



OFO NEWS

Newsletter of the Ontario Field Ornithologists

Volume 12, Number One February 1994

After working single-handedly to produce the OFO Newsletter since its inception over ten years ago, Geoff Carpentier is stepping down as newsletter editor. An editorial committee comprised of Jean Iron, George Bryant and Gerry Shemilt has assumed responsibility for newsletter production. On behalf of the OFO Executive we thank Geoff for his many years of service.

Your newsletter has a new look and we hope you like it. We want to make OFO NEWS current and interesting with articles and information about birds in Ontario. We also hope to incorporate a variety of illustrations in the form of drawings and photographs. We welcome your ideas about what to include and your suggestions for improvement. Please feel free to contact the Editors.

Editors' Message

We extend our thanks to artist, David Beadle, for his magnificent illustration of the Pileated Woodpecker which appears at the top of this newsletter. This dynamic bird was selected because it is a resident Ontario bird, it occurs throughout most of the Province, and "a glimpse of it remains a thrill for most who see it for the first time or the thousandth" (Hoyt 1957).

Your editors,
Jean Iron, George Bryant, Gerry Shemilt

Send Newsletter correspondence to:
Jean Iron, 9 Lichen Place, Don Mills, Ontario M3A 1X3
Hoyt, S.F. 1957. The ecology of the Pileated Woodpecker. Ecology 38:246-256

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At Loggerheads Over Decline

by
Ron Pittaway

In 1992 the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) designated the Loggerhead Shrike as "Endangered". Surveys by the MNR in 1993 found only 47 pairs and 22 single birds. It is generally believed that the lack of suitable breeding habitat is the limiting factor in the decline of Loggerhead Shrike populations. However, a recent study by the MNR indicates there is enough suitable habitat in the province to support 500 pairs or about ten times the current number.

The Loggerhead Shrike has virtually disappeared from the Province of Quebec. In 1993 only one nest site and a single bird were reported. By contrast, the number of Loggerhead Shrikes in Saskatchewan is increasing to densities similar to those of the early 1970s, an increase over the all time low of 1984. If the lack of suitable breeding habitat isn't responsible for the decline, what is happening to the Loggerhead Shrike in Ontario?

For more information, a new publication (1993) by the Canadian Wildlife Service, *Hinterland Who's Who* **LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE** is available free by contacting: Publications, Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3 Tel: (819) 997-1095 ISBN: 0-662-20446-8

A Brief Visit to Thunder Cape

by
Matt Holder

Thunder Cape is situated at the tip of Sibley Peninsula in Thunder Bay District and is the site of a relatively new bird banding station, Thunder Cape Bird Observatory (TCBO). After a reconnaissance trip in the autumn of 1991, banders from Long Point Bird Observatory decided that it could be a suitable location for bird migration monitoring, judging by the great numbers of migrating birds seen flying by the tip.

Since then, Violet-green Swallow, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and "Black" Brant are just some of the rare birds seen during the first field seasons at the Cape and hopes of seeing rarities as good as these filled my head as I journeyed up to this magical place from Toronto in the spring of 1993.

I was so anxious to get to Thunder Cape that the 20+ hours of the bus trip seemed, well, like 20+ hours (when you go for that long in a bus, 20 hours is just a hop from eternity). I was keen to acquire banding experience and witness large numbers of migrating birds (including mega-rarities), but my immense excitement at reaching the final bus stop was severely dampened by my sleep-deprivation. But after meeting David Shepherd, I was eager to get started.

Travelling in the boat to Thunder Cape was an incredible experience. Here I was heading for the unknown, the place where Ontario "firsts" drip off the trees and into the palm of your hand. As I saw Thunder Cape for the first time, thoughts raced through my head. What was going to be my best bird during my month-long stay; a North American "first", a Canadian "first" or just an Ontario "first"? Was I going to get Eskimo Curlew on my Ontario list? Anything seemed possible, at least with my imagination. Unfortunately, we had arrived during a cold, miserable spell of weather which resulted in a definite lack of passerines. A terrible nagging feeling set in, had I already missed the bird of the spring?

The miserable first week was not a total loss. On May 13, three days after arriving, I watched as about 200 Common Loons, in groups of two to four, flew by the cape in a matter of hours. In amongst all of these Commons, were a Red-throated (locally rare) and a Pacific, only the second record for Thunder Bay! Things were looking up!!

Throughout my stay the weather and birds gradually got better and though I missed good birds in southern Ontario (e.g. the Pelee Kirtland's Warbler), I did get to see some interesting birds at TCBO, such as a Double-crested Cormorant with white crests, suggesting the western form. The rare passerine of my stay finally turned up outside the cabin window on May 27. Through the drizzle I could see that the *Carpodacus* finch perched near the top of one of the balsam firs had a plain face and I groaned, realizing that I would have to make detailed notes for this rarity. True, this was one of



Cape May Warbler banded at TCBO

only a handful of House Finch records for Thunder Bay, but still...it was a <gag> House Finch. Oh well, at least I got to band this rarity when it flew into one of our mist nets.

Overall, my month at TCBO was a great experience. I fulfilled my goals to get banding experience, to see the beautiful Thunder Bay area, to watch hundreds of migrating birds, and help with valuable research like the day when we banded over 100 Tennessee and over 60 Cape May warblers. We didn't get the mega-rarities I'd hoped for (they are more likely in the fall), but I had a great time. I encourage everyone to visit this wonderful area and support TCBO. I look forward to my next visit hopefully in spring 1994, so that I can renew my search for THE BIRD.

Federation of Ontario Naturalists

1994

Annual Conference and General Meeting

27-29 May 1994

at McMaster University

Hamilton, Ontario

Hosted by: Hamilton Naturalists' Club

The program includes many birding topics and field trips to local birding areas. OFO members are invited to attend.

For information on registration contact Doug McCallum (905) 383-9844 or (905) 681-2738.

OBRC Welcomes New Members

by Ron Pittaway

The Ontario Bird Records Committee (OBRC) welcomes two new members for 1994. Kevin McLaughlin of Hamilton and Alan Wormington of Leamington begin their three-year terms in March 1994, replacing Nick Escott and Ron Pittaway (chair) whose terms end at that time. Also retiring is Margaret Bain who has worked tirelessly as secretary since 1991. Her work is greatly appreciated. Margaret's 1993 OBRC Annual Report will be published in the August 1994 edition of *Ontario Birds*. Ron Pittaway now assumes the position of secretary which is non-voting and is renewed annually. The 1994 OBRC Committee is:

Bob Curry (chair)	Ross James
Richard Knapton	Kevin McLaughlin
Ron Pittaway (secretary)	Dennis Rupert
Ron Tozer	Alan Wormington

In addition to reviewing the rare bird sightings in Ontario, the OBRC has completed other significant projects over the past few years. Recently it enacted a policy for dealing with historical records. A full explanation of this policy was published in *Ontario Birds*, Volume 11 (1):36-37, April 1993.

In 1992 the OBRC officially

recognized the current interest in the field identification of subspecies and other identifiable forms. It developed A Review List of Recognizable Forms which was published in *Ontario Birds*, Volume 10 (1):39-38, April 1992. Also, at its meeting in November 1993, the OBRC decided to review all new subspecies sighted in Ontario. Any subspecies not listed in James (1991) or Godfrey (1986) as occurring in Ontario now requires documentation.

A major goal for the new OBRC is to update the Review List of Reportable Species for Southern and Northern Ontario. Some species may be dropped because they are known to be regularly occurring, and others will be added. A recent example is the Henslow's Sparrow which is now a reportable species for Southern Ontario.

Literature cited

Godfrey, W. Earl. 1986. *The Birds of Canada*.
James, Ross D. 1991. *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Ontario*.

All reports should be sent to: Secretary, OBRC, Ontario Field Ornithologists, Box 62014, Burlington Mall Postal Outlet, Burlington, Ontario L7R 4K2.

Ontario Bird Information Services

Durham	(905) 668-3070
Hamilton	(905) 648-9537
London	(519) 473-5853
Long Point/Province-wide	(519) 586-3959
Ottawa	(613) 761-1967
Point Pelee	(519) 322-2371
Sarnia	(519) 337-1479
S.Ste. Marie	(705) 256-2790
Toronto Star	(416) 350-3000
	Touch tone 2293
Windsor/Pt. Pelee	(519) 252-2473
U.S.A.	
Buffalo	(716) 896-1271
Detroit	(313) 477-1360

Forest Bird Monitoring Plan

Our thanks to the 90 people who covered sites for the FBMP in 1993. The FBMP is expanding in 1994 to begin covering woods as small as 5 hectares, and new volunteers are needed. Participants must be able to identify local forest breeding birds by song, and must set up a minimum of three stations. Two 10-minute visits are required to each station in late May and June. Set up stations in your favourite woodlot(s), it's enjoyable and worthwhile.

For information contact Mike Cadman, Canadian Wildlife Service, 70 Fountain St. East, Guelph, Ontario N1H 3N6. Tel: (519) 766-1594, Fax (519) 766-1698.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1993 ACTIVITIES OF O.F.O.

O.F.O. operated in the "black" for 1993; this is the first time this has happened in a few years. This has been accomplished through the hard work and innovative ideas of the executive, and the continued support of a growing membership. The figures tabled below include all monetary incomes and expenditures that are associated with the 1993 business activities of O.F.O.

INCOMES

Advertising revenue from 1993 issues of journal	800
Annual General Meeting	1476
Donations (General)	1669
Donations (Publication of "Ornithology in Ontario")	100
GST Rebate for 1993	523
Interest	306
Life membership	400
Membership dues for 1993	8141
Miscellaneous	5
Pre-publication sales of "Ornithology in Ontario"	1671
Proceeds from 1993 LPBO Birdathon	946
Sales of back issues of the journal	606
Ticket sales for 1993 pelagic outing	3945
TOTAL	20588

EXPENDITURES

Annual General Meeting	784
Bank Charges	80
Boat charter for 1993 pelagic outing	4280
Field trip expenses	336
Insurance	330
Miscellaneous	115
"Ornithology in Ontario" expenses	438
Postage & office supplies	3382
Printing (Journals, newsletters, flyers etc)	7454
TOTAL	17199

All figures rounded to nearest dollar

Incomes exceeded expenditures by \$3389, (\$1333 of this is to be applied to the publication costs of the new O.F.O. book, "Ornithology in Ontario")

A. Dobson, Treasurer.

Long-term Monitoring of Staging Waterfowl

by
Richard Knapton

Richard Knapton, Research Director, Long Point Waterfowl & Wetlands Research Fund, was a keynote speaker at the OFO Annual General Meeting last October and gave a presentation entitled "Ducks, Mud and Mussels". The next two issues of OFO NEWS will feature some of the research projects on which this presentation was based.

Long-term monitoring of waterfowl staging during spring and fall migration in the wetlands at Long Point is a high priority research activity of the Long Point Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Fund's program. Such information is invaluable for determining long-term trends in populations of all species of waterfowl at Long Point. Four to six aerial surveys have been flown each spring and fall since 1991. Thirteen to sixteen ground counts have been carried out around the base of the point in each spring. Twenty-seven species of waterfowl have been identified, and seasonal abundances and locations for each species have been plotted.

Tundra Swan

Tundra Swan numbers have been slowly but steadily increasing across the continent, and the encouragingly high totals from our aerial surveys at Long Point reflect this trend. Estimated peak totals were 8,000 in mid-March and over 5,000 in November and early December 1992, and over 8,000 in early November 1993. During spring, swans gather as much on agricultural land as on wetlands; in fall, flocks were primarily in the larger marshes. Their feeding habits in fall at Long Point are not known; as the population increases and the flocks stay longer in the fall, then a study of their diet needs to be considered.

Mallards and American Black Duck

Total numbers from both aerial surveys and ground counts for both ducks in 1993 were less than half those in 1992. Waterfowl day calculations showed the lowest numbers since surveying began. Mallards were especially low in 1993, in contrast to 1992 numbers which appeared to have recovered to a fairly high level. Similar trends applied to Black Ducks and all other dabbling ducks, including later migrants such as Blue-winged Teal and Northern Shoveler. The trends could have been weather-related, as spring 1993 was later than the previous two years.

On a more optimistic note, numbers of Mallards and Black Ducks were high in fall 1993. If this trend holds for the remainder of the fall, then it will probably indicate a good breeding season with high recruitment into the populations of several duck species.

American Wigeon

According to marsh managers and hunters, wigeon have been increasing in numbers in recent years at Long Point, and in general our surveys support this trend. For example, we estimated 21,000 wigeon on October 13, 1991, more than twice the peak numbers estimated from aerial surveys of the

CWS during the 1980s. Our spring estimates were also considerably higher than those of the last 10 years or so.

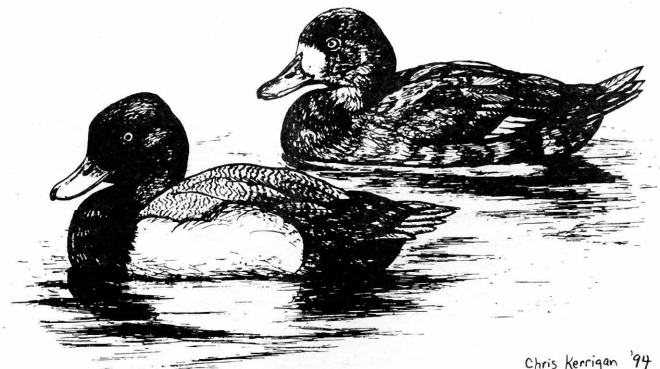
Canvasback and Redhead

Numbers are modest compared to the massive concentrations reported by the CWS 20 years ago. Numbers of Canvasbacks peaked in 1992 in mid-March and then rapidly declined into early April, whereas in 1993 numbers slowly built up to a peak during the first and second weeks of April before rapidly declining. Even so, total estimates from both aerial and ground counts were over 40% less in 1993 than in 1992. However, numbers in fall 1993 were high, with over 40,000 in late October and early November, suggesting high recruitment levels into the population.

The spring migration window for Redheads was similar in both years, surprisingly so because of weather conditions. However, unlike 1992, there was no peak in numbers in 1993 and totals were less than 30% of those in 1992. Redhead numbers are unpredictable from one year to the next, and numbers estimated at one station such as Long Point may not reflect continental population trends. Why the birds should show a lack of site fidelity from year to year is an interesting question; our diet analysis reveals a fairly wide array of different foods taken, so this lack of predictability may not be food driven.

Scaup spp.

An encouraging result from the spring monitoring program has been an increase in scaups. Waterfowl day calculations from aerial surveys in 1992 numbered around 264,000, whereas those in 1993 numbered 348,000, a 25% increase, and data from the ground counts similarly reflect this increase. Assuming the scaups were gathering to feed on *Dreissenid* mussels, there is a possible correlation between increased numbers of scaups at Long Point and a crash in zebra mussel populations in the west end of Lake Erie, such that scaups relocated this spring off the tip of Long Point from traditional locations elsewhere on Lake Erie.



Chris Kerrigan '94

Over 40,000 scaups were estimated in October and November 1993, suggesting high recruitment. An unusual feature in fall 1993 was the occurrence of large rafts of scaups off the tip at Long Point, in a new staging area, again possibly food related.

Other Species

Common Goldeneye lingered much later in 1993 than in 1992, hence total spring populations in 1993 were considerably higher. The migration of Ring-necked Ducks through Long Point was completely different between the two years: in 1992, the species peaked in mid March, and then numbers declined into early April, whereas in 1993, Ring-necks did not even appear until late March and peaked in early April at a much lower level. However, the species which showed the greatest change in numbers between the two years was Green-winged Teal; from ground count data (the species is difficult to census from aerial surveys), totals in 1992 amounted to 620 individuals but to only 162 birds in 1993. Weather conditions may have accounted for much of the difference in totals, but Green-winged Teal is a species which has shown declines in recent years (Dennis *et al.* 1989).

Ruddy Ducks have gathered off the south beach in large numbers, between 2,000 and 3,000, for the past three falls. What they are doing there (i.e. roosting, foraging) is not known: they may feed at night in the Inner Bay, crossing the peninsula at dusk with Canvasbacks and Redheads. We are attempting to determine what they are feeding on, and where.

Acknowledgements

I thank the field assistants who helped in collecting and tabulating data: Dave Agro, Chris Drummond, Lisa Enright, Garth Herring, Keiko Kimura and Kerrie (Pauls) Wilcox. Research funding was supplied by the Long Point Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Fund (contribution 93-07), through support from the Bluff's Hunting Club, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Canadian Wildlife Service, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Long Point Bird Observatory, Ontario Environment Youth Corps, and Federal Section 25 and Challenge programs.

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Dennis, D. G., G. B. McCullough, N. R. North and R. K. Ross. 1984. An updated assessment of migrant waterfowl use of the Ontario shorelines of the southern Great Lakes. In S. G. Curtis, D. G. Dennis and H. Boyd (eds.). Waterfowl studies in Ontario, 1973-1981. Canadian Wildlife Service Report Series 54.

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Knapton, R. W., and K. Pauls. Fall food habits of American Wigeon at Long Point, Lake Erie Ontario. Journal of Great Lakes Research (in press).

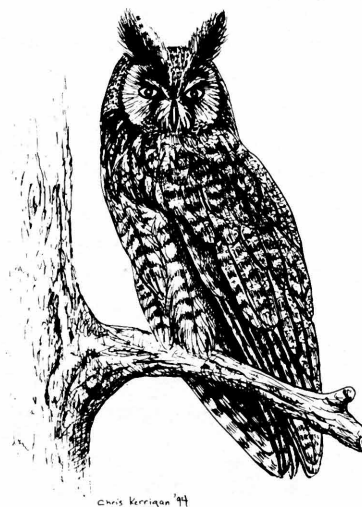
Pauls, K. and R. Knapton. 1993. Submerged macrophytes of Long Point's Inner Bay; their distribution and value for waterfowl. Long Point Environmental Folio Publication Series, Technical Paper 1. University of Waterloo, Ontario. 43 pp.

Profile of an Artist

by

Bill Crins, Ron Pittaway, Ron Tozer

This issue features the artwork of Christine Kerrigan. Chris is a member of OFO and the art consultant to *Ontario Birds* where her work appears regularly. She lives and has her art studio near Kearney, west of Algonquin Park. Her regular commissions include artwork and illustrations for the Canadian Wildlife Federation and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, and she has exhibited at the Buckhorn Wildlife and Art Festival. Chris works comfortably in various media such as pen and ink, acrylics, oils and water colours. Both Chris and her husband, Peter Nevin, share a concern for wild animals. Their spare time is devoted to the operation of a small wildlife rehabilitation centre on their 20 hectare property. In addition to eight orphaned White-tailed Deer, they are currently caring for two injured Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers which were unable to migrate, and a Common Redpoll. The editors of *Ontario Birds* gratefully acknowledge Christine's work.



Chris Kerrigan '94

ONTARIO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS
SPECIAL PUBLICATION NUMBER ONE

**ORNITHOLOGY
IN
ONTARIO**



Edited by
Martin E. McNicholl & John Cranmer Byng
SPECIAL PUBLICATION NO. 1, ONTARIO FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS - 1994

This major publication records the history of ornithology in Ontario, and includes chapters on Archaeology, Egg Collecting, Naturalist Clubs and Museums in Ontario. Biographies of the pioneers of ornithology in the province include Baillie - Dear - Fleming - Lloyd - Mitchell - Saunders - Shortt - Snyder Stirrett and White. As well there are selected species accounts and short biographies of other noted Ontario ornithologists and artists.

In total the Editors have brought together twenty-four authors, with photographs, illustrations and artwork to produce a comprehensive overview of Ontario ornithology. All birders will find this reference book an essential addition to their library.

NOW AVAILABLE

\$24.95

postage & packing \$3.50

Send your cheque, payable to Ontario Field Ornithologists to

ORNITHOLOGY IN ONTARIO

c/o S. Haddington, 1 Harbour Street, RR# 3, Brighton, Ontario K0K 1H0.
Allow 2 weeks for delivery.

Looking ahead

From Birdathon 1993...

The Baillie Birdathon, sponsored by the Long Point Bird Observatory (LPBO), is an annual fund raising event of provincial significance to people who care about birds. Last year over \$130,000 was raised for bird conservation and research.

OFO is one of the participating clubs and as such receives a portion of the monies raised by our members.

Several members birded in 1993, raising well over \$3000.00, with \$946.41 being returned to OFO. The OFO Board of Directors, LPBO and the Baillie Fund thank Maris Apse, Tony Bigg, Valerie Brown, Geoff Carpentier, Donald Kerr, John Schmelefske, Terrie Smith, Allen Woodliffe and Bryan Wyatt, who represented OFO. We hope they will continue their good work in 1994.

...to Birdathon 1994

The battle to save our environment can be won and every Birdathon participant is helping at the grass-roots level. None of us can afford to be armchair naturalists any longer. We must do our part to preserve our natural heritage.

Here's your chance to get involved. By doing a Birdathon you'll be making a valuable contribution, helping amateur and professional Canadian researchers provide data that let us know when a species or its habitat is in trouble.

Best of all, you'll have fun doing a Birdathon! You need not be an expert birder to be successful. In fact, some of

the very best Birdathoners aren't even in high school yet! It's enthusiasm that counts and a desire to do your part for the birds and

the environment.

"There is nothing to it," says Maris Apse who birded for OFO in 1993. "I just go out, enjoy myself, do my normal birding. Sometimes I tie it in with a trip to Long Point or Point Pelee. Pledges come from relatives, work colleagues, friends and neighbours. You don't have to be an expert birder to take part. Seeing 60 or 160 species isn't important if you enjoy the birds and raise some money. As a member of OFO, I feel I have a responsibility to help out".

Members who participate in the Birdathon on behalf of OFO are eligible for a special prize draw.

To register contact:

Long Point Bird Observatory, P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan, Ontario N0E 1M0
Telephone: (519) 586-3531.

May Migration Raises Money

by
Jean Iron, OFO Birdathon Coordinator

Rolling wooded hills stretching from Guelph to Trenton: a natural aquifer, a haven for wildlife, skiing and walking trails, a valuable source of aggregate extraction, an attractive place to live for the millions working in the Golden Horseshoe.

The Oak Ridges Moraine

Are these alternatives mutually exclusive, or can forethought and planning help them to coexist? The Citizens' Advisory Committee on the Oak Ridges Moraine, coordinated by the Ministry of Natural Resources, would like your opinions and ideas, and has a 15 minute video suitable for presentation to clubs and groups. For more details contact Margaret Bain, 210 Byron St. N., Whitby, Ontario L1N 4N1 Tel: (905) 668-6452.

Bird Conservation and You

Kortright Centre for Conservation, Sunday, April 10, 1994, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Introducing a new era in bird monitoring. The program is designed to show birders how you can contribute to Ontario's Landbird Monitoring Plan. Learn more about the Breeding Bird Survey, Forest Bird Monitoring, Wetland Bird Monitoring, Rare Breeding Bird Monitoring, Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survival, Project FeederWatch, Ontario Nest Record Scheme, and more. Field demonstrations, displays and presentations from those producing the OLM Plan: CWS, OMNR, LPBO, FON and OFO. Admission: adults \$4.25, students and seniors \$2.50. For more information call Mike Cadman (519) 766-1594.

Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch

The annual spring hawk migration count at Beamer Memorial Conservation Area in Grimsby is organized by the Niagara Peninsula Hawkwatch (NPH) daily from March 1 to mid-May. Experienced hawkwatchers are needed as counters. If interested in volunteering for one or more

days, contact Mary Ellen Hebb at (905) 937-7671. The NPH is also holding a public Open House Day on Good Friday, April 1, 1994. Bring your friends. Directions to Beamer are: take the Christie St. exit from the QEW in Grimsby, go south and continue up the Escarpment on Mountain St. At the top take the first right onto Ridge Rd. W. Follow the park signs to Quarry Rd. and the park entrance. For more information on the NPH and membership details, contact Bruce Duncan at (519) 622-4709.



OFO trips

In Search of Eagles

by
Geoff Carpentier

On January 30, 1994, 34 OFO members accompanied Geoff Carpentier to Petroglyphs Provincial Park "In search of Eagles". All enjoyed the gorgeous, sunny weather, cool (-23C) temperatures and spectacular scenery.

The birds didn't let us down and we found 23 species, including the following highlights: Common Redpoll, Ruffed Grouse, Gray Jay (2), Pileated Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Common Raven, White and Red-breasted Nuthatches, House Finch, Pine Grosbeak, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-tailed Hawk, Common Merganser, Common and Barrow's Goldeneye, and Bald Eagles (one adult and two or three immature birds). Those who tried for the Boreal Chickadees missed them.

We saw evidence of two timber wolves that were following the deer herds through the park. It was interesting to observe through their tracks how they interacted with each other, how they followed the deer, rabbits and mice, and what their droppings looked like.

Everyone returned home invigorated and hopefully with a rekindled love of the outdoors. Please remember that the Nephton Mine is private property where advance written permission must be obtained to enter.



Gull Watch at Niagara

by
Terrie Smith

Despite the rather inclement weather, 31 participants attended the annual Gull Watch at Niagara on November 28, 1993. Although we were not fortunate to view the rarities that were prominent the year before, 46 species were tabulated. These included 8 gull species: Thayer's, Little, Lesser and Great Black-backed, Glaucous, Bonaparte's, Herring and Ring-billed gulls.

On behalf of the OFO Executive, I would like to thank Bob Yukich for leading the trip and special thanks to Gordon Bellerby and Ron Scovell for covering Niagara-on-the-Lake and Adam Beck Generating Plant.

Future Field Trips

April 23, Saturday. Algonquin Provincial Park. Meet at the WEST Gate of the park at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Ron Tozer

May 27-28, Friday & Saturday. Rainy River. Meet at the junction of Worthington Road #3 and Highway 11, about 10 km. east of Rainy River, 7:00 a.m. local time. Leader: Dave Elder (807) 597-2008. Note: cut-off date for this interesting trip is May 1.

June 5, Sunday. Carden Plain, Victoria County. Meet in the parking lot of the Kirkfield Lift Lock on Highway 503, just north of the village at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Ron Pittaway

The Algonquin and Carden outings have been very successful in the previous two years. Each area is unique and is worth the extra kilometres.

Fisherville 1994

by
Terrie Smith, Field Trips Coordinator

On 13 February, 72 participants, under the leadership of John Miles, set out on this windy and bright winter's day to search for hawks and owls. In the morning, 6 Gray Partridge were seen along Highway 3, to the delight of about 80% of the group for whom it was a life bird. A Red-necked Grebe was spotted in open water near Taquanyah. The afternoon tour of open fields and bird feeders produced 4 Rough-legged Hawks (2 light and 2 dark morphs), 92 Red-tailed Hawks, 1 Northern Harrier, 11 American Kestrels, 2 Cooper's Hawks, 40 Short-eared and 7 Long-eared Owls, 3 Red-bellied Woodpeckers, 2 Tufted Titmice, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, a Winter Wren and 350 Brown-headed Cowbirds. 42 species were counted in all. Our thanks to John Miles for taking the time from his busy schedule to lead such a large group and patrol 23 cars.

Thank You

OFO gratefully acknowledges the following donors:

John Armstrong	Trevor Levere
Margaret Bain	Helen Lothian
Gordon Bellerby	Red Mason
Gerry Bennett	Jim McAllister
Raymond Beskau	Joy Mowatt
Tony Bigg	T. Murray
Valerie Brown	J.K. Reynolds
S. Bryan	Paul Smith
Rob Dobos	Helen Smith
Dave Elder	George Thomson
Irene Fedun	Bill Walker
Brian Gibson	Peter Webb
Theo Hoffmann	Janet Welsh
Dave Hussell	

Membership Information

All persons interested in bird study, regardless of level of expertise, are invited to become members of the Ontario Field Ornithologists. OFO is a charitable organization. All donations above the regular membership fee are tax deductible. As a cost-cutting measure it was decided at the January 1994 Board of Directors meeting to discontinue membership cards. Have you renewed your membership for 1994? The number on the bottom right hand corner of your mailing label tells you your current membership status. A 93 tells you this will be your last mailing. A 94 indicates you are a paid up member to the end of 1994.

Single Membership Canada ...\$22.00 (Can.) USA ...\$22.00 (U.S.)
Other ...\$33.00 (U.S.)

Annual Family Membership Canada ...\$27.50 (Can.) (2+ members; 1 Journal only) U.S. ...\$27.50 (U.S.) Other ...\$38.50 (U.S.)

Life Membership (single) Canada ...\$440.00 (Can.) U.S. ...\$440.00 (U.S.) Other ...\$660.00 (U.S.)

Please make cheque payable to Ontario Field Ornithologists and return to: Sid Hadlington, Ontario Field Ornithologists, Box 62014, Burlington Mall Postal Outlet, Burlington, Ontario L7R 4K2.

OFO Logo

Logos are very important and are designed to immediately identify a publication, company or an organization. We hope you like the new newsletter header with the Pileated Woodpecker. On a further note, the OFO Little Gull logo has been copied and re-copied so many times that it now needs to be redrawn. Should we take this opportunity to change the OFO logo from the Little Gull to another species which more typically represents Ontario or should we keep the Little Gull? Please send your comments to the Board of Directors by April 1st 1994.

The Ontario Field Ornithologists

The Ontario Field Ornithologists is an organization dedicated to the study of birdlife in Ontario. OFO officially oversees the activities of the Ontario Rare Birds Committee (OBRC), publishes three newsletters, OFO NEWS, and three journals, ONTARIO BIRDS, per year, hosts field trips throughout Ontario and holds an Annual General Meeting.

1994 Board of Directors & Officers

President	Gerry Shemilt
51 Montessor Drive North York, Ontario M2P 1Z3	
Past President	Geoff Carpentier
Vice-president & AGM Coordinator	George Bryant
Secretary	Jim Coey
Treasurer	Alec Dobson
Membership	Sid Hadlington
Field Trips	Terrie Smith
Publicity & FON Rep.	Michael King
Newsletter & Birdathon	Jean Iron
Ornithology in Ontario	Phill Holder
Ontario Birds Editors	Bill Crins
	Ron Pittaway
	Ron Tozer
	Valerie Brown
	Sheldon McGregor
	Russel J. Munro

Mailing
Mail Pick-up
Archives

Club Publications: ONTARIO BIRDS, published in April, August and December, is devoted to reporting significant and new information about the birds of Ontario. Contributions for ONTARIO BIRDS should be sent to: The Editors, ONTARIO BIRDS, Ontario Field Ornithologists, Box 62014, Burlington Mall Postal Outlet, Burlington, Ontario L7R 4K2.

OFO NEWS, published in February, June and October, provides short articles and news about birds, club activities and field trips. Editorial team: Jean Iron, George Bryant, Gerry Shemilt. Please send contributions for publication in OFO NEWS to: Jean Iron, 9 Lichen Place, Don Mills, Ontario M3A 1X3.

Bird records should be sent to: Secretary, OBRC, Ontario Field Ornithologists, Box 62014 Burlington Mall Postal Outlet, Burlington, Ontario L7R 4K2.

Annual General Meeting 1994

Saturday, October 15
Erindale College, Mississauga

Mark your calendar now for the Thirteenth OFO General Meeting. Program plans include illustrated presentations, a retrospective of Ontario rare bird sightings, a bird quiz with a difference and Ron Scovell's new & used book sale. Field trips will be planned for the Toronto-Hamilton area on Sunday, October 16.