

OFO



ONTARIO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

Number 7. October 1985.

OFO NEWSLETTER

The fall migration is fast coming to an end, signalling the time for the OFO Annual General Meeting. This Newsletter will be your only announcement of the meeting, so please hang on to it.

The meeting will be held at the Mimico High School, 95 Mimico Ave., Etobicoke, on Saturday, October 26, 1985, starting at 9:30 a.m. (See map enclosed for directions).

AGENDA:

- 9:30 a.m. Registration (\$3.00 includes coffee and cookies)
10:00 a.m. President's Report
10:15 a.m. Treasurer's Report
Membership Report
Editor's Report (Ontario Birds)
Field Trip Report
OBRC Report
10:50 a.m. Gray Jays - Dan Strickland
11:20 a.m. Announcements (including Raffle)
11:30 a.m. Bird Quiz

12:00 Lunch

1:15 p.m. Answers to Bird Quiz and Awarding Prizes
1:45 p.m. T.B.A.
2:15 p.m. Travellogue - Ron Scovell
2:45 p.m. Pembroke Swallow Roost - Will Clark
3:00 p.m. Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas - Mike Cadman
3:30 p.m. Adjournment and Announcements

A social event is scheduled for Saturday night. As yet undesignated field trips are planned for Sunday, October 27. The Committee is working hard to make sure that they are as exciting and productive as ever. The Executive sincerely hopes that you will make the effort to attend the meeting, and participate in the running of your Club.

Calls For Information:

1. Environment Canada has agreed to co-operate with a Brazilian naturalist organization in a study to track Purple Martins moving through the Western Hemisphere. Last March, 300,000 Purple Martins were marked with fluorescent microtags, that show up under ultra-violet light, but do not harm the birds. The Canadian Wildlife Service is requesting that anyone who has Martin houses collect any shed feathers, and send them to Ottawa for examination. Send your name, address, and location of collection to Purple Martin

Project, CWS, Environment Canada, OTTAWA, Ontario (attention: Colleen Hyslop or Paul Hempel).

2. OFO is contemplating the production of window decals and T-shirts featuring our "Little Gull" logo. While we intend to proceed with the decal production, we need feedback regarding the feasibility of the T-shirt production. The T-shirts will sell for \$8.00 (Can.). If anyone would like to order one, send no money now, but let us know your name, address, size and quantity required as soon as possible. We will proceed with the project, only if we get enough orders - so let us know if you're interested. Address your reply to me or the OFO Post Office Box.

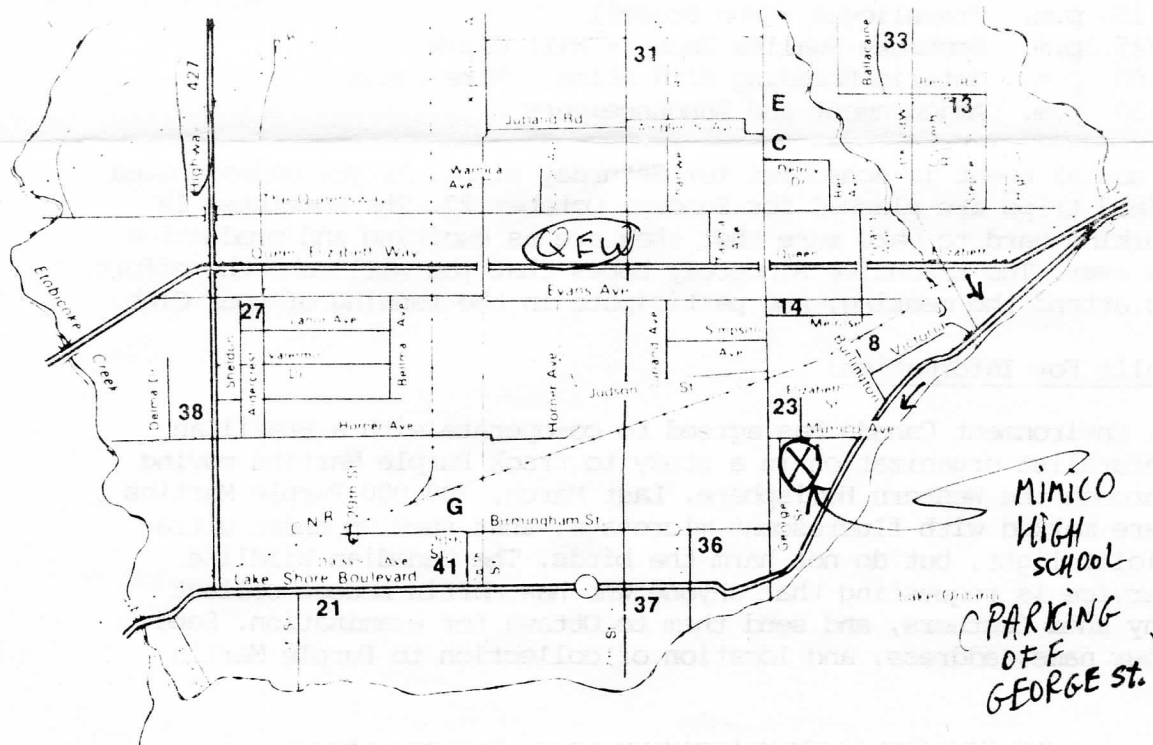
Announcements:

1. Watch the next issue of Ontario Birds for news on the forthcoming "Historical Perspectives on Ornithology in Ontario" - OFO Special Publication No. 1.

2. Many naturalists may not be aware of the fantastic birding opportunities that Pelee Island can offer. Lynn Tiessen, who owns and operates Tiessen's Bed and Breakfast (West Shore Road, Pelee Island, Ontario, NOR 1M0 - 519-724-2068) with her husband Ron can provide further information on bookings, rates for accomodation and ferry schedules.

3. Robert Bateman has produced another exquisite painting - this time for Canada's first Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp. "Mallard Pair - Early Winter" is designed to raise funds for the Wildlife Habitat Canada Foundation, an independent non-profit organization, established to help preserve wetlands and other wildlife habitats. None of the funds raised will be assigned for the specific benefit of any naturalist or hunter groups. It is recommended that interested birders assist in this project by purchasing a stamp for \$4.00. They may be obtained at the Post Office Philatelic Counter or the Canada Post Corporation's Mail Order Service.

4. Directions to Mimico High School:



5. The Long Point Bird Observatory is hosting its Fall General Meeting at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, on Wed., October 30, 1985, starting at 8:00 p.m. Chandler Robbins is scheduled as the Key-note speaker.

6. The LPBO is accepting applications from naturalists for financial assistance from the J.L. Baillie Memorial Fund, for Canadian ornithological projects. Contact the LPBO directly for more info.

7. Dr. J. Murray Spiers has announced the publication this fall of the two-volume "Birds of Ontario" authored by Dr. Spiers. They will cost \$49.95 (Vol. I) and \$24.95 (Vol. II). Order from Chapman and Prince, Booksellers. 11 Cross St., Dundas, Ontario, L9H 2R3. Tel. 416-627-5007.

Field Trips:

1. Chip Weseloh will be leading a field trip and observational study November 8-10, 1985 to the Essex County Crow Roost located within the city limits of Essex, Ontario. This documented phenomenon represents the largest known crow roost in Ontario, and perhaps Canada. Contact Chip at 416-485-1464 (evenings) for details.

2. The OFO Fall Niagara Gull trip is scheduled for November 23/85 commencing at 8:15 a.m. from the small park, located at the mouth of the Niagara River, Niagara-on-the-Lake. Leaders T.B.A. This weekend has proven to be one of the most productive times of year to gull watch, as tens of thousands of birds will be seen - including some rare ones.

Bird Courses:

We have been asked by some members to collate a list of bird-oriented courses available to naturalists. Following is a list of those courses we could get information on from the co-ordinators. While we cannot endorse or comment on their content, we felt you would like to know of their existence:

Frank Bell - Ottawa

Mike Cadman - George Brown College

John Cartwright - London

Rick Dawson - Conestoga College

Bruce Duncan - Mohawk College

Rosemary Gaymer - Sheridan College

Clive Godwin - Toronto

Paul Pratt - Essex Conservation Authority

Doug Sadler - Sir Sandford Fleming College (Peterborough Campus)

Scarborough Board of Education

North York Board of Education

Etobicoke Board of Education.

If you require further information, contact the instructors or Colleges directly. If you know of other courses, contact me in writing, for inclusion in future Newsletters.

Binocular Repairs:

I received many replies to my request in the last Newsletter for information on people who repair binoculars and scopes. The following repair centers were recommended by at least one reporter:

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1. Efston Science, 3350 Dufferin St., Toronto, M6A 3A4.
(416-787-4581) - all makes binoculars and scopes.
2. Nikon Canada Inc., 1366 Aerowood Cr., (Cooksville) Mississauga,
Ontario, L4W 1C1. (416-625-9910) - Nikon products.
3. Wild Leitz Canada Ltd., 513 McNicoll Ave., Willowdale, Ontario,
M2H 2C9. (416-497-2460) - Leitz products.
4. Mike Kominek, 405 A Yonge St., Toronto, Ontario. (416-977-2132)
- Leitz, Zeiss, Bausch and Lomb and Bushnell products.
5. Bushnell Service Department, 1832 West 1st Avenue, Vancouver,
British Columbia, V6J 1G5. - Bausch and Lomb and Bushnell scopes
and binoculars.
6. Andre Tieman, 1191 Brimley Road, Scarborough, Ontario.
(416-438-5675) - unspecified.
7. Pentax Canada Ltd., 3131 Universal Drive, Mississauga, Ontario,
L4X 2E5. - Pentax products.
8. Cosman and Associates, Unit #1, 5230 Dundas St., W., Islington,
Ontario, M9B 1A8. - Swift products.
9. Dayman Photo Marketing Ltd., #22-3241 Kennedy Road, Scarborough,
Ontario, M1V 2J9. - unspecified.

Many of the respondents wrote long letters, advising particulars on these businesses. Unfortunately, space does not permit printing those here. My thanks to all who replied (it's better than getting bills in the mail!). If anyone requires further information, or wants to add to the list, please contact me at your leisure.

And in Closing:

Tripods can be difficult items to purchase. Birders generally require very specific features on tripods to carry and handle both scopes and binoculars. Simple things like weight, carrying straps or cases, extended height and folded height, ease of attachment of equipment to scope, quick release features, durability (especially the leg clamps), versatility, etc. must all be considered. I recently did some research into some of the available products on the market. While I could not find a "perfect" tripod, at least in my opinion, I did finally find one that met most of my stringent requirements. I favour the Slik 88N model, as a good all-round tripod adequate to birder's needs. What is your favourite? Let me know. If anyone has contacts with some of the tripod manufacturers, I would be particularly interested in what they have to offer. OFO is not trying to endorse any particular product, but in a specialty field such as this, it's nice to know what is available.

Many of you are aware that the last Newsletter was a little late in getting out. Entering a new era, we no longer have to blame the Post Office, we can now blame computers. In fact, that was exactly the problem - obtaining a computerized mailing list. Sorry if this caused anyone any inconvenience.

Good Birding!.

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