

# OFO



## ONTARIO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

### OFO NEWSLETTER

No. 4, August 1984

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

##### Niagara River Gulls - Saturday, November 24th

Meet at Lion's Club Park, Niagara-on-the-Lake (mouth of the Niagara River) at 0800h. We plan to spend the entire day birding various spots along the river, returning to Niagara-on-the-Lake for the gull flypast at dusk. Ten-cent chicken wings and refreshments afterwards at the American Hotel.  
Leaders: Chip and Linda Weseloh (416) 485-1464.

##### Third Annual General Meeting - Saturday, October 27th, Toronto, Ont.

The 3rd Annual General Meeting of the Ontario Field Ornithologists will be held on Saturday, October 27th at the McLaughlin Planetarium Lecture Room, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto. The lecture room is located in the basement of the planetarium.

#### Agenda

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 8:30 a.m.  | Registration   |
| 9:00       | President's Welcome  |
| 9:15       | Reports of Executive Officers  |
| 9:45       | Election of OFO Executive (1984-85)  |
|            | Election of OBRC Members (2)   |
| 10:30      | Coffee Break   |
| 11:00      | Other Business   |
| 11:30      | Bird Photo Identification Quiz   |
| 12:00      | Lunch  |
| 1:30 p.m.  | Answers to Photo Quiz  |
|            | Door Prizes  |
| 2:00       | Guest Speakers   |
|            | - Mary Gartshore, Birds of the Cameroon Mountains  |
|            | - Jim Rising, Hybridization of Birds on the Great Plains   |
| 4:00       | Adjournment  |
| 4:30-11:00 | Wine and cheese reception at the FON Conservation Centre (Locke House), 355 Lesmill Rd., Don Mills |

On Sunday, October 28th, a variety of morning and all-day field trips to local birding hotspots will be offered. These include trips to such places as the Eastern Marshes, the Leslie St. Spit, Dundas Marsh, Van Wagner's Beach, and the Niagara River. Further details concerning meeting places, times, etc. will be provided at the Saturday session.

O.F.O. EXECUTIVE 1985 - CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now being solicited to draw up a slate of officers to serve on the Board of Directors of O.F.O. for 1985. Nominations will be accepted from any member in good standing, provided they are in writing and are signed by the consenting nominee. Please send the written and signed nominations to **Bill Crins, Apt. 412, 1180 Forestwood Dr., Mississauga, Ontario, L5C 1H8, no later than 27 September 1984.** Please refer to O.F.O. Newsletter No. 2 and No. 3 for details of the election procedures.

ONTARIO BIRD REECORDS COMMITTEE - CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

In accordance with its operating guidelines, the O.B.R.C. will require 2 new members to serve 3-year terms beginning in January 1985. Any member of O.F.O. who has demonstrated an expert ability in and knowledge of field identification of birds is eligible. Please send the written nominations, signed by the consenting nominee, to **Bill Crins, Apt. 412, 1180 Forestwood Dr., Mississauga, Ontario, L5C 1H8, no later than 27 September 1984.**

OBRC NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Ontario Bird Records Committee has nominated the following two persons to serve for the years 1985-1987:

Kevin McLaughlin

Kevin is known to a great many Ontario birders as he takes two weeks of vacation at Point Peles each May. In addition, they have rushed to Hamilton to see his excellent finds such as Arctic Loon, N. Gannet, Fulvous Whistling Duck and Tufted Duck. Kevin has been birding for only 10 years which is surprising given his acknowledged expertise. He specializes in gull and shorebird ageing and identification; one has only to listen to him or read his meticulous accounts to appreciate his penchant for detailed descriptions. He is American Birds sub-regional editor for Hamilton and serves on the Hamilton Bird Records Committee which has just produced a Date Guide to the Birds of the Hamilton Area. Kevin is a bachelor who works for Union Gas in civilian life.

Ron Pittaway

Ron has been watching birds for "at least 27 years". He is one of that group of dynamic Ottawa birders who burst on the Ontario scene almost 20 years ago and was, in fact, a founding member of the Ottawa Bird Records Committee. Ron has written extensively in Trail and Landscape, The Canadian Field Naturalist, the Ontario Field Biologist and other publications on bird and mammal subjects. His enthusiasm for birds and bird identification is known to hundreds of Ontario bird watchers. Ron teaches outdoor education at the Leslie Frost Centre in Dorset and lives with his wife in Minden. Actually, he has been serving this year as an interim replacement so his appointment for another 3 years would provide for continuity.

Only one person, therefore, will be retiring from the Committee at the end of this year while maintaining the full 7 member force. Bob Curry who helped found the OBRC and was a member of the former OORC will be stepping down.

Bob Curry, Chairman  
OBRC

### Ontario Birds

Deadline for submissions to Vol. 2(3) of Ontario Birds is September 30th, 1984. Typewritten, double-spaced manuscripts (papers, short notes, book reviews, correspondence, etc.) should be sent to the attention of the Editors.

Back issues of Ontario Birds (Vol. 1, Nos. 1 and 2) have been reprinted and are now available at a cost of \$10.00/volume. Make cheques payable to "Ontario Field Ornithologists".

### Baillie Birdathon

At the Pelee Spring Meeting, 15 OFO members participated in the Baillie Birdathon and raised close to \$4,000. The efforts of Chip and Linda Weseloh and Mike Runtz accounted for almost half of this total. OFO's share of the money raised will be used to offset the cost of producing a third issue of Ontario Birds this year. Thanks to all participants and/or sponsors for making this possible. Those people who have yet to send in their money are reminded to do so as soon as possible. Cheques should be sent to Linda Weseloh, 1391 Mt. Pleasant Road, Toronto, Ont., M4N 2T7 no later than 31 August. Failure to meet this deadline jeopardizes OFO's share.

### OFO Directory

A reminder: So far, responses to the OFO Directory questionnaire have been exceptionally positive. To ensure the inclusion of every willing member in the Directory, we ask that all those who have yet to respond do so as soon as possible.

Luc Fazio  
OFO Secretary

Submissions to the OFO Newsletter should be sent to **Don Fraser, OFO Newsletter Editor, 342 Prospect Street, Newmarket, Ontario, L3Y 3V4**. Deadline for the next issue is November 30th. Also, a volunteer typist is urgently required to type future Newsletters. Please contact the editor if you would like to help out. Thank you.

REQUEST FOR DOCUMENTATION

Listed below are recently reported rare birds in Ontario for which the Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) has yet to receive documentation in support of their validity. Anyone having descriptions and/or photographs available on any of these records is requested to support the operations of the OBRC by providing documentation. Please send reports to Alan Wormington (OBRC Secretary) at R.R. #1, Leamington, Ontario N8H 3V4. (Any corrections to the occurrence dates listed below would also be welcome.)

Rainy River District

Western Kingbird, Rainy River (27 May 1983)  
Western Kingbird (3), Rainy River (3-6 July 1983)

Thunder Bay District

Western Kingbird, Silver Islet (14 June 1983)  
Western Kingbird, Silver Islet (August, 1983)  
Green Heron, Thunder Bay (5-14 May 1983)  
Varied Thrush, Thunder Bay (Fall, 1983)

Ottawa area

Laughing Gull, Nepean (5 May 1983)  
White-fronted Goose, Ramsayville (9 May 1983)  
Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Smith's Falls (22 October 1983)  
Little Blue Heron, Ottawa (14 August 1983)  
Northern Gannet (4), Ottawa (29 November-3 December 1983)  
Gyr Falcon, Ottawa (14-20 January 1984)

Presqu'ile Provincial Park

White Pelican (2), (28 August 1983)  
Townsend's Solitaire, (11-16 February 1984)  
Lark Bunting, (31 August-1 September 1983)

Sudbury/Manitoulin

Gyr Falcon, Sudbury (4 December 1983)  
Gyr Falcon, Manitoulin (18 December 1983)  
Gyr Falcon, Sudbury (27 March 1983)

Parry Sound/Muskoka Districts

Varied Thrush, Gravenhurst (11 December 1983)  
Gyr Falcon, Muskoka (5 November 1983)  
Gyr Falcon, North Keppel (5 November 1983)  
Yellow-throated Warbler, Rosseau (1-14 November 1983)

Toronto area

Laughing Gull, Rattray's Marsh (4 October 1983)  
Varied Thrush, Richmond Hill (19 January 1983)  
Mississippi Kite, Scarborough (25 June 1983)

Elgin County/London/Sarnia

White Pelican, Kettle Point (2 May 1983)  
American Avocet (7), Eagle (5 May 1983)  
Swainson's Hawk, Hawk Cliff (17 September 1983)  
Swainson's Hawk, Hawk Cliff (29 October 1983)  
Pomarine Jaeger, Sarnia (11 November 1983)  
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, St. Thomas (17 September-8 October 1983)  
Eurasian Wigeon, Port Stanley (24 April 1983)

Miscellaneous areas

Blue Grosbeak, Port Hope (5 October 1983)  
Eurasian Wigeon, Niagara Falls (15 November-2 December 1983)  
Pomarine Jaeger, North Point, James Bay (24 August 1983)  
Varied Thrush, Orangeville (14 November 1983)  
Varied Thrush, Brantford (mid-28 December 1983)  
Varied Thrush, Beeton (early January, 1984)  
Little Blue Heron, Tiny Marsh (21 May 1983)  
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Holiday Beach P. Park (17 June 1983)

THE O.F.O. FIELD TRIP TO RAINY RIVER/LAKE-OF-THE-WOODS 26-31 MAY 1984

The Rainy River area is a neglected part of Ontario ornithologically. Any trip to this area can yield valuable information on the more common breeding birds, as well as on vagrants and the western specialties known to occur here. A total of 8 members participated in this field trip to the westernmost corner of Ontario. Over the span of 6 days, a total of 162 species were seen and/or heard. We covered a wide variety of habitats on the clay plain along Rainy River and in the vicinity of the southeastern end of Lake-of-the-Woods. Hardwood forests, second-growth woods, sedge meadows, sloughs, dunes, shorelines, rural land, willow thickets, and coniferous woods were all visited. The early days of the trip were characterized by the presence of numerous migrant thrushes and warblers. Later in the trip, many of the later migrants, such as Mourning and Connecticut Warblers, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Scarlet Tanager appeared. Most of the nesting blackbirds (including both species of meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, and Yellow-headed Blackbird) were already on territory when we arrived. Other species which were regularly encountered in the area included White Pelican, Bald Eagle, Wilson's Phalarope (150+), Sedge Wren, LeConte's Sparrow, and Clay-colored Sparrow. In addition to the species mentioned above, some of the western and northern specialties encountered were Merlin, Sharp-tailed Grouse (1ek), Sandhill Crane (4+), Yellow Rail (heard), Marbled Godwit, Franklin's Gull, Great Gray Owl (4), Gray Jay (family group), and Black-billed Magpie (7). Most amazing of all was a full-plumaged male Western Tanager in full song at Windy Point on the southeast shore of Lake-of-the-Woods, on 30 May.

A substantial amount of data was also gathered for the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas while we were in the area. Some of the species nearing their limits of distribution or otherwise rare in northern Ontario which were recorded on the trip were Green-backed Heron (2nd record for northern Ontario), Willow Flycatcher, Northern Mockingbird, Yellow-throated Vireo, and Golden-winged Warbler. All in all, I think everyone who participated in this trip had a rewarding experience. I hope these highlites will stimulate others to bird this poorly known portion of Ontario.

ONTARIO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTSFinancial PositionDecember 31, 1983Assets

Cash on hand and in bank	\$ 2,789
Expense advances	158
Accounts receivable	406
Accrued interest	43
Deposit - Rainy River	100
Term Deposits	<u>2,500</u>
	\$ 5,996

Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$ 68
Fees received in advance	<u>1,010</u>
	1,078

Members' equity	<u>\$ 4,918</u>
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ONTARIO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTSStatement of IncomeYear Ended December 31, 1983Income

Memberships - Life	\$ 5,250	
- Annual	<u>3,180</u>	\$8,430
Interest income		399
Field trips		318
Baillie Birdathon		258
Grant-Baillie Fund		750
Exchange and bank charges		18
Donations		<u>10</u>
		\$10,183

Expenses

Ontario Birds	\$ 3,635	
Printing, postage and stationery	1,103	
Meetings	456	
Ontario Bird Records Committee	46	
Memberships	<u>25</u>	5,265

Net Income	\$ 4,918
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Members' equity at beginning of year	-
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Members' equity at end of year	<u>\$ 4,918</u>
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