



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

EDITORS NOTE

Editor’s Note 1

Coming Events 2

AGM Summary 2

Review: Pyle Part II. 3

Species at Risk Workshop 4

Memoriam: Dick Brown 4

Photo Gallery and Quiz 5

It with great pleasure that we present you with this issue of the OBBA Newsletter! A special thank you to Cindy Cartwright for her ten years of faithful service to the OBBA. She joins a proud list of past editors (see Table 1.)

The new editorial team looks forward to providing an avenue for OBBA members to share and communicate with each other. This communication however, does require participation! You can help to fill the OBBA newsletter by sending us news and events from your banding operation, research, or any other interesting notes related to bird banding in Ontario.

We look forward to hearing from you.

The OBBA Newsletter Editorial Team,

Stu Mackenzie, Christian Friis, and John Brett



Photo: Steven Kapusta

Past OBBA Newsletter editor, Cindy Cartwright.

Table 1. OBBA Newsletter editors 1956 to 2010.

Bill Wasserfall	Dave Broughton
Jim Woodford	Peter Lockhart
George Fairfield	Erica Nol
John Roberts	Dave Lamble
Pat Woodford	Bruce Duncan
Ann Wasserfall	George Wallace
Monica Connolly	Audrey Heagy
Jayne Evans	Cathy Rogers
Ted Diniwell	Cindy Cartwright



COMING EVENTS:

- **LPBO 50th Anniversary Weekend:** May 14 - 16, 2010.
Port Rowan/Long Point, ON. For more information visit: www.birdscanada.org/longpoint
- **The 32nd Annual General Meeting of the North American Bluebird Society:** September 9th-12th, 2010. Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington, ON. For more information visit: www.oebc.ca
- **Ontario Field Ornithologist's Convention:** September 25 & 26.
Long Point & Port Dover, ON. For more information visit: www.ofo.ca
- **Baillie Birdathon:** May 2010. Support the OBBA by sponsoring Bill Read, the OBBA's Birdathoner!
For more information visit: www.bsc-eoc.org/support/birdathon, or contact Bill Read—info@billreadsbooks.com

SUMMARY OF THE 2010 OBBA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Christian Friis

The 52nd Ontario Bird Banding Association Annual General Meeting took place at Port Rowan 27-28 February 2010. Once again, Bird Studies Canada (BSC) headquarters hosted the 65 attendees. The new slate of board members was voted in, including our new President, David Okines. We also welcomed new members to the Board included John Brett, Barb Campbell, and Norm North. The board also bids a fond farewell to Christian Friis and Audrey Heagy. The official business meeting was followed by Stu Mackenzie's challenging bird quiz and an interesting and diverse suite of station reports: Haldimand Bird Observatory by Rick Ludkin, Holiday Beach by Bob Hall-Brooks, and Hawk Cliff by Bob Hubert finished off the morning.

The afternoon session began with a presentation by Lyle Friesen of the Canadian Wildlife Service entitled "It's a jungle out there – Using miniature cameras to observe Wood Thrushes in southern Ontario." Lyle showed a number of videos he had recorded while researching Wood Thrush nesting in small woodlots in southern Ontario that illustrated the various predators and tribulations faced during the breeding season. Rodents, such as eastern chipmunk, red squirrel and white-footed mouse, have been recorded as the predominant nest visitors. Other nest visitors include accipiters, corvids, cowbirds and raccoons.

Hazel Wheeler of BSC presented some of her work on Short-eared Owls, in her talk "Tracking Short-eared Owls in Ontario and beyond". Through use of satellite transmitters, Hazel and the Short-eared Owl team determined the movements of individual owls. You can follow the satellite-tracked owls at: <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/research/speciesatrisk/seow/index.jsp?targetpg=owltracker>. Hazel also illustrated some of the team's interesting capture techniques with the help of a remote control Great-horned Owl.

Stuart Mackenzie, M.Sc. candidate at the University of Western Ontario, capped off the day's presentations with his talk "Exploring Stopover Ecology with Radio Telemetry: What is the scale of a stopover?". His work involved radio-tracking banded individuals along the Long Point peninsula during migration. Some of the interesting results of his research are that the spatial and temporal scales of migratory stopover are much larger than what is currently known.

The day was completed with a dinner and social gathering at Long Point Bird Observatory's Old Cut field station. The following morning, banding took place at Old Cut. Highlights of the morning included Snow Buntings and Horned Larks among the many American Tree Sparrows, Slate-colored Juncos and blackbirds. Thanks to everyone involved for their help.



REVIEW Christian Friis

Identification Guide to North American Birds, Part II. – Peter Pyle. 2008. Slate Creek Press, Point Reyes Station, CA. xi + 836 pp., 556 text figures, 71 text tables, 289 bar graphs. ISBN 9780961894047. \$85.25 USD (paper), incl. shipping and handling. <http://www.slatecreekpress.com/>

The Identification Guide to North American Birds, Part II presents information on moult and ageing and sexing criteria for birds in the hand of the families Anatidae to Alcidae (waterbirds, diurnal raptors and gallinaeous birds). This guide is the final part of the compilation of technical information on determining the age and sex of North American birds in the hand, after Pyle's seminal first volume in 1997, which covers passerines and near-passerines.

The introductory pages of the book are required reading for any user wishing to get the most out of the information contained in the species accounts. The introduction describes terminology used throughout the book on bird topography, techniques used for measurements, and, perhaps most importantly, moult terminology. He goes on to provide specific details about the techniques useful for the identification, ageing and sexing of the birds covered by this volume. This section also contains detailed directions for use, including information on the layout of each species account. Without an understanding of the terminologies, abbreviations and the layout, it will be difficult to interpret the text provided in each section of the accounts.

For banders familiar with Part I, this second volume contains many similarities. Each family is given its own introductory remarks, noting characteristics of the family, general moult strategies, and other general information useful to ageing and sexing. The same bar graphs as those used in Part I accompany each species account, which show at a glance the age-sex combinations, and the associated reliability, that can be considered and assigned to a bird throughout the year. A quick-reference guide to the abbreviations used throughout the text is placed on both the inside back and front covers, allowing for easy reference when reading through individual species accounts.

With the publication of Part II, Pyle has compiled a wealth of information and key references to ageing and sexing North American birds in the hand. New banders will have much to gain from reading through the introductory section and the introductory pages of each family. Veteran banders will benefit by having one volume with the most up-to-date ageing and sexing criteria. This is a must-have for banders and banding stations alike.

FRIIS RATING:



BIRD BANDING OFFICE BAND SIZE REVIEW

The Canadian Bird Banding Office and American Bird Banding Laboratory are currently undergoing a review of all band sizes. If you have any thoughts on changes to recommended band sizes, or potential new sizes, be sure to contact Lesley-Anne Howes at the BBO. lesley-anne.howes@ec.gc.ca



ONTARIO SPECIES AT RISK WORKSHOP John Brett

In late March, Bird Studies Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Service hosted a workshop at the BSC headquarters in Port Rowan to discuss issues and requirements for banding species at risk in Ontario. Bird Studies Canada staff, Ontario banders that work with species at risk, and representatives from the Canadian Wildlife Service and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources were in attendance to cover a variety of topics, including overviews of species at risk banding studies, animal care practices, and provincial and federal permit requirements. Banding demonstrations and instruction were provided by David Okines and Audrey Heagy at the Long Point Bird Observatory, while Stuart Mackenzie demonstrated the use of radio telemetry in tracking migrant songbirds.

For more information on permit requirements for banding species at risk, contact the Bird Banding Office of Environment Canada, or your local MNR district office.

MEMORIAM: R.G.B. (DICK) BROWN 1935 –2010 David Nettleship

Past OBBA member and journal editor from 1968 to 1969, **Dr. Richard George Bolney (“Dick”) Brown**, 74, died in Kings Regional Rehabilitation Centre, Waterville, Nova Scotia, on **26 March 2010**. Richard was born in Wolverhampton, the West Midlands, England, on 15 September 1935 the son of George and Nora (nee Taylor) Brown. After secondary schooling at the Benedictine Downside School, Bath, Somerset, he went to New College, University of Oxford, from which he graduated in Zoology in 1957. Richard was a pupil of noted Dutch ethologist/ornithologist and Nobel prize winner Niko Tinbergen, while completing his D. Phil. (Ph.D.) research on reproductive behaviour in fruit flies (*Drosophila*) in the early 1960's. He then switched from entomology to ornithology, his primary interest, which became the basis of his life work on marine birds. In 1965 he moved to Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada, to teach animal behaviour in the Department of Psychology. He then joined the Canadian Wildlife Service in 1967, first in Ontario and thereafter in the Maritimes, based at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography (Dartmouth, Nova Scotia). Here he took advantage of the many oceanographic cruises, mainly in the North Atlantic, to chart the distribution of seabirds at sea, which bore fruit in his many scientific publications including *Atlas of Eastern Canadian Seabirds* (1975) and *Gazetteer of Marine Birds in Atlantic Canada: an atlas of seabird vulnerability to oil pollution* (1994). In 2000, he received the ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’ from the Pacific Seabird Group. Locally, he contributed greatly to the local birdwatcher and naturalist scene in Nova Scotia. His great love of literature bore fruit in his own book *Voyage of the Iceberg: The Story of the Iceberg that Sank the Titanic* (1983), as well as his natural history articles in the popular magazine *Nature Canada*. Sadly, in recent years, dementia overtook him, and he was cared for with love at Kings Regional Rehabilitation Centre.

Richard is survived by his brother, Fr. Sandy Brown of Staffordshire, England, who will celebrate his Funeral and Memorial Mass at St. Agnes Church, 6903 Mumford Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia, on **Thursday, 6 May 2010 at 1000 h**. Fr. Sandy would like to welcome friends and colleagues from everywhere and then to invite all to meet afterwards in the adjoining auditorium for refreshments and tributes.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Nova Scotia Bird Society. To place an on-line message of condolences please visit: www.jasnowfuneralhome.com



PHOTO GALLERY: THE 2010 OBBA AGM !



"My first Snow Bunting!"
Photo: Bruce Murphy



Your OBBA Board for 2010-2011. L to R: John Brett, Stu Mackenzie, Martin Wernaart, Kevin Grundy, Eric Machell, David Okines, Barb Campbell, Terri Groh. Missing-Norm North and Bill Read. Photo: Christian Friis



"My first Brown-headed Cowbird!"
Photo: Bruce Murphy



The Temiskaming crew in Port Rowan! Photo: Bruce Murphy



PHOTO QUIZ

Use your new Pyle: Volume II to help figure out the species, age and sex of this individual.

Answer will be posted in the next OBBA newsletter.

October, 2009.
Tip of Long Point.

Photo: Avery Bartels

VISIT US ON THE WEB! - WWW.ONTBANDING.ORG -



ONTARIO BIRD BANDING ASSOCIATION (2010-2011)

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President	David Okines davidokines@aol.com	273 Charlotteville Rd. 2. RR#2, St. Williams, ON. NOE 1P0. 519-586-9464
Immediate Past President	Eric Machell elmachell@aol.com	Box 2. Delhi, ON. N4B 2W8. 519-582-4738
1st Vice President	Terri Groh naturesadvantage@amtelecom.net	25 Lakeview Crst. RR #1. St. Williams, ON. NOE 1P0. 519-586-9545
2nd Vice President	Stuart Mackenzie s_a_mackenzie@yahoo.ca	PO Box 160. Port Rowan, ON. NOE 1M0 519-820-6040
Recording Secretary	Bill Read info@billreadsbooks.com	24 Brant Pl., Cambridge, ON. N1S 2V8 519-620-0744
Treasurer/ Membership Secretary	Barbara Campbell barb.campbell1@sympatico.ca	19 Harwood Lane. Kanata, ON. K2K 1X7. 613-839 3418
Directors at Large	John Brett John.brett@utoronto.ca	822-299 Roehampton Ave. Toronto, ON. M4P 2S1
	Kevin Grundy kevin.grundy@teig.com	106 Connelly Dr. Kitchener, ON. N2N 2V2 51-570-8322 ext. 3574
	Norm North north@execulink.com	274233 Wallace Line. Ingersoll, ON. N5C 3J7
	Martin Wernaart naturesadvantage@amtelecom.net	25 Lakeview Crst. RR #1. St. Williams, ON. NOE 1P0. 519-586-9545

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Ontario Bird Banding Editor	Terri Groh naturesadvantage@amtelecom.net	naturesadvantage@amtelecom.net
Newsletter Editor	Stuart Mackenzie s_a_mackenzie@yahoo.ca	s_a_mackenzie@yahoo.ca
OBBA Rep. to LPBO	Eric Machell elmachell@aol.com	elmachell@aol.com
Bird Banding Office Rep. To OBBA	Lesley-Anne Howes lesley-anne.howes@ec.gc.ca	National Wildlife Research Centre Carleton University Ottawa, Ontario. K1A 0H3
WEB Master	Barbara Ferris finally@hay.net	finally@hay.net
OBBA Rep. To North American Banding Council	David Okines davidokines@aol.com	davidokines@aol.com

**The OBBA newsletter is published three times a year, in winter, spring and fall.
Deadlines for receiving material for publication are December 15, April 15 and August 15.
For more information contact Stu Mackenzie.**

The Ontario Bird Banding Association is a non-profit, membership-driven and inclusive organization representing the interests of all amateur and 'professional' bird banders across Ontario.
If you band birds in Ontario, for any reason, you should be a member!

