

OFO



ONTARIO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

O.F.O. NEWSLETTER

No. 3, Feb. 1984

Upcoming O.F.O. Events

Ivy Lea (Hill Island)/Amherst Island 11 March 1984

Rendezvous at 0730h at Ontario Travel Information Centre, just east of the Ivy Lea International Bridge on the north side of the Thousand Islands Parkway at Reynolds Road (approx. 13 km east of Gananoque along the Thousand Islands Parkway; exit Hwy. #401 at Interchange 108 (Reynolds Road) then travel south to the Thousand Islands Parkway).

The first part of the morning will be spent on Hill Island, across the International Bridge (\$1.50 return/vehicle), searching the likely spots for Wild Turkey, Bald Eagle and waterfowl. The remainder of the trip will be spent birding on Amherst Island, 20 km west of Kingston, in a search for owls (Great Gray, Long and Short-eared, Great Horned, Barred, Snowy, Saw-whet and Boreal) as well as other species of wintering raptors.

The trip will conclude on the mainland ferrydock at Millhaven at 1630h. The cost of the Amherst Island ferry, between Millhaven and Stella, is \$1.50/vehicle plus an additional 0.25¢/passenger.

For more information, contact Don Sutherland at (416) 481-6774 (evenings only).

2nd Annual Point Pelee Field Meeting 12-13 May 1984

This event will be similar to last year's, providing an opportunity for OFO members and friends to congregate at Ontario's premier birding "hotspot". An evening programme will be held in the Auditorium of the Interpretive Centre on Saturday from 1930-2130h. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis and everyone is welcome. Field trips for novice and experienced birders will be held on Sunday morning beginning at 0800h. Meet at the NW corner of the large, paved parkinglot at the Interpretive Centre. Further information may be obtained at the OFO display in the Interpretive Centre or from Mike Oldham, (519) 776-5612.

Rainy River/Lake-of-the-Woods 26-31 May 1984

This is your opportunity to visit northwestern Ontario with other birders in search of several elusive Ontario species (Yellow Rail, Brewer's and Yellow-headed Blackbird, White Pelican, Black-billed Magpie, and Piping Plover). The trip will rendezvous at Budreau's Oak Grove Camp on the banks of the Rainy River on Saturday afternoon (26th) and disband on the 31st. Participants are welcome to stay for any or all of the 5 nights and 6 days. For full details on what to expect and how to get to Budreau's see Ron Ridout's site guide in Ontario Birds 1: 50-55.

Accommodation at Budreau's is in cabins (\$10.00/night/person) or campsite (\$7.00/night with electricity or \$6.00/night without). There are no stores or restaurants within 20 minutes of Budreau's - all food must be brought in, although we will be making trips to town as needed. To reserve a cabin send \$50.00 and your name and address to Bill Crins, #412-1180 Forestwood Drive, Mississauga, Ontario L5C 1H8. To reserve a campsite, simply notify Bill (Home (416) 276-7093; Office 828-5379). We have reserved 4 cabins which will hold 22 persons (some double beds are available, please specify). Travel to Rainy River is available from southern Ontario as follows:

- 1) By Bus - depart Toronto, Friday, 1245h; arrive Rainy River, Saturday, 1510h: \$147.60 return; for details phone (416)979-3511.
- 2) By Train - depart Toronto, Thursday, midnight; arrive Kenora, Saturday, 0700h: \$200.00 return, berth extra; for details phone (416)366-8411.
- 3) By Air - depart Toronto via Air Canada, Saturday 0910h (or 1310h); arrive Winnipeg 1036h (or 1438h); \$316.00 return, advance booking; phone (416) 925-2311 or depart Toronto via Nordair, Saturday 0840h; arrive Ft. Frances (via Thunder Bay) 1155h; \$316.00 return, advance booking; If you are arriving by bus notify Bill and arrangements will be made to pick you up in Rainy River. If you arrive anywhere else, car rentals are available.
- 4) By Car - straight driving time from Toronto to Budreau's is approximately 20 to 24 hours.

The 1984 O.F.O. Board of Directors

The following slate of eleven (11) directors was ratified at the First Annual General Meeting held in London on 22nd October 1983 (portfolios were decided upon at a meeting of the Board of Directors held in Peterborough on 14 January 1984):

Bill Crins (Vice-president)	Ron Ridout (Past-president)
Verne Evans (Treasurer)	Mike Runtz (Membership)
Luc Fazio (Secretary)	Don Sutherland (President)
Don Fraser (Publicity)	Chip Weseloh (Editor)
Doug McRae (OBRC Repr.)	Linda Weseloh (Editor)
Mike Oldham (Field Trips)	

Luc Fazio and Mike Oldham will be serving their first terms in 1984, while the remainder of the Board will be in its second term.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 1984 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION will be held in the Royal Ontario Museum Planetarium Lecture Room, Queen's Park Cres., Toronto on Saturday 10 March 1984. Registration begins at 0915h (\$2.50/person). The agenda includes Banding Station and Bird Observatory reports, door prizes, films and slide talks on such topics as "Population Growth of the House Finch in the Niagara Region" and "The Burrowing Owl in Canada". All welcome.

The annual meeting of the Ontario members of the Society of Canadian Ornithologists will be held at the University of Toronto on 24 March 1984. Registration begins at 0800h in the Ramsay Wright Zoological Laboratories on the corner of Harbord and St. George Streets. Everyone welcome. For further information contact Ross James, Department of Ornithology, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto M5S 2C6.

ONTARIO BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The OBRC continues to function and thrive since its 1982 Report (Ontario Birds 1:7-15). In fact, the Committee has examined close to 200 submissions for 1983 which represents almost a 100% increase over 1982. Because these reports often require several mailing circulations and meetings, we felt it better, in the interests of completeness, to postpone our Annual Report until later. However, there have been a number of changes which it seems appropriate to announce at this time.

*****Criteria for additions to the Ontario Checklist**

Omitted from the Guidelines is the stipulation that two independent acceptable documentations are necessary for a species to be added to the Provincial Checklist. This conforms to the practices of other respected records committees but does not imply that a single observer report of a new species must be 110% convincing to be accepted.

*****Changes to the Review List**

Piping Plover has been added and Arctic Tern removed from the Review List for Southern Ontario; the former has become increasingly rare and the latter is reported annually in spring along the Ottawa River which by definition eliminates the requirement for documentation. Other changes will occur as this is a dynamic thing.

*****Committee Membership Changes**

Arriving at the end of their terms on 31 December 1983 were P.D.Pratt and D.A. Sutherland. Our thanks to these charter members who have spent many hours not just vetting bird records but painstakingly hammering out the Guidelines. To replace these two, R.D.McRae and D.Rupert were nominated and acclaimed for 3 year terms at the 1983 OFO Annual General Meeting. In addition, R.D.James has resigned as Secretary although he will write the 1983 Report. We will sorely miss not only his indefatigable efforts but also the respect which his membership lent to the Committee. However, one of the Province's finest field men, A.Wormington, has been selected as the new Secretary. R.Pittaway will replace Wormington for the last year (1984) of his term.

*****1983 OBRC Annual Report**

The OBRC Report for 1983 will appear in the August 1984 issue of Ontario Birds. The Committee is looking forward to an even more complete reporting of all rare birds in Ontario in 1984. Our reports are only as complete as your submissions permit them to be. We strongly encourage birders to submit documentation of any and all Review list birds from previous years to get as accurate a record as possible of the status of rare birds in Ontario. Send all documentations to the OBRC Secretary, Alan Wormington, RR#1, LEAMINGTON Ontario N8H 3V4.

R.Curry, OBRC Chairman, 92 Hostein Drive, ANCASTER, Ontario L9G 2S7

CONSTITUTIONAL UPDATES

At O.F.C.'s first Annual General Meeting, held in London on 22 October 1983, a motion was put forward by Bill Orina, and passed by a unanimous vote of the members present, to clarify the Constitution as it appears in the O.F.C. Newsletter No. 2, July 1983, with the following changes:

ARTICLE IV, Section 1

The sentence dealing with the Past-President should be corrected to read: 'The immediate Past-President shall be an ex-officio member of the Board ...'

ARTICLE IV, Section 2

The last sentence should be corrected to read: 'A Director may hold up to three consecutive terms, subject to the provisions of the Constitution.'

ARTICLE IV, Section 5

The first line should be corrected as follows: 'The immediate Past-President shall act as Chairperson ...'

ARTICLE V, Section 2

The wording for this section should read as follows: 'Officers may hold up to a maximum of three consecutive terms, subject to the provisions of the Constitution. This limit will include all consecutive terms held at other positions on the Board of Directors, if any.'

ARTICLE VI, Section 1

The last sentence should read: 'The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees of the O.F.C., and he/she or a designate shall represent the O.F.C. at public meetings.'

ARTICLE VI, Section 5

This section should read as follows: 'The immediate Past-President shall nominate nominations for a slate of Directors to be presented at the Annual General Meeting. He/she shall be an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors, unless the consecutive term limitation (Article V, Section 2) has not been reached and he/she is re-elected to the Board.'

ARTICLE VII, Section 1

Editor of "Ontario Birds" should read: 'Editor(s) of "Ontario Birds"'.
Add the following sentence to the end of this section: 'The editor(s) term shall not be subject to the three consecutive year limitation, unless deemed desirable by the Board of Directors.'

ARTICLE VII, Section 3

This section should be corrected as follows: 'The Board of Directors may establish or dissolve Special Committees to deal with special issues ...'

ARTICLE VIII, Section 2

The second sentence in this section should be corrected as follows: 'No business shall be transacted at any meeting unless ...'

ARTICLE VIII, Section 3

The wording of this section should be changed to the following: 'Any question, other than those dealing with Constitutional amendments, submitted to any meeting of members shall be decided by a majority of votes cast by members in good standing, and in case of an equality of votes, the Chairperson of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.'

ARTICLE XI

This article should read as follows: 'Amendments to the Constitution of the O.F.C. may be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the membership. Thirty (30) days shall be allowed for respondents to submit negative ballots in the case of a mail vote. No response to a mail ballot shall constitute a positive response. Votes held on proposed amendments at an Annual General Meeting must receive a two-thirds (2/3) majority from those present in order to pass. In such cases, a vote by proxy will be considered valid if it is signed, dated, and tendered by a member in good standing.'

I would like to thank all of those members who provided comments and input during the formulation of our Constitution. The Constitution is a fundamental and essential part of any organization, and I feel that with your support, we have produced a document which should stand the test of time. We now have a framework within which we can work. If you have any further comments, don't hesitate to drop me a line.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Orina
William J. Orina
Vice-President

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION*****GREAT GRAY OWLS

Help is needed to document what is likely the largest invasion of Great Gray Owls ever recorded in southern Ontario. The Ontario Field Ornithologists, in co-operation with the Royal Ontario Museum and the Ministry of Natural Resources, is investigating the winter of 1983-84 invasion under the direction of Dr. Ross James and Doug McRae. There are 4 ways in which you can help us get an accurate picture of this rare and poorly understood phenomenon:

- 1) If you find any dead owls please ship them C.O.D. to Ross James, Dept. of Ornithology, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto M5S 2C6. Contact Ross by telephone (416-978-3684) beforehand to ensure that it will be picked up quickly. Include a label indicating the date, exact location, collector, and cause of death.
- 2) If you see an owl regurgitate a pellet, please make every effort to retrieve it. Put it into a plastic bag with a label indicating date, exact location and collector and mail to the ROM.
- 3) Record all sightings of birds (date, exact location, number, and observer) and send to Ross by 15 April 1984.
- 4) For those who are willing to spend several hours watching and recording detailed information on an individual bird, a reporting form is available. Space is provided for information concerning hunting success, prey items, habitat preferences and perch types etc. These forms can be obtained by writing Doug McRae at 159 Queen St., Kingston Ont. K7K 1A9 (613-549-6293).

Your assistance in this important project is greatly appreciated. All contributions will be acknowledged and results will be published in a future issue of Ontario Birds.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION*****BIRDS OF THE LESLIE ST. SPIT, TORONTO

Information is needed on the birds of the Leslie St. Spit, Toronto for future publication as an annotated checklist. Records for all species are required, but most particularly for the period pre-1978. Please provide as many details as possible for each sighting, including date, numbers, sex and age (if known) and specific location on the headland. All contributions will be gratefully acknowledged. Send information to: Donald M. Fraser, 342 Prospect St., Newmarket, Ontario L3Y 3V4 or phone collect (416) 895-9818.

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE*****ONTARIO BREEDING BIRD ATLAS

At the request of the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas Management Committee, the OFO Board of Directors has agreed to undertake the task of atlassing one of the poorly covered areas of southern Ontario. Commencing with the upcoming (1984) atlas season, OFO will begin covering untouched atlas squares in the Thousand Islands Region (#22) of southeastern Ontario. This region, roughly bounded by the centres of Gananoque, Carleton Place and Morrisburg, is comprised of 65 10km² squares, about 25-30 of which have received little or no coverage to date.

Anyone who has friends, relatives or connections within the region and/or who is prepared to participate in a square-bashing expedition tentatively planned for late June 1984, is encouraged to contact Don Sutherland (Regional Co-ordinator, Region #22), 350 Inglewood Drive, TORONTO M4T 1J6 or phone (416) 481-6774, before 2200h.

1984 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL*****FINAL NOTICE!!!!

1983 annual memberships expire with this newsletter. Vol.2(1) of Ontario Birds will not be sent unless we are in receipt of your 1984 dues. Individual membership rates for the calendar year are still \$10.00. Please remit a cheque or money order in this amount payable to the "Ontario Field Ornithologists" and fill out and detach the form below. Be sure to note any address changes or corrections. Receipts are available upon request.

ONTARIO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 1984

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/TOWN: _____ PROV./STATE: _____

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