



Rarely do birders come under criticism, except from their peers. However, on April 8, 1987, Mr. Bob Rife, of the Globe and Mail, wrote an uncomplimentary article about birders. It is included herein for your perusal. Also included is the ABA Code of Ethics for birders. OFO will be writing a letter to Vince Kerrio, Minister of Natural Resources, regarding certain statements made by his staff, in the newspaper article. We would, however, like the membership to review these two articles, and send us their comments about birders in general, in light of these two opposing views. How do you feel? Are birders generally living up to the Code of Ethics, or are they more like those portrayed in Rife's article? A summary of your comments will be incorporated in a future Newsletter. Please excuse the small print, but space is at a premium.

### Birders: as culpable as poachers

Isn't it about time to call bird watchers what they really are — bird hunters.

Don't they pursue birds as that activity is defined under the Game and Fish Act?

In the so-called non-consumptive (binoculars-at-a-distance) world of the birder, isn't it true that the pursuit, the location of birds, often causes them disturbance, worry and flight?

Isn't it also true that this pursuit often takes place at nesting time, that it often disrupts, sometimes for the season, the bird's reproductive effort?

Aren't those miscreants as culpable as poachers?

Hunting, under the act, "includes chasing, pursuing, following after or on the trail of, searching for . . . lying in wait for, worrying, molesting . . . any animal or bird."

Isn't it about time that birders be required by provincial and federal agencies to abide by the act?

Isn't it about time that birders be required to purchase some kind of hunting licence?

A few dedicated birders already recognize this situation. Some have gone through the required training and examination to obtain a hunting licence so they could pursue, find and photograph legally.

A few belong to conservation organizations such as Ducks Unlimited to foster the rehabilitation of the habitat of the birds they pursue.

Many dedicated birders also recognize that, within their ranks, they too have some of the same individuals as other segments of the outdoor world: the slobs.

Item: Bird columnist Peter Whelan reported and castigated attempts in March by bird-watcher slobs to attract a hawk owl within camera range with a live white rat. The land-owners where the bird was being molested said they "want an end to the trespassing, fence breaking and cattle scaring by birders chasing this owl."

Item: Earlier this month he reported a relatively rare female Eurasian widgeon that was

#### OUTDOORS

**BOB RIFE**



pursued by over-eager watcher-photographer slobs until it flushed and disappeared.

He also mentioned the birders' new half-joke: deal with the troublemakers this year before capital punishment returns.

Don Simkin, director of the Ministry of Natural Resources' wildlife branch, said: "It's time birders realized they *do* have an effect on the resource.

"They can do just as much damage as someone who takes a bird with a gun."

He paused and said, "I'd like to see some mechanism whereby birders could contribute to the management of the resource."

The time has come to enforce the licence.

Holding one's breath for amendments to the Game and Fish Act to come to fruition is a dangerous business — almost as dangerous as wearing other than blaze orange in the bush during the hunting season.

One of the proposals that died on the order paper when the legislature rose before its recent break concerned that very matter: hunters would be required to wear blaze orange for their own safety.

The plan is to re-introduce the bill as soon as possible, perhaps even this summer. At best, that would mean implementation sometime in mid-1988.

Much of the bill has to do with the bear hunt: curtailing harvest by limiting licences to one a hunter a season; restricting the use of hounds;

setting rules on baits and assuring that all non-residents make use of a guide.

But, in the breath-holding department, there is another scenario. If an election is called, the bill could die again before passage. Resurrection could be delayed another year, or more.

Ducks Unlimited Canada, one of the country's largest conservation organizations, has budgeted its 1987 expenditures at almost \$40-million. The development of waterfowl habitat represents almost \$30-million of that total.

DU Canada has begun work this year on 42 new projects in Ontario alone. These involve 1,295 hectares (3,200 acres). That effort is in addition to 21 carryover projects of 684 hectares (1,691 acres).

DU has 349 new projects under way in Canada, developing 19,183 hectares (47,400 acres).

Much of DU's operating money comes from fund-raising dinners held by local chapters. An example was the recent effort by the Port Perry chapter. Only the second such affair that the chapter has organized, it brought out 200 persons who contributed more than \$35,000 for wetland habitat restoration.

DU's Barrie chapter has planned its annual dinner and auction for Tuesday, April 21, at the Continental Inn in that city. Tickets and information may be obtained from DU Canada's office at 240 Bayview Dr., in Barrie.

Other Ontario chapter events scheduled this month include: Tomorrow, (April 9) New Liskeard; April 15, Bracebridge; April 22, Campbellford; April 24, Fort Frances and April 29, St. Thomas.

The spring general meeting of another major conservation organization, Trout Unlimited Canada, is scheduled tomorrow at the North York Public Library, 3170 Bathurst St., beginning at 7:30 p.m. The agenda includes election of officers, plans for the future and the annual work day on the Credit River scheduled April 18.

More on Birders' Hotlines . . . The Oshawa Hotline (a recorded message) has been discontinued. And . . . continued from the last Newsletter . . .

- 9. Rondeau Nature Centre: 519-674-5405 - interpretive staff will respond during daylight hours only.
- 10. Peterborough: 705-743-8594 - Geoff Carpentier organizes a communications network for the Peterborough/Northumberland and Presqu'ile areas. Please call in the evening.
- 11. Algonquin Park Museum: 705-366-5592 or 705-366-5505 - Ron Tozer organizes a hot-

line for local rarities.

12. Ottawa: 613-225-4333 - the status of birds in the Ottawa and extreme western Quebec areas is recorded. In addition, local birders keep track of provincial rarities.
13. Buffalo/Niagara: 716-896-1271 - the hot-line is updated generally on Friday or Monday by the Buffalo Museum. Current rarities are reported, but much time is spent reporting birds of local interest only.
14. Essex County: 519-252-BIRD - Does anyone know more about this hot-line?

Ontario Birds - Don Fraser wishes to thank the following people who assisted in the last mailing of the journal - Carolle and Ted Haugen, John Barker, Wendy Hunter, and Valerie Brown and her friend Scott.

OBRC - The Ontario Bird Records Committee has accepted the resignation of Alan Wormington, who served as secretary for the OBRC from 1984 to 1986. The Committee has announced that the 1987 secretary, Glenn Coady, was appointed at the March OBRC meeting in Toronto. The secretary, beginning in 1987, will be a non-voting member. Glenn has been birding since 1977 across Canada and recently in Central America. A TOC Committee member since 1985, he co-authored the Toronto Annual Bird Reports for the years 1984 to 1986. Glenn is presently Vice-President of OFO.

Mark Gawn has been appointed as a voting member for the period 1987 to 1989. He has been actively birding for about fifteen years and is past-Chairman and a current member of the Ottawa Records Committee. A graduate of Carleton University, Mark has written many articles for Trail and Landscape, and recently Ontario Birds. He has birded throughout Canada, the U.S., Mexico and Britain.

Jim Mountjoy has also been appointed as a voting member for the period 1987 to 1989. A birder since he was thirteen, Jim has served as secretary of the Durham Region Records Committee. He is a founding member of OFO, and a member of AOU and ABA. Jim recently completed his M.Sc. at Queen's University.

Ian Jones is the third voting member of the Committee. He has been birding since 1975, primarily in Ontario, the rest of Canada and the U.S. He is a past member of the Ottawa Records Committee. Ian is an accomplished artist, having illustrated a CWS booklet on seabirds, and two covers for Ontario Birds. He is currently in a Ph.D. program at Queen's.

Ron Pittaway has taken over the post of Chairman of the OBRC for 1987.

Baillie Bird-a-thon - Our sincerest thanks go out to all members and friends who sponsored our 1987 Celebrity Birder, Joey Slinger, and other members. More news will follow regarding how much money was raised. If any of you are delinquent in sending your pledges, please do so as soon as possible.

### American Birding Association Code of Ethics

We, the Membership of the American Birding Association, believe that all birders have an obligation at all times to protect wildlife, the natural environment, and the rights of others. We therefore pledge ourselves to provide leadership in meeting this obligation by adhering to the following general guidelines of good birding behavior.

I. *Birders must always act in ways that do not endanger the welfare of birds or other wildlife*

In keeping with this principle, we will

- Observe and photograph birds without knowingly disturbing them in any significant way
- Avoid chasing or repeatedly flushing birds.
- Only sparingly use recordings and similar methods of attracting birds and not use these methods in heavily birded areas.
- Keep an appropriate distance from nests and nesting colonies so as not to disturb them or expose them to danger.
- Refrain from handling birds or eggs unless engaged in recognized research activities

II. *Birders must always act in ways that do not harm the natural environment*

In keeping with this principle, we will

- Stay on existing roads, trails, and pathways whenever possible in order to avoid trampling or otherwise disturbing fragile habitat.
- Leave all habitat as we found it.

III. *Birders must always respect the rights of others*

In keeping with this principle, we will

- Respect the privacy and property of others by observing "No Trespassing" signs and by asking permission to enter private or posted lands.
- Observe all laws and the rules and regulations which govern public use of birding areas.
- Practice common courtesy in our contacts with others. For example, we will limit our requests for information, and we will make them at reasonable hours of the day.
- Always behave in a manner that will enhance the image of the birding community in the eyes of the public.

IV. *Birders in groups should assume special responsibilities.*

As group members, we will

- Take special care to alleviate the problems and disturbances that are multiplied when more people are present.
- Act in consideration of the group's interest, as well as our own.
- Support by our actions the responsibility of the group leader(s) for the conduct of the group.

As group leaders, we will

- Assume responsibility for the conduct of the group.
- Learn and inform the group of any special rules, regulations, or conduct applicable to the area or habitat being visited.
- Limit groups to a size that does not threaten the environment or the peace and tranquility of others.
- Teach others birding ethics by our words and example.

ONTARIO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS  
Statement of Income  
Year Ended December 31, 1986  
(with comparative figures for 1985)

	1986	1985
Income		
Memberships - Life	\$ 260	\$ 520
- Annual	5,327	4,702
	\$ 5,587	\$ 5,222
T-shirts, decals, etc	1,092	0
Ontario Birds - back issues	650	339
Interest	148	388
Field trips	0	(105)
Baillie Birdathon	1,956	1,899
Exchange and bank charges	136	77
Donations, including books	439	36
	<u>10,003</u>	<u>7,356</u>
Expenses		
T-shirts, decals, etc	1,125	0
Ontario Birds	7,912	6,626
Newsletter	1,327	650
Printing, postage and stationery	680	566
Meetings	27	(110)
Ontario Bird Records Committee	402	300
Birdathon Trophy and Certificates	534	0
Miscellaneous	188	(40)
	<u>12,195</u>	<u>2,992</u>
Net Income (Loss)	(2,187)	(136)
Members' equity at beginning of year	5,743	5,879
Members' equity at end of year	<u>\$ 3,556</u>	<u>\$ 5,743</u>

ONTARIO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS  
Financial Position  
December 31, 1986  
(with comparative figures for 1985)

	1986	1985
Assets		
Cash on hand and in bank	\$2,357	\$ 933
Accrued interest	9	54
Term Deposits	2,000	6,534
Inventory- Ontario Birds, at cost	2,735	2,322
- T-shirts, Decals, etc	500	0
	<u>8,151</u>	<u>9,943</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 213	\$ 327
Accrued liability- Ontario Birds	2,347	1,790
Fees received in advance	1,710	1,653
Owl Project	325	325
	<u>4,595</u>	<u>4,100</u>
Member's equity	<u>\$3,556</u>	<u>\$5,743</u>

Pen-Pals - We received a request from a young Polish birder who wants to communicate with Canadian birders on a regular basis. He sounds like a most interesting man, who at the age of twenty-one has experienced more than most people twice his age. If anyone would like to correspond with him, his name is ... Romuald Gwardys, Al. 3 Maja 5A m48, 00-401, Warsaw, Poland. If any of our members wish to fulfill this man's wish to meet Canadian birders by letter, please let me know and I'll pass on a copy of his original letter.

Calls for Information - (1) Beaverhill Bird Observatory announces a bird-banding workshop, as a contribution to Alberta's Wildlife '87 celebration. Beaverhill and the town of Tofield (close to Edmonton) are hosting the first annual Western Canada Bird-banding Workshop and Conference, August 7-9, 1987. The intention is to promote bird-banding in western Canada and to establish rapport among active banders. Interested participants are encouraged to contact the Beaverhill Bird Observatory at P.O. Box 4943, Edmonton, Alberta, T6E 5G8. (403-434-7446).

(2) The Purple Martin Conservation Association has advised the formation of a new non-profit organization to conserve and protect the Purple Martin through scientific research, state-of-the-art wildlife management techniques, and public education. They are seeking the help of all persons in locating and registering Purple Martin colonies throughout North America, in preparation for several projects designed to help this man-dependant species, which is experiencing long-term declines within parts of its breeding range. Information regarding the exact location of colonies should be sent immediately to the PMCA at P.O. Box 178, Edinboro, Penn., 16412, U.S.A.

(3) The Norfolk Field Naturalists advises that the "Natural Areas Inventory of Haldimand-Norfolk" is now available. This book is the result of

an intensive two-year study conducted by members of the club. The two-volume set is available for \$40.00 from the Norfolk Field Naturalists, Natural Areas Inventory, P.O. Box 424, Waterford, Ontario, N0E 1Y0.

(4) The Loggerhead Shrike Survey is ongoing in Ontario. For more information, write to Mike Cadman, Dept. of Recreation, Univ. of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3G1.

OFO Spring Meeting - The spring meeting was held at Long Point from June 5 to 7, 1987. A variety of locations were visited including Long Point, Turkey Point, St. Williams, South Walsingham Woods, Backus Woods, Vittoria Conservation Area, and the Townsend Sewage Lagoons. Martin McNicholl spoke on the Forster's Tern in Ontario, the OFO Volleyball team made its debut, and a Nature of Things clip on Long Point occupied attendees for part of the time. However, people came to bird this interesting area, and bird they did. Outclassed only by the mosquitoes, 153 species were recorded, and included Hooded Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Solitary Vireo, Kentucky Warbler, Barred Owl, Chuck-wills-widow, Red-bellied Woodp., Prothonotary Warbler, Upland Sandpiper, Willet (seen only by Glenn Coady - while tanning on the beach), five Least Bitterns, all three Accipiters and an albino Robin. Many people made this the success it was. Our thanks go out to Jon McCracken - the organizer, Terrie Woodrow, Mary Gartshore, Don Sutherland, Martin McNicholl, Bob Curry, Dave Sheppard, Mike Furber, George Wallace, Jane McCracken and Anne Marie Taylor.

Charitable Status - the OFO has now received permission to be listed as a charitable organization. Our Charitable Status # is 0756593-52-13, retroactive to January 1/87. Any members who have made donations to OFO since that time will receive tax receipts. Any other members who are trying to decide where to send their charitable dollars in 1987, are asked to consider OFO and the good work it does to educate people about birds.

Fall General Meeting - Further details will soon be sent to the membership regarding the fall meeting ... so stay tuned. In the meantime, Ron Scovell advises that the popular book sale held last year will be repeated. Members are invited to search their hearts and their closets for bird books that they no longer want or need. As in the past, books can be sold in one of three ways - all the proceeds going to the owner, part of the proceeds going to the owner, or all the proceeds going to OFO. The Board of Directors advises that we favour the latter choice. Lists of titles should be sent to Ron Scovell as soon as possible. The sale will take place October 24, 1987.

Field Trips - Details published in the last Journal regarding the trip in November to Sarnia and Kettle Point stated that there were stoplights at the parking lot at the Water Works in Sarnia. Well, there aren't! If you get lost, apparently everyone knows where this is, so just ask.

As we have been accused (unjustly!?) of being a little tardy in advising members of up-coming field trips, please mark February 6, 1988 on your calendar. That's the date chosen for the Petroglyph's outing in search of eagles.

Pembroke Swallow Roost Field Trip - This roost is one of the largest swallow roosts in Ontario, often reaching over 100,000 birds. Located on the shore of the river in downtown Pembroke, it is highly visible. The annual Swallow Festival will be held August 7 to 9, 1987. As part of the Festival and in conjunction with the Pembroke and Area Bird Club, OFO has organized a Swallow Roost Weekend. Field trips and a mini-seminar will be held to help people learn more about swallow behaviour. OFO members have been invited to attend a wine and cheese preview on Friday evening and also a preview of the Swallow Festival Art Show. The weekend's schedule is as follows:

Fri. Aug. 7 6:30 p.m. - Marina Parking Lot - meet to discuss plans for the evening watch and location assignments. The watch will take place from 7:15 to 9:00 p.m. Meet in the lobby of Heritage Inn at 9:30 for post-watch discussion and on to the cheese!

Sat. Aug. 8 5:30 a.m. - watch the swallows leave the roost until 6:30 a.m. Breakfast at the Heritage Inn - meet in lobby at 7:00 a.m. At 8:00 a.m. meet at Marina Parking Lot for departure to Barron Gorge in Algonquin Park. Botany and boreal species will occupy you until about 12:30 p.m. At 2:00 p.m. Swallow seminar, Room 201, Lecture Theatre, Algonquin College, 315 Pembroke St. E., until 4:00 p.m. From 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. follow Friday night's schedule.

Sun. Aug. 9 5:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. - follow Saturday's schedule. At 8:00 a.m. meet at the Marina Parking Lot for a field trip for shorebirds (Ed. note: there are lots of mudflats at the time of writing due to the low level of the Ottawa River). This field trip will be hosted by the PABC.

Camping is available at the Municipal Campground (613-735-1007) and /or you can stay at the Heritage Inn (800-267-0616). Note: the Wine and Cheese Party and Preview on Friday costs \$5.00/person - a reduced rate - and will be attended by 50 artists, including Michael Dumas. The trip to Barron Gorge will cost \$3.00/car entry fee to area. For further information, contact: Chip Weseloh at 416-485-1464 or Jacques Bouvier at 613-735-0366 (Pembroke).

OFO Directory - Luc Fazio has asked the members co-operate in updating the OFO Directory for leaders and speakers. Please carefully read the enclosed and return to Luc Fazio at 2347 Nikanna Road, Mississauga, Ontario, L5C 2W8 by September 1987.

CODE DESIGNATION FOR OFO DIRECTORY

- I = I do not mind being contacted by given telephone, at reasonable times, for bird information in my area.
- I2 = contact me by telephone only on weekends.
- M = if properly contacted by an easy to answer letter, I will give written information about Ontario birds in my area
- F1 = with enough advanced arrangement, I can take a few BIRDWATCHERS to see birds in the local area
- F2 = I can do committee work for OFO
- F3 = I can help with displays and workshops for OFO
- G1=With proper and advanced booking, I can be a GUEST SPEAKER for OFO and other birdwatching groups on Birds and Related Topics
- G2 = Give me a few more years and I will be a possible guest speaker.
- I1 = I am interested in birds distribution and identification.
- I2 = I am interested in Bird migration and banding.
- I3 = I am interested in bird breeding and ecology.
- I4 = I am interested in birds for pleasure and "listing".
- I5=I am interested in birds photography and ornithological history.
- C = I am involved in a BIRD Study course given in Ontario.

Realizing that many of you do not want to tear your Newsletter in pieces in order to reply to this request, feel free to photocopy this page or write the codes longhand and send them to Luc. But please make sure that you have included all requested information accurately.

Thanks to all my correspondents. Good Birding, a remember there are only about 35 shopping days left until the fall migration is in full swing. Oops, don't forget to read the other side of this page for more exciting news.....

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ My Telephone is: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_, Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
(NO CHANGE FROM FIRST DIRECTORY )



# ONTARIO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Annual General Meeting

24 & 25 October 1987

Niagara Parks Commission - School of Horticulture

All OFO members, friends and the public are invited to join the Ontario Field Ornithologists for their 6th Annual General Meeting on the gorgeous grounds of the Niagara Parks Commission - School of Horticulture in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Last year's AGM was such a success that we are following a similar format, changing only the location and making a few additions.

Guest Speakers

Good speakers and interesting talks are a key part of any AGM. This year's talks will be on par with the excellent ones we had last year. George Wallace, LPBO's Migration Program Manager, will give an illustrated talk on the Birds of Southern Chile and the Antarctic. We will also have a more technical talk on the biology of an Ontario bird species (to be decided).

Noon Bar-B-Que and Evening Social

Kayo and Diane Roy, our local conveners, have organized a noon Bar-B-Que in the nearby Niagara Gorge which should give us all a different view of the River and provide us with some birding time as we enjoy our lunch. Also, last year's evening social was a sell out, so we would be silly not to plan one for this year. Arrangements have been made to hold the event in the Commissioner's Quarters, Victoria Park Restaurant overlooking the Falls.

Hi-Tech Birding Workshop

What's all this talk about computers and videos in birding ?? Come see !! We plan to have a workshop showing birding videos and the use of computers in keeping bird records including various software packages. Computers and videos can be intimidating -- but not when viewed at the OFO AGM. We'll be starting with the basics.

Used Bird Book Sale

This was a smash hit at the '86 AGM and will be repeated this year. More of the books will be available this year on Red Mason's "silent bid" system. This prevents good books from being sold in the first few minutes of the sale and gives everyone a chance to "bid" on them. Books will be provided by you, the members, as well as by antiquarian book dealers. We ask all OFO members to look through their libraries and pull out duplicates or unwanted books for sale. YOU PROVIDE THEM, WE SELL THEM ! Donations are gladly accepted. Call Ron Scovell, 416-745-9111, for details.

Field Trips

Field trips are not yet finalized but there are tentative plans to have one 50 km into New York to the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge for waterfowl and late marsh birds. A second trip is planned to examine local birds of the Niagara Peninsula. Field trips for the AGM will not replace the annual OFO Niagara Gull Trip - see field trips elsewhere in the newsletter.

More complete information on the AGM and pre-registration forms will be mailed with the next issue of Ontario Birds in late August.

