

OFO



ONTARIO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Number 8.. February 1986.

OFO NEWSLETTER

As we enter 1986, we look forward to new and exciting adventures in the realm of bird study, and maybe even a little chase. For a keen and fortunate few, the year has already produced Peregrine Falcon, Gyrfalcon, Varied Thrush, and Green-tailed Towhee. The Board of Directors anticipates your continued interest in our future field programs and functions.

Since the writing of the last Newsletter, we are pleased to report a successful Annual General Meeting, October 26, 1985 in Toronto. Many of you can attest to an informative and interesting program on the aspects of biology, distribution, nesting and trivia. Those who did attend will obviously be popular party guests who can spout off such interesting facts as "How many birds are named after royalty?" (No - Anne Hinga does not count) or "Why would anyone name a bird after a tailor?" As part of the program, field trips were conducted at Toronto's Leslie Street Spit and Mt. Pleasant Cemetary on October 27th, where 22 OFO birders were treated to fine weather and 67 species of birds including - a Red-necked Grebe, 32 Brant, 3 White-rumped Sandpipers, a Purple Sandpiper, 6 late Common Terns, an extremely late Great Crested Flycatcher, a Bohemian Waxwing, a Fox Sparrow, a Lincoln's Sparrow and 13 House Finches.

The new Board of Directors for 1986 was meticulously screened and selected at the January Board Meeting. The new slate of officers is:

President	Chip Weseloh	Membership Sec.	Don Sutherland
Vice-Pres.	John McCracken	Field Trips	Linda Weseloh &
Treasurer	Hugh Currie		Glen Coady
Past Pres.	Don Sutherland	OBRC Rep.	Doug McRae
Recording Secretary	Luc Fazio		
Newsletter Editor	Geoff Carpentier		
<u>Ontario Birds</u> Editor	Don Fraser		
Corresponding Sec.	Margaret Bain		
Publicity	Victoria Carley &	Glen Coady	

The paid membership (as of January 11, 1986) stands at:

Annual 223; Life 115; Total 338 (Ed. Note: This total is artificially low as many renewals have not yet been received).

If anyone knows anyone who should be a member, please make the effort to contact them and sell them on us. If you are a little tardy yourself in renewing your membership, dig deep and dig now, for lest you forget the next issue of Ontario Birds will be your last. For anyone who renews promptly, we'll send you a free photo of a tree near where last summer's Yellow-crowned Night-Heron fed! (Ed. Note: Suitable for kindling).

We currently have a supply of all back issues and volumes of Ontario Birds (Volumes I, II and III) available to members who may wish to complete their set. We offer these to you at the original issue price in Volumes or single issues. Please make cheques payable to Ontario Field Ornithologists and specify:

Volume I (2 issues) \$10.00
 Volume II (3 issues) \$10.00
 Volume III (3 issues) \$13.00

Note: All single issues cost \$5.00 each when not ordered in Volumes.

ONTARIO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Financial Position

December 31, 1985

(with comparative figures for 1984)

ONTARIO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Statement of Income

Year Ended December 31, 1985

(with comparative figures for 1984)

	<u>1985</u>	<u>1984</u> <u>(Note)</u>
Assets		
Cash on hand and in bank	\$ 933	\$2,867
Accrued interest	54	56
Term Deposits	6,534	5,040
Inventory - Ontario Birds, at cost	<u>2,322</u>	<u>1,396</u>
	<u>9,843</u>	<u>\$9,359</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 327	\$ 301
Accrued liability - Ontario Birds	1,790	1,550
Fees received in advance	1,658	1,304
Owl Project	<u>325</u>	<u>325</u>
	<u>4,100</u>	<u>3,480</u>
Members' equity	<u><u>\$5,743</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,879</u></u>

	<u>1985</u>	<u>1984</u> <u>(Note)</u>
Income		
Memberships - Life	\$ 520	\$1,180
- Annual	<u>4,702</u>	<u>3,850</u>
	\$5,222	\$5,030
Ontario Birds - back issues	339	255
Interest	388	386
Field trips	(105)	(82)
Baillie Birdathon	1,899	1,863
Exchange and bank charges	77	44
Donations	<u>36</u>	<u>29</u>
	<u>7,856</u>	<u>7,525</u>
Expenses		
Ontario Birds	\$6,626	\$5,534
Printing, postage and stationery	1,216	931
Meetings	(110)	(296)
Ontario Bird Records Committee	300	301
Miscellaneous	<u>(40)</u>	<u>94</u>
	<u>7,992</u>	<u>6,564</u>
Net Income (Loss)	(136)	961
Members' equity at beginning of year	<u>5,879</u>	<u>4,918</u>
Members' equity at end of year	<u><u>\$5,743</u></u>	<u><u>\$5,879</u></u>

Note

In 1985 the inventory of Ontario Birds has been valued at cost of printing only and typesetting costs have been considered to be a current expense. In 1984 a pro-rata share of the typesetting costs were included as part of the cost of the inventory. The 1984 figures have been restated to reflect this change and as a result, the inventory, net income and members' equity have been reduced by \$744.

Announcements:

(1) Members are reminded that in 1986 we will be publishing "Historical Perspectives on Ornithology in Ontario" as advertised in Ontario Birds (Vol. 3 No. 2). If you have any thoughts or ideas for articles contact the co-authors Dr. Martin McNicholl and Mr. Jack Cranmer-Byng as soon as possible. Further news will be forthcoming.

(2) Field Trips: As our new Field Trip Committee has only recently been convened, plans for 1986 are only just getting underway. However, please note that on February 23, 1986 we shall be going to Petroglyphs Provincial Park in search of eagles. We know of at least five Bald and one Golden Eagle wintering in the Park. Meet

at 9:00 a.m. at the MacDonald's Restaurant (Lansdowne St. @ the Parkway) Peterborough or at the Park Gate at 10:00 a.m. Other trips are planned for late April to Algonquin Provincial Park, and other, as yet undecided, locations.

(3) This year's Spring Meeting will be held at Presqu'ile Provincial Park, Brighton, May 31 and June 1, 1986. Doug McRae is currently arranging for Group Camping facilities. This should prove to be an exciting and entertaining week-end with good presentations, birding and camaraderie. See you there!

(4) OFO will have a small display at the 1986 Federation of Ontario Naturalists Annual Conference and General Meeting (May 23-25, 1986). If you are planning to attend and could help with manning (or womanning) the booth, please let the Executive know. Also if you require information about the Conference, contact me directly and I'll send you a brochure and Program (include a stamped self-addressed 9"x4" envelope). The Peterborough Field Naturalists will be hosting this year's Conference at Trent University, Peterborough.

(5) As many of you will remember, we announced last fall that we were planning to produce and sell OFO T-shirts. Thanks to considerable effort by various members, particularly Victoria Carley, Linda Weseloh and Ron Ridout, we now have a design that will be used. Essentially it is very similar to the cover of our first Ontario Birds, except that three Little Gulls will be incorporated in a stylistic diagonal line across the chest. The base colour of the T-shirt is gray, with black and white graphics. These are of course available in small, medium, large and for the hearty eaters - extra large. We must guarantee advance sales of 100 T-shirts in order to proceed in this endeavour. So please, if you're interested, order yours now. The cost is \$10.00 (Can.) payable to OFO. Send orders to the Box Number listed at the end of the Newsletter - specify quantity required and size(s) please. Note: if we don't get enough orders we shall have to cancel this offer without advance notice. Order yours now! Obviously a delivery date cannot be guaranteed, but the T-shirts will be sent as soon as feasible.

(6) You may also recall that we will be producing window decals featuring the Little Gull. We are now prepared to accept orders for these at a cost of \$1.00 each. Delivery will be completed as soon as possible.

(7) Read the next Baillie Bird-a-thon Newsletter for details of Ontario's first (?) Birding Trophies!

(8) The LPBO has initiated a new program called "Project Recovery" designed to aid our songbirds. Essentially, as you know our summer birds spend over 50% of their time in neo-tropical forests. These forests are disappearing under the axe at an alarming rate. The purpose of the project is two-fold: (1) to increase recovery rates of banded birds, and (2) to identify the wintering areas of our birds. Declines in returning populations and preservation of critical habitats in South and Central America will be initiated. Of course, all this costs a great deal of money. You can help by "adopting a songbird" to offset the costs of the program. Tax receipts will be issued when you pay \$5.00 (Blackburnian Warbler, Magnolia Warbler and Least Flycatcher), \$10.00 (Red-eyed Vireo and

Swainson's Thrush), \$25.00 (Northern Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager), \$50.00 (Saw-whet Owl, and Sharp-shinned Hawk), \$75.00 (Merlin, and Cooper's Hawk), \$100.00 (Goshawk) or \$125.00 (Peregrine Falcon). Can you help? Choose a bird from within each category for yourself or a friend and help LPBO help our birds. Contact LPBO for application forms and information.

(9) The LPBO has announced that the bird checklist of the 331 species and 2 hybrids that have occurred in the Long Point area, is now available. Based on a 7"x4" format this convenient pocket-size publication is available to you for the price of \$1.00 post paid from the LPBO (P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ont., NOE 1M0).

(10) More news from LPBO - their Annual Bird-a-thon and Annual Banquet will be held May 2 & 3, 1986 in Port Dover.

In The News:

On January 8, 1986, the Toronto Globe and Mail printed a story about the MTC planning a shorter route between Barrie and Peterborough through the Keswick Marsh, south of Lake Simcoe. This important breeding, spawning and staging area for wildlife would be transected by a 10 meter high, 500 meter long bridge. The FON and the Botany Conservation Group has requested an Environmental Hearing from the Ministry of the Environment. If you are concerned about this matter, voice your opinion to James Bradley, Minister of the Environment, Queen's Park, Toronto.

The Owl Research and Rehabilitation Foundation, Vineland has announced that Brian Ratcliffe has joined their permanent staff, effective in the fall of 1985. This is the first time permanent staff has been in attendance in the history of the Foundation, except of course for Larry and Kay McKeever. Larry further advises that in the fall of 1986 his new book "A Dowry of Owls" will be published by Lester and Orpen Dennys of Toronto. The McKeever's report successful breeding programs for 1985 with Snowy, Barred (an orphan from Lindsay), Great Gray, Pygmy, Screech, Barn and Burrowing Owls.

As many of you know, on December 1 & 2, 1985, a savage storm lashed the Lake Erie shoreline, effectively eliminating the LPBO observatory and all its buildings. A massive fund-raising and rebuilding project has been initiated with a goal of \$50,000. A large percentage of this has been accomplished through generous gifts. However, much is yet to be done. The LPBO advises that further donations, particularly in the form of volunteer labour and supplies (building material and furnishings) are still needed. It is anticipated that a new cabin will be available for the fall. The banding and observational activities will recommence in the spring continuing a 25 year tradition. All donations will be tax-deductible, and should be sent directly to LPBO. The good news is that none of the data bank was lost!

The Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas is still going strong. A team of advisors and authors is drafting the final book at this very moment. If you still have outstanding data, get it in now before it's too late.

(Newsletter Editor: Geoff Carpentier,
42 Wallis Drive, Peterborough, Ont., K9J 6B7.)

Potpourri:

My request on your likes and dislikes regarding tripods in the last Newsletter, met with unexpected apathy. I guess you are all satisfied ... or are you?

Two further names can be added to your list of optical equipment repair depots - Camera Repair Center (1162 Yonge St., Toronto, M4W 2L9) 416-923-8143.

R. K. Walker (9 Joycelyn Dr., Streetsville, L5M 1T5)
416-826-2856.

Copies of the most recent editions of Seasons magazine are available through our FON rep. Bob Hawker, 109 Taylor Ave., Chatham, N7L 2T7. Anyone interested in the exciting spring and summer trip program of the FON should contact Martin & Kathy Parker, Box 1647, Port Elgin, NOH 2C0 (519-832-5928).

The Executive has sent a donation of \$100.00 and a request for membership to the LPBO on your behalf to aid in their trials.

Requests for Information:

(1) Ted Cheskey (835 Place Beaumont #3, Ste. Foy, P.Q. G1V 3Y2) is working on a project on the Olive-sided Flycatcher. He needs info. on regional sightings, nesting, etc.

(2) As reported in previous Newsletters, the CWS is looking for people who have sighted wing-tagged Bald Eagles, in Ontario. Send full details including tag # if possible to Bald Eagle Release Program, Canadian Wildlife Service, 152 Newbold Court, London, N6E 1Z7.

(3) Mr. Robert J. Wood (6158 Kingston Rd., West Hill, M1C 1K8) has requested information on the breeding status of Northern Goshawks in Ontario. He is particularly interested in nesting reports. In 1985 he and a co-worker found 47 active nests in the Peterborough area. He has passed all this data on the the Breeding Bird Atlas. He is looking for other evidence of breeding in the last 3-4 years. Realizing people's sensitivity to releasing raptor nest locations, he invites you or your respondents to contact him directly for credentials. In addition evidence of Merlin or Cooper's Hawks data is needed.

(4) Doug McRae (Box 98, Brighton, KOK 1H0) is continuing his record-keeping for Presqu'ile Prov. Park. Anyone with sightings should forward these to Doug, listing numbers, species, location & dates.

(5) The Quebec Breeding Bird Atlas is well underway. Anyone who would like to help or wants further information should contact: Yves Aubrey, CWS, 1141 Route de l'Eglise, C.P. 10100, 9th Floor, Ste. Foy, P.Q., G1V 4H5.

(6) The Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas is just now commencing under the direction of Judith Kennedy. If you will be in the east this summer, contact Judith at Maritime Breeding Bird Atlas, Natural History Section, Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer St., Halifax, N.S., N3H 3A6.

Book Reviews:

Bill Crins has the following titles available for review: "Birds of Cottage Country", "The Birding Handbook: Eastern Lake Superior" and "Feeding Wild Birds in Winter". If you are interested in these titles or want to be placed on a list for future reviews contact Bill at: 4524 West 11th Ave., Vancouver, B.C., V6R 2M4.