

Prince Edward County South Shore IBA 2020 Caretaker Report



Counting Ducks on Lake Ontario (Amy Bodman)

Prepared by Peter Fuller
Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory
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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 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 Hudgin-Rose property and MapleCross Coastal Reserve 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



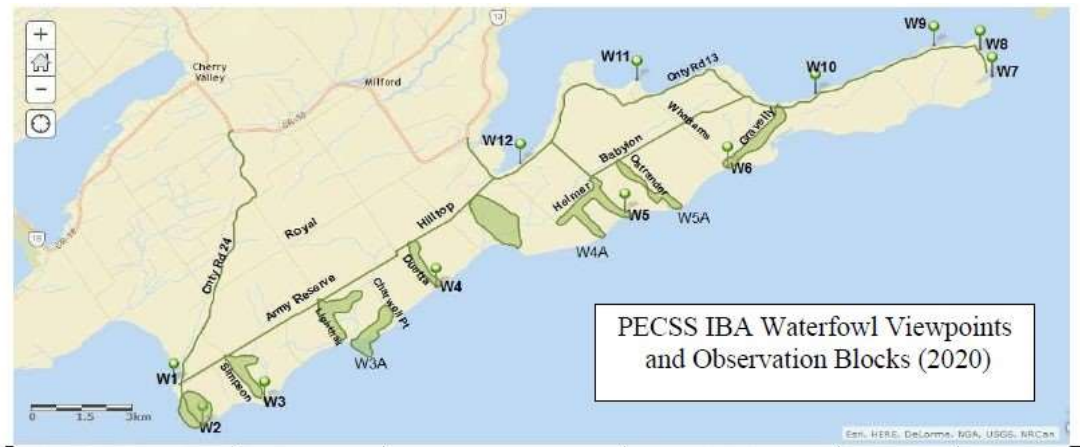
Blanding's Turtle (Peter Fuller)



Ruddy Turnstone (Paul Jones)



Common Raven (Ian Barker)



Survey Areas

PEPtBO has established 10 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 for a Whip-poor-will survey. Waterfowl observation points have also been set up around the shoreline (W1, W2, etc.)

Waterfowl Count - Nov 12

Using the IBA Protocol on eBird, PEPtBO organized a modified fall Waterfowl Count in 2020. Volunteers also surveyed land birds along the routes to the waterfowl survey points.



Greater Yellowlegs (Ian Barker)



Other Initiatives in 2020

Most of our regular IBA events were cancelled for 2020 because of the pandemic, but some monitoring continued:

- A planned Bioblitz for the MapleCross Coastal Reserve (NCC property) was postponed but a few individuals carried out monthly visits to the site. We hope to hold a Bioblitz on this property in 2021
- Local individuals were able to visit some of the survey blocks throughout the year (Thanks especially to Krys Baklinski, Michael Gelman, Cheryl Anderson and Mike Parry who have visited their sites in all seasons for several years)
- The annual Whip-poor-will survey (usually held in June) was suspended for 2020.
- Paul Jones did some monitoring of shorebirds in the spring at Charwell Point
- South Shore Joint Initiative held some small guided walks (South Shore Strolls) in the summer and organized a *Flight of the Monarch* day on Aug. 22
- In September, the Government of Ontario announced that the Point Petre Provincial Wildlife area and Ostrander Point Crown Land Block would be designated as a Conservation Reserve. We are grateful for the work of many local groups including the SSJI and NCC.



Eastern Towhee (Peter Fuller)



Helmer Rd.



Volunteer Hours in 2020

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Volunteers</i>	<i>TOTAL HOURS</i>
Jan-Dec	Data submitted from Block Surveys (Charwell, Lighthall, Simpson, Ostrander, Pt. Petre), Christmas Bird Counts	10	78 (est.)
Jan-Dec	Biothon (MapleCross)	5	155
Nov 12, 2020	Fall Waterfowl Count	12	42
TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR EVENTS			275

Thanks to our wonderful volunteers for 2020!

Cheryl Anderson
Joanne Dewey
Ian Barker
Cecile Yarrow
Abby Leavens

Krys Baklinski
Mike Parry
Nick Bartok
Morris Yarrow
Marie-Josée Remillard

Amy Bodman
Peter Fuller
Jenny Newton
Dale Smith
Tyler Hoar

Sheila Kuja
Michael Gelman
Pat Peterson
Paul Jones
Michael Ferguson

2020 Christmas Bird Count teams (Sandbanks, Prince Edward County)
Kingston Field Naturalists, Prince Edward County Field Naturalists
eBird list contributors



Painted Skimmer (Peter Fuller)



Pine Siskin (Peter Fuller)

