

# Prince Edward County South Shore IBA 2018 Caretaker Report



Prepared by Peter Fuller  
Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory  
December 2018

## Prince Edward County South Shore Important Bird and Biodiversity Area

The IBA is on the south shore of Prince Edward County between Point Petre and Prince Edward Point.

- It includes approximately 26 square km of land and 65 square km of near shore waters.
- It encompasses about 30 km of shoreline, one of the only lengthy, undeveloped strips of shoreline remaining along Lake Ontario
- Prince Edward Point was designated an International Monarch Butterfly Reserve in 1995
- It is important for concentrations of migrating birds, bats and butterflies and also supports several rare vascular plants.
- The waters off the tip of the peninsula are an important waterfowl staging and wintering area, for Greater Scaup, Long-tailed Duck and White-winged Scoter. Other waterfowl regularly recorded in large numbers include Common Loon, Horned Grebe, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser and Red-breasted Merganser.
- It includes Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area, Little Bluff Conservation Area, Ostrander Point Crown Land Block, Point Petre Provincial Wildlife Area, Miller Family Nature Reserve owned by Hastings Prince Edward Land Trust, the recently purchased Hudgin-Rose property owned by Nature Conservancy Canada and private lands.
- Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory operates a Migration Monitoring station (spring and fall) in the NWA and became official caretaker of the South Shore IBA in 2012



Grasshopper Sparrow (photo: Erin Hellinga)



Long-tailed Ducks



## Survey Areas

PEPtBO has established 9 sample survey blocks (green areas) that are visited during various times of the year. A series of point-count stops have been set up along Army Reserve Road, Babylon Road and County Rd 13 and used for a Whip-poor-will survey. Waterfowl observation points have also been set up around the shoreline (W1, W2, etc.)



Marsh Wren (Photo: Erin Hellinga)

## Big Week in the IBA – May, 2018

This year during PEPTBO's Spring Birding Festival, we invited visitors to fill out checklists from the IBA and submit them to the Observatory. A number of people

joined the '75+ Club by spotting more than 75 species during the week: Tom Wheatley, Peter Fuller, John Blaney, Amy Bodman, Julie Rahmer and Linda Cockins. Tom was our champion by recording 98 species. Together we found 134 species including 23 types of warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Surf Scoter, Sandhill Crane, Upland Sandpiper, Gray-cheeked Thrush and Chimney Swift. A number of people also ran their Great Canadian Birdathon in the IBA and submitted eBird lists.

## Waterfowl Counts

Using the IBA Protocol on eBird, PEPTBO organized spring (Mar 28) and fall (Nov 3) Waterfowl Counts in 2018. Volunteers also survey land birds along the routes to the waterfowl survey points.



## Other Initiatives in 2018

- A Bioblitz was organized by the Prince Edward County Field Naturalists (Jun 9-10) that collected lists of diverse flora and fauna in the Charwell Point area of the IBA. A full report is available on the PEPTBO website. A notable find was a singing, male Canada Warbler during breeding season
- Least Bittern surveys by kayak in Lighthall Marsh during the' Bioblitz located 6 adults in nesting habitat
- Multiple surveys throughout the year were completed in many of the eastern blocks – a faithful group of surveyors goes out in all seasons
- Jun 27 - Whip-poor-will survey: 49 calling individuals + 2 Chuck-will's-widow (!) at 26 stops across the IBA. Once again a high concentration of calling birds along Babylon Rd.
- We held a free fall warbler identification workshop in September and some fall weekend guided walks



Merlin (Photo: Cindy Shaban)



Tennessee Warbler (Photo: Cindy Shaban)



## Volunteer Hours in 2018

(In addition to the regular Migration Monitoring and Banding that takes place at PEPtBO)

<i><b>Date</b></i>	<i><b>Event</b></i>	<i><b>Volunteers</b></i>	<i><b>TOTAL HOURS</b></i>
Feb to Dec	Block Surveys (Helmer, Charwell, Lighthall, Simpson, Miller, Ostrander, Pt. Petre), Birding Festival, Big Week, Christmas Bird Counts, Workshops	40+	328
Mar 27, 2018	Spring Waterfowl Count	12	47.5
Jun 10-11, 2018	Bioblitz (bird surveys and Least Bittern)	6	14.5
Jun 27, 2018	Whip-poor-will Survey	2	6
Nov 3, 2018	Fall Waterfowl Count	8	22
<b>TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR EVENTS</b>			<b>418</b>

## Thank you to our wonderful volunteers for 2018

Cheryl Anderson	Lisa Martell	Krys Baklinski	Amy Bodman
Agneta Sands	Sheila Kuja	Allen Kuja	Joanne Dewey
Paul McKenzie	Mike Parry	Peter Fuller	Mike Burge
Michael Gelman	Brian Durell	Kathy Felkar	Gloria Durell
Ketha Gillespie	Ellen McFaul	Ian Barker	Juanita Hummel
Blaine Hummel	Brian Joyce	Doug McRae	Tom Wheatley
Kyle Blaney	John Blaney	Borys Holowacz	Linda Cockins
Julie Rahmer	John Foster	Manuela Godinho	David Okines
Gerard Phillips	Gary Howard	Colleen Leighton	Conrad Biernacki
Brian Musselwhite	Sarah Lowe	Mary Kay Morris	John Lowry
Bill & Anu Turnbull	Edith Kift	Erin Hellinga	Nathan
Cindy Shaban	Luke	Judy and Mike Lascelles	

2018 Christmas Bird Count teams (Sandbanks, Prince Edward County)  
 Kingston Field Naturalists, Prince Edward County Field Naturalists  
 Workshop and Spring Birding Festival participants  
 eBird list contributors