

# OFO



# ONTARIO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

OFO NEWSLETTER NUMBER 20

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As I sit down to write this most recent treatise on the birds of Ontario, how they can affect you and how you can assist them, I see that spring can't be far off. During an early morning drive, I noticed ever increasing numbers of Crows and Horned Larks, and heard the full songs of Cardinals and House Finches.

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**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:** Several of you have obviously forgotten to renew your 1990 membership with OFO. Whether this is an oversight or you are suffering from some rare disease of the mind, please rectify the situation as soon as possible. To help those delinquent individuals, a separate notice will be placed with your Newsletter for reply.

**NEW MEMBERS:** We would like to welcome the following new members to our ranks. If any of them, or our membership at large, needs help or advice, please contact any of the board members listed above. Welcome: Keith Allison, Mr. & Mrs. P.W. Beaudoin, Nancy Bidgood, Doris Bourne, Susan Bryan, Paul Butlin, Barry Cherriere, Peter Clute, William D'Anna, Wm. & Marilyn Doekes, Alec Dobson, Joan Donnelly, Brian Durell, Thomas Dyke, David Ellingwood, Ted Farley, Ron Greason, Bennett Hennessey, Brian Henshaw, Anne Higginbottom, Nancy Ironside, Andrew Jano, Jock MacKay, George Martyn, Albert McDonald, John McInally, Ariel McLean, Susan McNeil, David McNorton,

Chris Michener, Mrs. H. Miller, Stanley Mountain, Joy Mowat, C.T. Osborne, Jean Paquin, Robert Parker, Ian Platt, Steve Playford, Bob Prentice, Ron Ritchie, Richard Russell, Doug Scovell, Maria Sedgwick, Don Shanahan, June Smith, Lisa Spracklin, Audrey Symmes, Lynn Tylor, Bruce Wall, Catherine Watson and James Wighton.

**BAILLIE BIRD-A-THON:** You may not realize it but spring is fast approaching, and with it the annual programs run by OFO and other provincial agencies are in full swing. OFO will again be fundraising through the Baillie Bird-a-thon. We encourage you to participate in one of two ways - either as a sponsored birder or as a sponsoring agent. While later mailings will tell you more about the project, if you wish write to us now with your commitment.

**FIELD TRIPS:** The following field trips have been confirmed for the 1990 season. We will be sending further information soon and individual leaders can be contacted for last minute details or information.

Algonquin Park led by Ron Tozer on Apr.28/90  
Long Point led by Barry Jones on May 12/90  
Rainy River led by Dave Elder on June 1-2/90  
Mansfield led by Ron Scovell on June 17/90 which  
will feature bird songs for beginners  
Pt. Pelee led by Al Wormington on Aug. 25/90  
Niagara led by Bob Curry on Nov. 18/90  
The OFO Spring Meeting will be held at Rondeau this  
year. Details of dates and agenda will follow.

The January Petroglyphs trip co-hosted by the Peterborough Field Naturalists was most successful, with over 40 attendees. While the weather was most unco-operative, the birding was generally good. While few birds were seen by everyone, everyone saw something. The list included Barrow's Golden-eye, Bald Eagle (2), Golden Eagle (1), Gray Jay, Raven, White-winged Crossbill and Red-shouldered Hawk.

**OFO DISPLAY:** Recently, the Board decided that we needed to upgrade our OFO display boards. Considerable effort has resulted in a much improved product that explains what we do and why. This is available to any member for use at your upcoming meetings. Please take advantage of this as it not only helps you, but it helps OFO by increasing awareness and our membership base. Contact us if you would like to use this.

**CALLS FOR INFORMATION/UPCOMING EVENTS/NEW PUBLICATIONS:**  
(1) The ROM advises that an exciting new bird display will be opening on the 7th of April at the museum. Representing all of the 25 orders of the world's birds, over 400 individual specimens are shown.

Special display cases allow visitors to walk underneath, alongside or through this dramatic assemblage of birds. "Drawer" displays allow visitors to delve deeper into the lives of birds by opening these labeled drawers. Other parts of the display concentrate on flight through mounted specimens and audio-visual aids, and endangered species, present, past and future. Additions to the display will be opened in December 1990. Elsewhere in the museum, concerned individuals may want to take in the rain forest display.

NOTE: As part of a new feature dealing with Reader Services where we will continue to provide you with up to date information on new publications and information, we should like to advise of the availability of the following two publications:

- (2) The Canadian Wildlife Service has just published a two-volume set of the "Atlas of Nearctic Shorebirds on the Coast of South America" by Dr. R. Morrison and Dr. R. Ross. This is available free from CWS, National Wildlife Research Centre, 100 Gamelin Blvd., Hull, Quebec, K1A 0H3. While it is not designed for the incidental birder, anyone with a strong interest in shorebirds or South America would be well advised to order a copy.
- (3) "The New Approach to Identification" by Peter Grant offers field identification tips in one thin volume. There are chapters on wing structure, moult sequences, and difficult groups such as shorebirds. It is available from OFO Reader Services through our regular mailing address listed on the masthead. The cost is \$10.00 plus \$1.00 shipping and handling.
- (4) The annual conference of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists will be held in Thunder Bay on June 1-3/90. There is much to interest keen birders. Some of the planned activities include: visiting nesting locales for Black Terns, Red-necked Grebes, White Pelicans and Yellow-headed Blackbirds; birding with local experts; awards ceremony for the annual Photo Salon; listening to speakers such as Robert Taylor on the Great Gray Owl and Dan Welsh on songbirds and logging; cruising Nipigon Bay to visit off-shore islands and attending numerous other field trips. For information write to FON Conference 1990, 143 Summit Ave., Thunder Bay, Ont., P7B 3P2.
- (5) MNR advises that they are seeking applicants for seasonal employment at Algonquin Park as Park Naturalists or Museum Technicians. Write to Ron Tozer at MNR, Box 219, Whitney, Ont., K0J 2M0.
- (6) The 1990 Swish Maintenance/OFO Photo Salon is accepting submissions for this year. Prizes will be similar to last year. A detailed flyer will be

mailed out to all members later this spring, but start thinking NOW. And speaking of the AGM - the 1990 meeting will be held at Erindale College on Oct. 20/90 in Mississauga. Erindale was selected this year because of its convenient location, accessibility, excellent facilities, attractive "birdy" grounds and good food. So mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend!

- (7) Jim Coey and Dave Milsom will be visiting Churchill in July. For information write to Flora and Fauna Field Tours, 232 Blair Dr., Bolton, Ont., L7E 1Z7.
- (8) The Long Point Bird Observatory is looking for volunteers to assist in a two year project to survey Great Blue Heron colonies. If you are interested in helping in any way, contact the LPBO c/o Bev Collier, LPBO, Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont., NOE 1M0 or call (519) 586-3531.
- (9) The Royal Botanical Gardens is sponsoring Hamilton Naturefest on April 29/90. Displays will include a nature art show & sale, live animals and workshops on a variety of nature related subjects.

SHORT AND TWEET: Only one person submitted an item this period. Now is your chance to have your name in print. Please send me your sightings for the next Newsletter.

Jim Coey writes that in December 1989, he visited Algonquin Park and observed a Red-breasted Nuthatch taking bread from his hand and jamming it into the bark of a nearby tree. It subsequently proceeded to eat the morsels.

BOOKS FOR REVIEW: Bill Crins advises that we have the following books available for review:

The Bald Eagle: Haunts and Habits of a Wilderness  
Monarch (Gerrard and Bortolotti)

The Bird Biographies of W.H. Hudson

A Birdfinding Guide to the Toronto Region (Goodwin)

Birds of the Kingston Region (Weir)

A Guide to the Birds of Panama, with Costa Rica,  
Nicaragua and Honduras (Ridgely & Gwynne)

A Guide to the Birds of Puerto Rico and the Virgin  
Islands (Raffaele)

A Guide to the Birds of the USSR (Flint, et. al.)

Mar: A Glimpse into the Natural Life of a Bird  
(Lawrence: on the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker)

Tracks in the Sky (Steinhart & Blake) - photo essay  
on the birds of the Pacific Flyway

If you are interested in writing these reviews contact Bill through the OFO mailing address. Your review will be published in a forthcoming issue of Ontario Birds.