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Ontario Bird Banding Association

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Ontario Bird Banding Association

The Ontario Bird Banding Association (OBBA), founded in 1956, is a member-directed, voluntary organization with over 100 household and institutional members in Canada, the United States, and Europe. The objectives of the Association are the study of ornithology, especially by means of banding and other marking techniques; the promotion of ornithological investigations and the publication of scientific and educational papers pertaining to these subjects, particularly within the province of Ontario; and cooperation with organizations with similar objectives.

Over the years, the OBBA has undertaken a wide variety of successful projects. In 1960, the Association founded the Long Point Bird Observatory which went on to become the largest independent, non-profit research organization undertaking volunteer-based bird studies in Canada.

The OBBA has helped in the establishment of, and retains close ties with, several other bird observatories in Ontario, the most recent being the Cabot Head Bird Observatory on the Bruce Peninsula.

The annual journal, *Ontario Bird Banding*, and the Newsletter, published three times a year, are cited publications containing much scientific and general interest information, and our members consistently give positive feedback on the quality of the speakers at our annual meetings.

You are invited to join the OBBA and find out what the banding community in Ontario is doing. The annual Household Membership is twenty dollars; for Students it is only ten dollars. Send your check or money order to:

Ernie Rogers, Membership Secretary
1320 Mississauga Valley Boulevard
Suite 804
Mississauga, Ontario L5A 3S9

Recent Literature

BANDING HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHIES

A tribute to Frank Douwes. T. Oatley. 1996. *Safring News* 25:47-48. SAFRING, Univ. Cape Town, Rondebosche 7700, South Africa (Brief biography of a South African bander who started banding in 1983 and banded about 1100 birds per year at a fixed site until falling ill in December 1995, shortly before his death in early 1996. Douwes was known for his technique of measuring pelvic gape to determine sex in species in which sexes appear identical.) MKM

A tribute to Ray Salt. J. Park. 1996. *Edmonton Nat.* 24(3):6-7. c/o Edmonton Nat. Hist. Soc., Box 1582, Edmonton, Alta. T5J 2N9 (Brief biography of author of first three editions of "Birds of Alberta," whose studies on cloacal protuberance led to important sex determination technique). MKM

BANDING EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES

Comparison of flag sightings versus recoveries from waders marked in Victoria, Australia. C. Minton. 1996. *Stilt* 29:39. 165 Dalgerty Rd., Beaumaris, Vic. 3193, Australia (Recaptures of shorebirds color-flagged and banded in Victoria indicate that 90% of flags are retained for at least three years. Of 27,043 shorebirds banded and 17,079 color-flagged in Victoria between 1990 and 1995, reporting rates of flagged birds outside Australia have been 17 times higher than those of banded birds, while reporting rates from other Australian states have been 39 times higher for flagged birds.) MKM

IDENTIFICATION, MOLTS, PLUMAGES, WEIGHTS AND MEASUREMENTS

A beginner's guide to dark-mantled gulls in Illinois. P. C. Petersen. 1994. *Meadowlark* 3:51-54. Author deceased. (Review of features differentiating Great Black-backed, Lesser Black-