

BPBO Beakon

Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory
PO Box 189 Tobermory, ON, NOH 2T0



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President's Report: Funding for 2002-2003 Secured!



BPBO Gets Funding Boost for Operations

MPP Bill Murdoch presents a cheque to the BPBO in support of forest bird research and migration monitoring conducted at the Cabot Head Research Station (L to R: Ethan Meleg, Robin Bloom (Board members), Daniel Derbyshire (Bander in charge), Bill Murdoch, Grey-Bruce MPP).

Photo credit: Ethan Meleg

Funding Announcements

BPBO is pleased to announce that funds for the 2002-2003 year have successfully been secured! We are most grateful to the agencies, groups and individuals who have made the dream of a bird observatory on the Bruce Peninsula a reality. A brief summary of the major contributions for this year are outlined below:

Trillium Foundation Grant

In April 2002, BPBO received news from the Trillium Foundation of Ontario that we would be receiving \$66,000 over two years towards the operation of the Cabot Head Research Station, the development of an educational program, and the development of our own capacity.

This grant will allow BPBO to hire a Field Ornithologist to operate the Cabot Head research station and manage volunteers there for the next two years, as well as an administrator and an educational bander. We are thrilled about the receipt of this grant, and grateful to the foundation for its support of bird studies and conservation on the Bruce Peninsula. The Ontario

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Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation. With \$100 million in annual funding from the province's charitable gaming initiative, the foundation provides grants to eligible charitable and not-for-profit organizations in the arts, culture, sports, recreation, environment and social services.

Provincial Grant - MNR

On May 16, 2002 local Member of Provincial Parliament, Bill Murdoch presented BPBO with a cheque for \$20,000 from the Province's special Protection and Enhancement Fish and Wildlife Funding Program, administered by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. This funding will permit restoration of the second cottage at the research station known as the "glass house," and assist with BPBO's educational program.

Community Action Fund - CNF

BPBO was also successful in its application to the Canadian Nature Federation's IBA Community Action Fund, which provided BPBO with funding for a display and materials for educational programming.

The CFWIP Program

We have received a positive word from the Owen Sound District of OMNR that we will receive funds towards the purchase of new mist nets from the Community Fish and Wildlife Involvement Program.

James L. Baillie Memorial Fund

The Baillie Fund is providing BPBO with funds towards subsidizing our long-term volunteer food stipend.

The Wolverton Connection

In early May, the Dance family of Wolverton held a unique event that included a silent auction, bird hikes and a bird banding demonstration by Ted Cheskey to raise funds for BPBO and increase awareness of birds in the local region. Despite steady rain, the event was successful, and a cheque for \$500 plus over \$200 in further proceeds was given to BPBO. We are extremely grateful to the Dance family as well as all of the volunteers involved in this event for this significant contribution to BPBO.

A New Way to Keep In Touch: BPBO Website Coming Soon!

Soon you will be able to track the exciting research and news of BPBO through our interactive website. Our soon to be posted site will feature sightings, banding and recapture information and ongoing projects. Look for us soon at www.bpbo.org In the meantime, you can reach us by email at ronbakerbpbo@sympatico.ca.

2002 Spring Migration Monitoring Summary

This spring, a total of 2431 individual birds comprising 74 species were banded at the Cabot Head Research Station! Spring migration monitoring began on April 17th, and ended on June 12th. Daniel Derbyshire was contracted as the Field Ornithologist /Bander in Charge (FO/BIC). Daniel conducted the banding and migration monitoring with the assistance several long- and short-term volunteers. In total, eighteen volunteers assisted Daniel to yield a total of 57 consecutive monitoring days. This is the equivalent of 151 person-days of banding and observation. Twelve to 15 mist nets were operated each day, depending on the weather. Total banding counts are summarized in the Table below.

SPRING 2002 BANDING TOTALS

<i>Species</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>2002</i>
Sharp Shinned Hawk	29	Black Throated Blue Warbler	36
Black Billed Cuckoo	1	<i>Yellow Rumped Warbler</i>	244
Northern Flicker	1	Black Throat Green Warbler	38
Yellow Bellied Flycatcher	15	<i>Blackburnian Warbler</i>	13
Traill's Flycatcher	14	<i>Pine Warbler</i>	4
Least Flycatcher	9	<i>Western Palm Warbler</i>	216
<i>Eastern Phoebe</i>	5	<i>Bay Breasted Warbler</i>	11
Blue Headed Vireo	6	Blackpoll Warbler	4
<i>Warbling Vireo</i>	3	<i>Black and White Warbler</i>	78
<i>Philadelphia Vireo</i>	2	American Redstart	204
Red Eyed Vireo	10	Ovenbird	37
Blue Jay	13	Northern Waterthrush	2
Barn Swallow	1	<i>Mourning Warbler</i>	14
<i>Black Capped Chickadee</i>	342	<i>Common Yellowthroat</i>	56
<i>Red Breasted Nuthatch</i>	17	Hooded Warbler	1
Brown Creeper	6	<i>Wilson's Warbler</i>	32
House Wren	2	Canada Warbler	19
Winter Wren	2	American Tree Sparrow	5
Golden Crowned Kinglet	6	Chipping Sparrow	47
<i>Ruby Crowned Kinglet</i>	79	<i>Clay Coloured Sparrow</i>	2
Blue Gray Gnatcatcher	1	Field Sparrow	1
Veery	1	Savannah Sparrow	1
Gray Cheeked Thrush	1	Fox Sparrow	2
Swainson's Thrush	13	Song Sparrow	12
<i>Hermit Thrush</i>	8	<i>Lincoln's Sparrow</i>	17
Wood Thrush	1	Swamp Sparrow	3
<i>American Robin</i>	8	<i>White Throated Sparrow</i>	71
Gray Catbird	11	White Crowned Sparrow	17
Brown Thrasher	3	Dark Eyed Junco	69
<i>Tennessee Warbler</i>	6	Northern Cardinal	1
Blue Winged Warbler	1	Rose Breasted Grosbeak	1
<i>Golden Winged Warbler</i>	3	Indigo Bunting	3
<i>Orange Crowned Warbler</i>	29	<i>Baltimore Oriole</i>	8
<i>Nashville Warbler</i>	227	Pine Siskin	1
<i>Northern Parula</i>	3	<i>American Goldfinch</i>	41
Yellow Warbler	22		
Chestnut Sided Warbler	26		
<i>Magnolia Warbler</i>	184	TOTAL:	2431
<i>Cape May Warbler</i>	9	Species Total:	74

Bold- indicated first spring banding record for CHRS.

Italic- Record high spring totals, 2000-2002

NOTABLE SPECIES

In addition to the variety and high numbers of birds banded, several notable species were encountered in or near the Census Area at the station. These include:

Kirtland's Warbler (Endangered)

A single bird found by visiting birders on Lighthouse Road, May 24th.

Hooded Warbler (Threatened)

A single female captured on May 13th was subsequently recaptured on three occasions, lastly on May 25th.

Red Throated Loon

Only one record this spring, of a very early bird, on April 18th.

Mute Swan

A single bird first appeared in Wingfield Basin on May 6th and lingered until May 20th. An additional three birds were seen flying north on June 9th. *First record for the Cabot Head checklist area.*

Tundra Swan

Three extremely late birds remained on farmed fields near Dyer's Bay through the end of May.

Broad Winged Hawk

A very low year for this buteo species with only three birds observed on May 4th.

American Coot

One bird observed using the "gargantua" as a windscreen on April 19th. *First record for Cabot Head checklist area.*

Marbled Godwit

One bird observed on Dyer's Bay Rd. *First record Cabot Head Checklist area.*

Forster's Tern

A single bird on June 2nd. *First record for Cabot Head checklist area.*

Black Tern

Only a single record of this provincially rare species on June 5th.

Summer Tanager

One female sighted outside count area just before the gate on May 31st. *First record for Cabot Head checklist area.*

Golden Winged Warbler

Three banded with singles on May 11th, 14th and 22nd.

Blue Winged Warbler

Two males encountered on May 16th, of which one was banded and photographed. *First banding record for Cabot Head.*

Orange Crowned Warbler

A great year for this species with 29 banded and 43 total records for the season.

Pine Warbler

Much like Orange Crowned, spring 2002 was a great year for Pine Warblers. Present daily from April 17-May 16, the last on May 28th. A total of 57 records.

Kentucky Warbler

One Kentucky Warbler reported on May 24th by visiting birders on lighthouse road a few km from Cabot Lighthouse. *First record for Cabot Head Checklist area.*

Connecticut Warbler

A single bird heard singing the morning of June 7th.

Yellow Breasted Chat

One reported near Cabot Head Lighthouse on May 24th. *First record for Cabot Head Checklist area.*

Lark Bunting

One bird reported by Ted Cheskey at Crane Lake on May 17th. *First record for Cabot Head checklist area.*

Orchard Oriole

A singleton on May 24th is a significant record for this southern species.

Observations of Kirtland's Warbler and Hooded Warbler are especially notable due to the extreme rarity of these species in Canada. Kirtland's Warbler has disappeared as a breeding bird in Canada and Hooded Warblers are a Carolinian species, which have experienced steady declines in recent years. Data and casual observations of such species are very valuable to the recovery of these populations.

RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEERS

BPBO would like to express our gratitude to the following members of the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory and volunteers for their help at the field station during the banding season: Colin Zantinge, Holly Briton, Cindy Cartwright, Peter Coo, Bob Hall-Brooks, Jeff Harris, Marion Lougheed, Marion Mosolf, Erica Range, Barbara Bahnmann, David Brewer, Mary-Anne Cain, Steve Greidanus, Anne Range, and Al Woodhouse.

We would like to extend a special thanks to Audrey Heagy for providing historical data for the spring report. Finally, BPBO would also like to thank Ron Baker for stepping in as BPBO's administrator. His efforts at the Research Station are already making a real difference!

CONCLUDING REMARKS FROM DANIEL DERBYSHIRE, BPBP'S FO/BIC

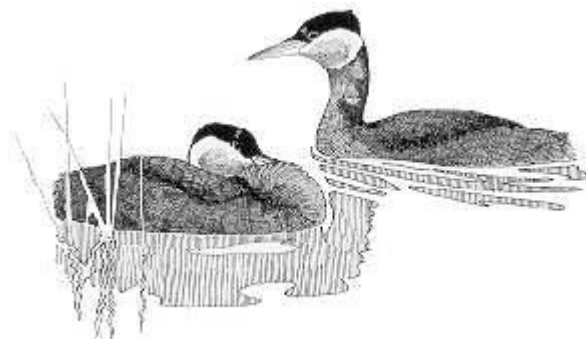
Spring 2002 was a success as coverage was complete & the data collected was of high quality. Cabot Head is an excellent location for this program as bird concentrations are significant, facilities are ideal and there is a skilled and enthusiastic base of volunteer support. Migration monitoring at Cabot Head will be ongoing for a period of at least 5 years, and will contribute to the efforts of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network and ultimately to the understanding and monitoring of bird populations.

2002 Red-Necked Grebe Survey Results

This spring marked BPBO's third consecutive year of red-necked grebe surveys conducted by volunteers of BPBO. The surveys were carried out biweekly during April and early May. The goals of the annual survey are to determine relative numbers of red-necked grebes using the waters off Dyers Bay and Cabot Head, and the dates of use. Surveys are completed by counting the number of grebes and other water birds from 5 stations between the Dyers Bay dock and the Cabot Head Lighthouse. This year's findings were consistent with the past two years: small numbers of grebes were counted throughout early April, building to a peak during the latter part of April, then falling off in early May. The peak numbers recorded this spring were 306 red-necked grebes on April 24th, and 259 red-necked grebes on April 27th. Wavy conditions on April 24th inhibited the survey, and it is probable that many birds, which would have added to this peak number of 306, were missed.

To increase our knowledge of red-necked grebe usage of this area, two off-shore boat surveys were also completed this spring. The objective of the boat surveys was to determine if grebes were present further off-shore, beyond the viewing range of our shore stations. No birds were recorded off-shore on either of these boat trips, however the charter boat Captain filled in one piece of the red-necked grebe puzzle - the peak timing of red-necked grebe migration seems to coincide with the smelt spawning run in Dyers Bay. This lead us to believe that the grebes are present in the near-shore area to take advantage of a meal of rainbow smelt! This will require further study.

BPBO would like to extend a big thank-you to our volunteer grebe counters for the 2002 season: Rod Steinacher, Ted Cheskey, Ethan Meleg, Cindy Cartwright, Joe Johnson, Adrienne Shaw, Melissa Coady, Norah Toth, Don Wilkes, and Pat and Barb Martin. If you would like to volunteer for next year's grebe survey, please email Ethan at ethan.meleg@pc.gc.ca.



Red necked grebes (image: birdingonthenet.net)

Volunteer Opportunities for Fall, 2002

This fall, BPBO is offering exceptional opportunities for volunteers to learn more about the birds of the Bruce Peninsula while supporting the observatory's migration monitoring operation at the Cabot Head Research Station.

The responsibilities of each volunteer will vary depending on their previous experience and skills. Volunteers assist with the following: processing of birds, recording information in log books, removal of birds from mist nets (initially only under careful supervision), transport of birds to the banding laboratory, participation in special watches of counts including hawk counting, waterfowl / seabird counting, visible migration counts, and the daily census. All volunteers will work under the supervision of the Field Ornithologist - Bander in Charge (FOBIC) for the 2002 season, Daniel Derbyshire. In addition, all volunteers are expected to contribute to the maintenance of the research station including cleaning, minor repairs, meal preparations and dishes.

Sleeping facilities at Cabot Head include one guest bedroom with two small beds, and two sofa-beds in the living room in the main cottage. A second cottage providing limited space may be available for visitors and volunteers by the fall season, however repairs to this facility are pending and the extent of the space that will be available is unknown at this time. Accommodation costs for all short-term volunteers are \$10 per night. Short-term volunteers are responsible for providing their own food. Long-term volunteers staying two or more weeks pay no accommodation fee, and receive a food subsidy of \$8 per day. Food purchases for long-term volunteers will be arranged through the FOBIC. Dishes and kitchen supplies are available at the research station.

To apply as a long-term volunteer, please send a letter electronically or regular post to Ron Baker at the address listed below describing your experience identifying birds and handling birds, as well as any references from previous experiences at bird observatories. BPBO can accept a limited number of long-term volunteers each year. Due to space and program limitations BPBO can accept a limited number of long-term volunteers each season, so please make your request early!

To book a volunteer session or for more information about volunteer opportunities at BPBO please contact Ron Baker, our station administrator at (519) 795-7652 or at ronbakerbpbo@sympatico.ca. Ron's mailing address is: Ron Baker, 1004, Dyer's Bay Rd., RR # 1, Miller Lake, NOH 1Z0.

Continued Support for BPBO Important

BPBO operates with membership fees, donations and grants from a variety of sources. Throughout the year, requests are sent out for funds to buy nets, tools and other supplies that cannot be donated and are needed to carry out our research projects. BPBO gratefully acknowledges the generous financial assistance of the Trillium Foundation and the Province of Ontario through its P&E funding program, as well as the support of organizations such as Ontario Bird Banding Association, Canada Trust Friends of the Environment, the Baillie Foundation and the Canadian Nature Federation. Many individuals have helped by donating specific items we need.

Much of the research conducted by BPBO is completed by volunteers, but we need a qualified Field Ornithologist - Bander in Charge (FOBIC) to oversee migration monitoring and the research station. Since most grants will not fund a paid staff member, we rely on the generosity of individuals and businesses that make financial donations to cover this expense. Each year \$12,500.00 is needed to cover the operation of the banding station at Cabot Head. You can help by making a donation, or notifying a board member of potential funding sources.

**Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory
Board 2002-2003**

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