



A rather exciting fall for birding is rapidly giving way to winter, with its own special brand of birding and special projects. I trust many of you will be involved in the Christmas Bird Counts, the Great Lakes Waterfowl Census and of course winter listing! Lest I forget, I want to wish all of you a great Christmas, and holiday season and a successful new year.

Membership Renewal: Please remember that your 1989 membership will soon expire. In order for us to continue our programs throughout the ensuing months, we need your renewals, as soon as possible. Please take a few moments to fill out the form at the end of the Newsletter and forward it with your cheque right away. Unfortunately, as you will notice, we are forced by increasing costs to raise our fees. I hope you will consider the benefits of our organization and the contributions of our membership at large to the betterment and research of birds in Ontario, when reviewing your membership commitment. We consider all of you valued and valuable individuals.

AGM: The Annual General Meeting was held in Scarborough in October. About 112 people were treated to an exciting and varied program, ranging from the usual Committee reports (ugh!) to a hawk identification workshop to a trip to the Antarctic to a mind-boggling bird quiz. Several awards and prizes were presented to some of the lucky attendees.

These included: (1) many door prizes;
(2) raffle draw for the Tryon Mint Great Egret which was won by Heather Malcolmson;
(3) OFO trophy presented to Arthur Langford for raising over \$6600.00 for the Baillie Bird-a-thon and Jeff Skevington and James Holdsworth for seeing 166 species on Bird-a-thon day;

(4) Swish Maintenance Photography Contest - 1st prize (\$250.00): Verna Higgins for her Whimbrel (which will appear on the 1990 Swish calendar); 2nd prize (\$100.00): Tim Sabo for his Spruce Grouse; 3rd prize (\$50.00): Mike McEvoy for his Eastern Kingbird and Honourable Mention (\$50.00): Mike McEvoy for his Whip-poor-will (described as the "ugliest" bird the Amblers of Swish had ever seen). The Amblers advise that calendars are available free to interested members. Contact them at: Swish Maintenance, 309 Lansdowne St. E., Peterborough, Ont. The Amblers also advise that they will run the contest again next year, so start clicking those photos. Our sincerest thanks go out to the Amblers and Swish Maintenance for their support in this endeavour.

Mark This Date: The 1990 AGM will be held at Erindale College in Mississauga on October 20, 1990.

Field Trips: The 1989 program has now been completed. Generally, it was quite successful, with lots of birds, lots of people and lots of fun. Unfortunately the Marathon trip was cancelled due to lack of interest, but the rest of the adventures went off almost without a hitch. The 1990 program is being developed as we speak. Rainy River will be run again next year in early June. And the everpopular Petroglyphs trip in search of Eagles will be run January 21, 1990. Meet in the parking lot at the north end of the Riverview Zoo in Peterborough at 8:30 a.m. sharp. Dress warm and bring a lunch. For more information, contact Geoff Carpentier (your trip leader) at 705-743-8594.

Battered Bins Award: The second annual Battered Bins Award was presented at the LPBO Annual Meeting on October 27, 1989. The winner of the "highest percentage of total species seen" was Mike Carlson, Tom Hince and Paul Pratt (the Peninsula Picoides) for seeing 195 of a possible 420 species (42.6%) on their Bird-a-thon done in New Jersey. The most amount of money raised went to Geoff Carpentier, Tony Bigg and Bob Prentice (the OFO Oldsquaws) for raising over \$2700.00 dollars.

And Speaking Of ...: OFO members and friends donated almost \$4700.00 to the Bird-a-thon this year. Our thanks go out to John and Victoria Carley, Maris Apse, Bill Edmunds, Dan Paleczny, Mitchell Tempkin, Sarah Webber and Bill and Valerie Wyatt for their fund-raising efforts. And sincerest thanks go out to Gail Worth for her co-ordination of OFO fundraisers.

LPBO Hotline: The Long Point Bird Observatory is pleased to announce that it has established a new Ontario Rare Bird Alert telephone service. This free service will update callers on provincial and local rarities, unusual sightings, migration trends, birding hotspots, upcoming field trips and meetings. Call (519) 586-3959 to receive or input sightings. Additional information can be obtained from Ron Ridout (519) 586-2652 or Doug McRae (519) 586-3531.

Update and Correction: Christine Hanrahan wrote to advise that the Western Canada Wilderness Committee not only is involved in preserving the Brazilian rainforests (as reported in the last Newsletter), but its main work involves trying to save natural areas of western Canada, such as the Stein Valley, Carmanah Valley on Vancouver Island and the Khutzeymateen Valley near Prince

Rupert. She also suggested that members might be interested in some of the other western organizations: (1) Northwest Wildlife Preservation Society, P.O. Box 34129, Stn. D, Vancouver, B.C., V6J 4N3 (preserving wolf populations in B.C. primarily), (2) Friends of Ecological Reserves, P.O. Box 1721, Stn. E, Victoria, B.C., V8W 2Y1 (instrumental in having areas set aside in B.C. as ecological reserves), (3) Society Preserving Environmental Conservation, 2150 Maple St., Vancouver, B.C., V6J 3T3 (name is self explanatory), and (4) Fraser Wetlands Committee, P.O. Box 9030, Surrey, B.C., V3T 5H8 (preserving critical habitat along the Fraser River and Boundary Bay).

FON Representative: Dave Lindsay has kindly agreed to act as the OFO rep. to the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. Address correspondence to him through the OFO mailing address.

Board of Directors: 1989-90 Board of Directors was elected at the AGM as follows: Margaret Bain, Geoff Carpentier, Trevor Levere, John McCauley, John Olmstead, Terry Osborne, Al Sandilands, Ron Scovell, Gerry Shemilt, Mitchell Tempkin and Gail Worth.

Ontario Birds: As many of you know, Don Fraser has stepped down as editor of Ontario Birds after several years in that post. Our sincerest thanks go out to Don for the countless hours he has donated to this task to produce a great legacy. Al Sandilands has kindly agreed to accept the editor's job. Welcome aboard Al! and thanks Don! Al advises that he has no backlog of articles for the journal. Please, immediately, if you've been working on or planning to write an article, finish it and send it to Al now.

1990 ONTARIO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

- I would like to: renew my OFO membership
 become a member of OFO
 make a tax deductible donation to OFO
 receive a donation for tax purposes

Name:
Address:
Town/City: Province/State:
Postal Code/Zip Code Telephone:

Annual Membership: Canada ... \$20.00 (\$Can.)
 Other ... \$20.00 (\$U.S.)
Life Membership: .. \$400.00 (\$Can.)
Donation:

Please make cheque payable and return to:
Ontario Field Ornithologists, P.O. Box 1204, Station B, Burlington,
Ontario, L7P 3S9

Short and Tweet: (1) Bill Walker reports that on July 10, 1989 he watched an adult Mew Gull pursuing a fluttering Cliff Swallow at Pelly Crossing in the Yukon. The gull chased the bird into a bush and after about 90 seconds it was joined by a second gull. Both birds hung around for a few more minutes but finally gave up.

(2) John Cartwright tells of a Kamikaze Cardinal which gave her "weet-weet-weet" call while incubating her eggs. This occurred in response to the males singing and after her previous nest had been destroyed by a squirrel!

(3) An anonymous respondent reports that Black-capped Chickadees fed at a Scarborough hummingbird feeder 3-6 times per day for about a week. The writer also reports that eastern Meadowlarks successfully nested in adjacent fields despite continual grass mowing by the Works Department, raising two broods in 1989.

(4) Geoff Carpentier visited Arizona in July, and on the 18th watched a juvenile Great-tailed Grackle battling with a hardened pretzel. The bird accidentally dropped it in a small puddle after about five minutes, and discovered that it quickly softened enough to eat. Thereafter, it immediately took the pretzels to the puddle before attempting to eat them. It apparently took the bird only one try to figure out this solution.

(5) Geoff also watched an adult Robin in Peterborough on August 7th, as it bathed in a puddle in the eavestrough. The bird flew up to the shingled roof, spread its wings flat on the surface, remained so for about a minute, and apparently dried them. The bird repeated this activity twice more during the afternoon.

Last Call: The OBRC is attempting to locate written descriptions and/or photographs of the Cassin's Kingbird which was present at Ottawa from September 19 to October 9, 1970. Although photographs are reported to exist, none have been sent to the OBRC. If you saw the bird, please forward your notes and photos to the OBRC c/o the OFO address at once, so this record can be reviewed early in the new year.

Geoffrey Carpentier, Editor
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