ont., N7L 2T7 for more information.
  
5.    The Long Point Bird Observatory has once again initiated several projects, including the revitalised Ontario Heronry Inventory, and the new Nest Box Survey. Please contact them if you'd like to become involved in these or other projects they sponsor. LPBO, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont., NOE 1M0. Additionally, they advise that Dr. Richard Knapton has been appointed as Research Director for the LPBO. I know that Richard will be an invaluable asset to their program planning and implementation.
  
6.    Legalized Falconry in Quebec? The Quebec Ministry of Leisure, Fish and Game is drafting new legislation that may make it legal to keep falcons in Quebec. A new falconer's organization has been established in the province in anticipation (?) of the legislation. The Association quebecoise des groupes d'ornithologues is vehemently opposed to the legislation. If you support their stand write to Ministere du Loisir, de la Chasse et de la Peche, 150, boul. St-Cyrille Est, Quebec, P.Q. G1R 4Y1 to express your opinion.

And finally ... Short and Tweet ... William Mansell sent along the following item. On August 30, 1990, at Rattray Marsh, Mississauga, Ontario, a Snapping Turtle (Chelydra serpentina) was crawling through the shallow water at the edge of a mudflat. Three Lesser Yellowlegs (Totanus flavipes) were closely following it, snatching up disturbed organisms. They were expending much less energy than counterparts foraging on the adjacent mudflats.

Geoffrey Carpentier, Newsletter Editor, 964 Weller St., Peterborough, Ont., K9J 4Y2

# OFO FIELD TRIPS



## 1991

ONTARIO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

INTRODUCTION - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY. If you plan on attending any OFO Field Trip, please call the leader and give him your phone number. He will then know the size of the group, and, if necessary, he will be able to notify you if the trip is cancelled or postponed. For each of the following OFO Trips there is an Information sheet available. If you would like one or more of these sheets, please list the trip(s) and send your request with a stamped, self-addressed envelope (business size), to: John Olmsted, OFO Field Trips, 32 Miles Court, Hamilton, Ontario L8P 4G6.

JANUARY 12, 1991 (Saturday) : ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM, TORONTO.

LEADER: Ross James (416) 586-5521. Meet inside the front doors of the museum at 10:00 AM. A maximum of 25 members will be able to visit the gallery area from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. A maximum of 10 members will be able to see the collection areas of the museum from 11:00 AM to 12:00 noon. Call Ross to register.

FEBRUARY 3, 1991 (Sunday) : PETROGLYPHS PROVINCIAL PARK, PETERBOROUGH

LEADER: Geoff Carpentier (705) 743-8594. Meet in the parking lot at the north end of the Riverview Zoo in Peterborough at 7:30 AM. Bald and Golden Eagles, Raven, Gray Jay, Waxwings and winter finches.

MARCH 24, 1991 (Sunday): LONG POINT AREA.

LEADER: Barry Jones (519) 426-6043. Meet at the junction of Hwy 59 and Regional Rd. 42, 2 KM west of Port Rowan, at 9:00 AM. Ducks, geese, swans as well as other spring migrants.

APRIL 27, 1991 (Sunday) BEAMER CONSERVATION AREA, GRIMSBY

LEADER: John Olmsted (416) 522-0409. Meet at the Conservation Area parking Lot at 9:00 AM. Take the Christie St. exit from the OEW south to the top of the escarpment. Turn right (west) at Ridge Rd., the first crossroad on the escarpment. Drive 1.5 KM to Quarry Rd., turn right to Conservation entrance .3KM. Turn right, drive through woods to viewing area. A dozen species of Raptors are possible. Beginners WELCOME!

MAY 17, 18, 19 (Sat-Mon.) POINT PELEE OFO SPRING MEETING

LEADERS: TBA. There will be a number of short Field Trips within the park and to nearby locations as part of the Spring Meeting. Look for more details in the Newsletter

MAY 31, JUNE 1, 1991 (Friday, Saturday) RAINY RIVER

LEADER: Dave Elder (807) 597-2008. Meet at the junction of Worthington Rd. #3 and Hwy 11, which is about 10 KM east of Rainy River (3 side roads east of town) at 7:00 AM local time. 1990 trip produced the province's 2nd ever Sprague's Pipit. Sandhill Crane, White Pelican, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Yellow Rail, Piping Plover, Marbled Godwit, Black-billed Magpie, LeConte's Sparrow.

OCTOBER 9-12 1991 (Wednesday to Saturday) MARATHON, LAKE SUPERIOR

LEADER: TBA Meet Tuesday Oct. 8, at 6:00 PM at the Travellers' Inn for dinner and details about trips for the next several days. Fall migration on the North Shore of Lake Superior. See back issues of 'Birdfinding in Canada' for birding spots en route. A sheet of birding information for the Marathon Area west to Thunder Bay will be available for anyone who plans to visit the area before October 9, 1991.

NOVEMBER 2, 1991 (Saturday) Sarnia

LEADER: TBA. Meet in Sarnia at the Parking Lot of the Water Treatment Plant where Lake Huron flows into the St. Clair River. Poor weather will mean we stay at the plant for waterfowl, gulls, and jaegers. Good weather will result in a trip to Bright's Point sewage lagoons and Kettle point.