

Commentary

Challenge to Life Members

Jim Richards

Fifteen years ago, in April 1983, I had the distinct honour of authoring a "Guest Editorial" for the inaugural issue (Volume 1, Issue 1) of *Ontario Birds*. It was a proud moment for me; no, not to have simply published, but because I, along with a dedicated lot, was part of something sadly lacking in Ontario, our own field journal. As noted in my editorial, it was a long time coming, but come it did. One of the reasons it happened when it did was due to the belief by many that we could make it happen. To this end, a good number of us showed our faith by pledging \$50 for a Life Membership. In my editorial, I predicted that while this issue was great "It can only get better" and that it did. Are there any among the original Life Members that are disappointed? I doubt it, unless you would like to see an even thicker publication, or one that came out more frequently, as I would. Well, perhaps this is not out of the question, even without raising the absurdly low (current) regular membership fee. I doubt if too many subscribers would mind say a \$5 per year increase, considering what we get let's hear from you

on this.

One way it could be done in part is as follows. Since your initial payout in 1983, you have received 45 great issues of *Ontario Birds*. That works out to a lowly \$1.10 each; what a bargain. Riding on your initial investment, you will continue to receive future issues. The same sense of pride I had when I signed up to help finance the launch still remains, and quite frankly, I don't want any of our current 930 members supporting my enjoyment or underwriting my pride. In addition to your 45 issues, you also receive regular issues of *OFO News*, keeping you even more informed about OFO and birding. A bit of crude math would indicate that 45 issues of *Ontario Birds*, 15 volumes of *OFO News* and the postage to get it all to you was more than worth the original investment. Seems to me that it was some time ago that regular members started to subsidize the "old gang", and I for one don't feel right about this. Instead of allowing the Executive to continue asking for donations from the original Life Members (and I know that many respond), why doesn't each of us consider an annual donation of

an amount at least equal to a regular current membership (you'll get a tax receipt) and save the organization even more postage and the printing of forms? Why not ensure that all of the funding that goes to OFO is reflected in the continued high quality of our own journal?

At this time then, I extend a

challenge to *all* of the original Life Members to join me and do just that. Send in a donation to help ensure the continued success of OFO and *Ontario Birds*, to show our continued support for the journal we helped to launch, and in hopes of a quarterly issue in time.

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PUBLICATION NOTICE

Checklist of Yukon Birds. 1998. By *Cameron Eckert, Helmut Grunberg, Greg Kubica, Lee Kubica and Pam Sinclair* (compilers). Available free from Yukon Bird Club, Box 31054, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5P7. E-mail: ybc@yknet.yk.ca

This new checklist summarizes the occurrence and breeding status of 272 species which have been documented in the Yukon. Breeding has been confirmed for 182 species. Distribution codes indicate species which are only casually found outside a limited range (North Coast, Southern Yukon, or Southeast Yukon). Frequency codes designate species which are casual or accidental for the Yukon. *Ron Tozer*

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