



THE POINT

**AUGUST
2016**

**News from Prince Edward Point Bird
Observatory**

A TRIBUTE TO PEPTBO FOUNDER ERIC MACHELL

This past week we were saddened to hear of the death of Eric Machell, who played a pioneering role in the birth, growth, and development of PEPTBO.

In 1995, when Brian Joyce sent out a call for an experienced, licensed bander who would be willing to work with him in setting up a banding station at a very remote location in Prince Edward County, Eric responded. From 1995 to 2000 he spent six or seven weeks every spring at Prince Edward Point setting up and running the station (sometimes single-handedly), training volunteers, collecting and recording data – all in very primitive and less-than-ideal circumstances. Eric was on the Board of Directors (as President, Vice-president and Past President) for many years.



Eric Machell with Brian Joyce

Over the years, Eric was a keen participant in the Baillie Birdathon raising the profile of the event and funds for the observatory. He and his teammates (The Laphroaig Vultures) were unbeatable. We will miss his vision, support and friendship.

We extend our condolences to his family at this time.



Bobolink

FALL BANDING!

Fall migration monitoring takes place each morning from dawn until noon. Banding takes place Aug 12 - October 31 and is open to the public. Come visit us!

David Okines returns as our Station Manager and Bander-in-charge. Gill Holmes who was with us in the spring will be back again for the fall migration after spending a summer in the Arctic. We are also looking forward to welcoming Jacques Turner-Moss in October.

15th ANNUAL FALL DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION SATURDAY OCTOBER 29, 6p.m. Waring House Banquet Hall

Join us at the Waring House in Picton for our annual fall dinner as we celebrate the work of PEPtBO. Our guest speaker will be Jean Iron (Past President Ontario Field Ornithologists, Assistant Author of OFO News, Quest Nature Tours Leader) with an exciting presentation:

Arctic Wildlife of Iceland and Canada

TICKETS - \$75 available at the Observatory, online (www.peptbo.ca) or by calling the Waring House



Long-tailed Duck

2016 PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



From the high quality entries to this year's photo contest, members and friends at our Annual Meeting voted for three winners. The photographer for 1st and 2nd prize was Ian Barker (Barn Swallow and Solitary Sandpiper). Third prize went to Ian Dickinson.

Thank you to all who entered for your wonderful photos.

(Photo: © Ian Barker)



(Photo: © Ian Barker)



(Photo: © Ian Dickinson)

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Adam Cross was one of our fall banding assistants in 2014. He received his PhD once he returned to the UK after a time in New Zealand. He is now working for an engineering company in Bristol, UK, called Arup. He gets to survey birds all the time, as well as badgers, bats, newts, dormice and other wildlife.

Bird ringing (banding) has been infrequent recently with his hectic schedule, but things are improving. He went ringing in his garden the other day, and 4 hours later, only one blackbird caught! Thankfully, he has



a week's ringing coming up during peak migration on a Scottish island so he is stoked for that. Best of luck, Adam and **THANK YOU** for letting us use your graphic of the Saw-whet Owl on our new T-shirts!

PEPtBO BOARD MEMBERS - WELCOME AND THANK-YOU

After the May 2016 Annual Meeting, the PEPtBO Board members for 2016 are:

Cheryl Anderson (Past President), Peter Fuller (President), John Hirsch (Vice President/Secretary), Helen Fearman (Treasurer), Mike Burge (Volunteer Coordinator), Kathy Felkar (Director), Borys Holowacz (Director), Rob Christie (Membership), Helene Tremblay (Director), Joanne Sulzenko (Director), David Okines (Station Manager/Bander-in-charge), Amy Bodman (PECFN representative), Denby Sandler (CWS Liason),

At the AM we also said a big thank you to Rosemary Kent our retiring Past President for her many years of service on the Board and to Suzanne Pierson (retiring Membership director).

NEW ECO-CONSCIOUS T-SHIRTS

PEPtBO's store now features new T-shirts in Men's, Women's and Children's sizes. The women's shirts are 100% organic cotton and made in Canada. The men's shirts feature 50% postconsumer P.E.T. recycled polyester.



The graphic of a Saw-whet Owl was designed and donated by former assistant bander Adam Cross.

Check out the PEPtBO online store for more details or to order.

<http://www.peptbo.ca/final-peptbo-store.php>

ADOPT-AN-OWL

Our Adopt-an-Owl program now features new Saw-whet Owl images and attractive double mattes suitable to display framed or unframed

<http://www.peptbo.ca/adopt-an-owl.php>

RESEARCH GRANTS 2016

International Migratory Bird Day

- \$1500 used for County FM broadcast from the Bird Observatory, the Falcon Ed demonstration at the Picton Library, the Reaching for Rainbows Monarch migration education and attendance at the Migration of the Butterflies Film, educational materials

All these species have been recorded in or migrating through the IBA in the past 2 years.

The proposal seeks to enlist and train more volunteers to increase the survey coverage and intervals throughout the IBA. In addition, because the experience has been that more volunteers are interested in one day targeted events we will increase the number of these events. We also plan to increase and diversify the monitoring of the two Ducks Unlimited marshes in the IBA by instituting monitoring by water craft (kayaks) in the marsh and using taped call lures.

Stark Family Fund

- \$1850 used for: a portable shelter, a large plastic storage box for all the equipment, a white board easel, a laptop computer, software, 2 folding tables, a species list sign made for use in the Birding Festival - provides us with space and materials for the educational and outreach activities of the Bird Observatory.

An important aspect of this proposal is increased monitoring in the Miller Family Nature Reserve (MFNR). The MFNR Baseline Document Report includes initial survey details for birds found on the property. The Nature Conservancy Canada Grassland Habitat Management Recommendations document for the MFNR includes a strong recommendation for increased monitoring of the MFNR. As part of the effort to collect more data in the MFNR, the proposal includes establishing a migration monitoring program in the MFNR in the fall of year one and the spring and fall of year two. We will begin with a Bobolink banding program in August of this year. The protocol will be identical to the one used at the Bird Observatory to enable comparison between the two sites.

Habitat Stewardship Program

- \$18,390 from the Environment Canada Habitat Stewardship Program in the Species at Risk Stream for over two years.

This 2 year Habitat Stewardship program (HSP) Species at Risk Stream project builds on the 2010 point count bird surveys carried out by David Okines and the 2014-2015 point count and block surveys carried out by Peter Fuller and volunteers funded by the Ontario Species at Risk Stewardship Fund. The project will be carried out in the Prince Edward County South Shore Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA).

Education and outreach will also be part of this project and will consist of development of educational signage for the MFNR and posters and brochures with information about Warbler species for dissemination to the public, school classes and interested birders.

Thank you to Cheryl Anderson for all her work in managing our grant applications

Beginning in August 2016 species known to be resident or migrating through the IBA will be targeted: Chimney Swift (Threatened), Common Nighthawk (Threatened), Eastern Whip-poor-will (Threatened), Least Bittern (Threatened), Red-headed Woodpecker (Threatened), Canada Warbler (Threatened), Golden-Winged Warbler (Threatened), Hooded Warbler (Threatened), Rusty Blackbird (special concern). Other targeted species with COSEWIC designations are: Barn Swallow (Threatened), Bobolink (Threatened) and Eastern Meadowlark (Threatened).

Over the summer a number of volunteers carried out block surveys, point counts, a Whip-poor-will census (48 calling birds!), breeding evidence surveys and a marsh survey targeting Least Bittern. Thank you to everyone who donated time, skills and equipment!

We were able to gather more data for a better picture of the bird populations within the PEC South Shore IBA.

Upcoming events include 2 fall waterfowl counts and more block surveys.

Don't miss out on the fun! If you would like to be on the contact list of volunteers please notify Peter Fuller (peptbo.peter@gmail.com or [613-968-4643](tel:613-968-4643)).



(Marsh Wren)