



# THE POINT

**APRIL 2016**

**News from Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory**

## JOIN US FOR SPRING AT PEPtBO!

Spring migration has already started as geese and ducks stream overhead and songbirds begin to arrive from their wintering grounds. Daily banding gets underway April 13 at the Observatory and runs through to May 31. David Okines returns as our Bander and Station Manager. Welcome to Gillian Holmes who will be joining us as our Assistant Bander this spring

Plan to visit us during this exciting time of the year and participate in one or more of the events listed below. See you at the Point!



(Eastern Bluebird - Photo: P. Fuller)



## WATERFOWL BLITZ - SAT. APR. 2

It's not too late to join us for our spring Waterfowl Blitz on Sat Apr.2 from 8:30-12:00. Volunteers go out in teams to viewing points around the South Shore Important Bird and Diversity Area (IBA) and tally migrating waterfowl to compile a one-day snapshot of the birds in and around Prince Edward Point. Any level of expertise is welcome. Lunch is provided! Spend a great morning with other birders and get to know the South Shore IBA.

If you haven't confirmed your participation yet please contact Peter Fuller (peptbo.peter@gmail.com or 613-968-4643)

## 2016 BIRDATHON

Because PEPtBO relies completely on volunteer support, we are grateful for the generous help of our members. One simple (and fun) way you can support the work of the Observatory is to participate in the Great Canadian Birdathon. The Birdathon raises a significant funds for PEPtBO.

Pick any day in May, gather sponsors and list all the species you can find. Beginners and experts are all welcome.

To register see the website for information <http://www.peptbo.ca/baillie-birdathon.php>

If you have questions please contact Mike Burge (613-476-9757 or [mikeburge@xplornet.com](mailto:mikeburge@xplornet.com))



## 2016 SPRING BIRDING FESTIVAL EVENTS

### Boot Camp for Birders at Jackson's Falls Country Inn

Saturday & Sunday May 7-8, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A two-day workshop (1 day indoors, 1 day outdoors)

presented by Pamela Stagg for new and experienced birders to learn field marks, binocular use and more. \$160 per person (\$150 for guests of Jackson's Falls Country Inn). Deposit on registration \$50. Register on the website: <http://peptbo.ca/registration-for-spring-birding-festival-2016.php>

### Guided Hikes (\$5 /person)

May 14 (Sat)

- 8 a.m. Traverse Woods - Meet at the portable toilet
- 10 a.m. Bird Observatory to the Lighthouse - Meet at the Bird Observatory
- 4 p.m. Bird Observatory to the Lighthouse - Meet at the Bird Observatory

May 15 (Sun)

- 8 a.m. Traverse Woods - Meet at the portable toilet
- 10 a.m. Bird Observatory to the Lighthouse - Meet at the Bird Observatory

May 20 (Fri)

8 a.m. Mike Burrell from the Natural Heritage Information Centre will lead a walk on the Millennium Trail through the recently designated Provincially Significant wetland at Hubbs Creek. Meet at the Wellington LCBO.

May 21 (Sat)

- 8 a.m. Traverse Woods - Meet at the portable toilet
- 10 a.m. Bird Observatory to the Lighthouse - Meet at the Bird Observatory
- 4 p.m. Bird Observatory to the Lighthouse - Meet at the Bird Observatory

May 22 (Sun)

- 8 a.m. Traverse Woods - Meet at the portable toilet
- 10 a.m. Bird Observatory to the Lighthouse - Meet at the Bird Observatory

May 23 (Mon)

- 8 a.m. Traverse Woods - Meet at the portable toilet
- 10 a.m. Bird Observatory to the Lighthouse - Meet at the Bird Observatory

### Bird 'Til You Drop

Sunday May 15, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. A guided day-long birding tour of Prince Edward County. Join County birders to visit their special birding sites. \$100 donation to PEPTBO (Tax receipts will be issued). Transportation, snacks and lunch included, limited space available. Reserve early on the website: <http://peptbo.ca/registration-for-spring-birding-festival-2016.php>

### Night Time Adventures – Travelling Show

Friday May 20, 8 p.m.: Meet at the Marketplace Parking Lot in Picton to join local birders to see Chimney Swifts in downtown Picton; listen for Whip-poor-wills in the South Shore Important Bird area and finish off with Screech Owls in Glenwood Cemetery. \$5 per person

### 2016 Photo Contest

See the website for complete details about how to enter ([www.peptbo.ca](http://www.peptbo.ca))



## CMMN CONFERENCE 2016

From March 10-12 PEPTBO was represented at the CCMN conference by David Okines and Peter Fuller. Hosted by Delta Marsh Bird Observatory at the spectacular Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre just north of Winnipeg MB, the conference was a great opportunity to not only connect with our colleagues across the country but also to hear reports from the 20+ stations in the Network (from Yukon to Nova Scotia) and listen to the results of a variety of research projects across the country. Especially fascinating was all the work being done with recent technology that allows us to track where the birds that we band come from and where they are headed. This is most important for the work of conservation. Time was also spent working out how CMMN can better serve its members and support the work of monitoring across Canada. David Okines delivered a report on behalf of PEPTBO.



After listening to the reports from other stations we realized that PEPTBO shares many of the same challenges that they do but that we are especially fortunate to have a strong organization, a good volunteer base and stable funding. We owe this to our dedicated volunteers and members.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Many of you will remember our recent Assistant Bander, Sarah. We received an update from her recently:

"It's hard to believe that ten months has passed since I left my post as Migration Monitoring Assistant in May of last year. After leaving PEPtBO, I landed a job at Seneca College teaching Environmental Field Practices as well as Environmental Science. Although I enjoy teaching, birding is never far from my mind (I'm sure many of you know this feeling all too well). I went back to the observatory twice in October last year to assist with the banding and was lucky to get seven new banding ticks, including the Barred and Saw-whet Owl.

Looking towards the future, I have many plans in store. My teaching contract will end in April, at which point I will move to Renfrew County to work as a Grassland Bird Field Assistant with Bird Ecology and Conservation Ontario. My main responsibilities in this new position will include searching for and monitoring Bobolink and other grassland bird nests in pastures, daily point counts, landowner outreach, and of course, data entry and report writing. I am also planning to pursue a Master of Science degree in Wildlife Biology at McGill University in the next few years (and yes, it will be bird-related).

I would like to thank all the hard-working volunteers at PEPtBO, and especially David Okines for giving me a fantastic skillset that I can use to pursue a career in ornithology. Without all of your patience, kindness, and dedication, I would not be where I am today."



Sarah with a Wilson's Warbler

## EVENTS and NOTICES

**Sat May 7 (10-3)** - PEPtBO will have a booth at Science Rendezvous in Kingston (K-ROCK Centre). Come by, say hi and try to Migration Game. <http://educ.queensu.ca/coc/science-rendezvous>

**FACEBOOK** - connect with PEPtBO on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Prince-Edward-Point-Bird-Observatory-417542965098296/>

**MEMBERSHIP** - become a member or renew for 2016. Membership allows you to volunteer for banding operations, IBA surveys, vote at our annual AGM, participate on one of our committees, all while supporting the valuable research that PEPtBO performs. You can renew online or by mail: <http://peptbo.ca/membership-c15.php>



## CARDS FOR SPRING

PEPtBO greeting note cards are of the highest quality. They are glossy on the outside showcasing the beautiful birds and surroundings found at Prince Edward Point. The inside of each card features an easy to write on, matte finish surface. High quality envelopes are provided.

By purchasing our cards to send to family and friends or to frame, you will be supporting the important work done at the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory.

Our greeting cards are archival quality. The cards can be easily fitted onto a 5 x 7" matte and framed

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