

# OFO



## ONTARIO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS

OFO NEWSLETTER NO. 1

February, 1983

### FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: BURLINGTON, ONTARIO

On Saturday, November 13, 1982, the inaugural Annual General Meeting of the OFO was held at Aldershot High School in Burlington. Approximately 125 people attended the morning session, which was largely devoted to a discussion of the organization's purpose, objectives and history. Bob Curry, Chairman of the newly revamped Ontario Bird Records Committee explained the role and operating guidelines of the OBRC, whose activities the OFO will oversee. The official business having been completed, the podium was turned over to Richard Knapton, who presented a highly informative slide talk on the subtleties of sparrow identification. By the end we were all more familiar with the field characteristics of this difficult group, especially the significance of malar stripes. Richard was followed by our second speaker, Ron Tozer, who gave us a very humorous account of the Algonquin Park Christmas Bird Count. Although many of the anecdotes Ron recounted stretched the limits of one's imagination, they were all well documented with photographic evidence. Ron Ridout, the final speaker, gave a slide show preview of what to expect on our Sunday field trip to Niagara.

Three field trips to local birding areas were offered in the afternoon. A trip to Coote's Paradise led by Ron Ridout and Bill Crins produced a Brant, an immature Bald Eagle and a late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Alan Wormington's tour of the lakeshore turned up a Red-throated Loon off Van Wagner's Beach, while the highlight of Kevin McLaughlin's field trip was a female Harlequin Duck at the entrance to the canal.

An evening "social" at the Dofasco recreation hall in Hamilton only attracted 27 people. Despite the low turnout, everyone present had a good time. A draw was held for an original Ron Ridout painting of Little Gulls; Brenda Brobst of Cambridge was the lucky winner.

On Sunday, about 50 people took part in an all-day outing to the Niagara River. A total of 11 species of gulls was seen, among them an adult Black-headed, one Lesser Black-backed and a Thayer's. By weekend's end, the OFO had gained almost 75 new members. More importantly, the support and enthusiasm demonstrated by those in attendance affirmed our conviction that the future of the OFO will be long and productive.

### ONTARIO BIRDS: the journal of the Ontario Field Ornithologists

The OFO will publish a journal entitled Ontario Birds. The objective of the journal will be to provide a forum for the exchange and dissemination of ideas and knowledge among Ontario field ornithologists. The expected date of publication of the first issue is early April 1983. At present

we have over a dozen articles committed for this first issue, covering such topics as:

- \* The status and distribution of the Red-shouldered Hawk in Ontario
- \* Winter distribution of the Common Crow in Ontario: an analysis of Christmas Bird Count data
- \* Identification of Loggerhead and Northern Shrikes
- \* A revised checklist of Ontario birds (1982)
- \* Report of the Ontario Bird Records Committee, 1982
- \* A birding site guide to Thickson's Woods, Whitby
- \* First record of Painted Bunting for Ontario and Canada
- \* Crepuscular fall flight of American Woodcock
- \* A book review of a Bird-Finding Guide to Ontario

The experience of those associated with the production of Ontario Birds is fitting for the task. As co-editors, Chip and Linda Weseloh have more than 20 years experience in editing and compiling natural history club newsletters. Carol Fox, a professional book designer has designed the cover and interior of the journal. Heather Runtz, the fourth member of the production team, also has several years of journal writing and design experience.

#### EDITORIAL POLICY

All material for Ontario Birds will be contributed by volunteers. We encourage the submission of full length articles or short notes on the status of bird species in Ontario, significant provincial, regional and county distributional records, tips on bird identification, behavioural observations of birds in Ontario, location guides to significant birdwatching areas in Ontario, book reviews and similar material of interest pertaining to Ontario birds. We do not accept submissions dealing with "listing" and at present we discourage Seasonal Summaries of bird sightings as these are covered, respectively, by Birdfinding in Canada and American Birds. Distributional records of species for which the Ontario Bird Records Committee requires documentation must be accepted by this Committee before they can be published in Ontario Birds. Submissions should be type-written and double-spaced on 8 1/2" x 11" unlined paper. Prints of black and white photographs are encouraged, and will be accepted either in accompaniment with articles or for general illustrative purposes.

#### OFO EXECUTIVE: 1982-83

The following people have been appointed to the board of directors of the Ontario Field Ornithologists for 1982-83. In future years elections will be held at the Annual General Meeting.

Board of Directors

|                     |                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| President           | Ron Ridout, Orillia           |
| Vice-president      | Bill Crins, Mississauga       |
| Treasurer           | Verne Evans, Oakville         |
| Secretary           | Doug McRae, Peterborough      |
| Membership Sec.     | Don Fraser, Newmarket         |
| Editors             | Chip & Linda Weseloh, Toronto |
| OBRC Representative | Don Sutherland, Mallorytown   |
| Director            | Mike Runtz, Arnprior          |
| Director            | Sarah Wood, Hamilton          |

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter Waterfowl and Gull Identification

On Saturday, February 19, 1983, Chip and Linda Weseloh and Ron Ridout will lead a birding field trip along the Toronto waterfront. While anyone is invited to join us, much of the emphasis of this outing will be on identification for novice birders. At this time of the year, we can expect large concentrations of wintering ducks and gulls. Meet at the Oakville GO Station parking lot at 9:00 AM. Bring binoculars, lunch and dress warmly. If you require additional information or have difficulty with transportation to Oakville, the co-leaders can be contacted at the following numbers:

Chip and Linda Weseloh (416) 485-1464  
Ron Ridout (416) 270-1349

SPRING FIELD MEETING: POINT PELEE

A spring field meeting of the OFO will be held at Point Pelee National Park, Leamington, Ontario on the weekend of May 14-15, 1983. An evening program will be presented starting at 7:30 PM, Saturday, in the Interpretive Centre Theatre. Details will follow in the April issue of Ontario Birds.

MOOSONEE TRIP: SEPTEMBER

A field trip to Moosonee is being planned around a weekend in mid-September, 1983. This is an excellent location and date for massive shorebird and waterbird migrations. Because of the extensive travel time involved, a minimum of five days (Thursday evening - Wednesday morning) should be allotted from Southern Ontario. Start planning now. More details later.

ONTARIO BIRDS: AUTUMN ISSUE

The second issue of Ontario Birds is planned for September-October 1983. Articles, notes, reviews, etc., are now being accepted by the Editors. We encourage you to contribute.