

BPBO Beakon

Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory
RR#1, Miller Lake, ON, N0H 1Z0



Volume 09, Number 01

April, 2009

10th Annual RNGR Survey 2009: Our last Hurrah!

This year marks the 10th and final year of the RNGR surveys, conducted by BPBO volunteers. The project originally started in the spring of 2000, and has been conducted every spring since. Ten years is enough time to begin establishing trends for a study, and also a nice round number to wrap up our volunteers' efforts.

Potential participants should note that this year's surveys will again fall on Wednesdays and Saturdays, although if weather conditions dictate (high winds and waves, driving rain or snow), the survey can be complete one day ahead or after the date. Remember that a spotting scope is required, in addition to your binoculars and warm clothing.

This is your last chance (I know we've all heard that one before, but this is for real!) to participate in the RNGR survey. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Rod Steinacher as soon as possible, and put in your "dibs" for a date or three. Survey information and recording sheets will be forwarded to you as we get closer to survey time. Mail rstein@amtelecom.net. Let's see if we can get all 15 surveys covered.

	Wed.	Sat.
March	-	28
April	1	4
	8	11
	15	18
	22	25
	29	-
May	-	2
	6	9
	13	16

-Rod Steinacher

BPBO Annual General Meeting & Board Elections!

*Sunday, April 26,
Grey Sauble Conservation Authority,
237897 Inglis Falls Road,
Owen Sound.*

The Board of the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory wishes to invite you to our Annual General Meeting. It's an especially important meeting this year, because the terms of two board members are up, so you, the membership, will be choosing new people to fill these positions. We therefore hope to see as many members as possible come out.

Activities will begin at 9:30 a.m., with a guided bird hike through the GSCA grounds. (Some very good birds have been known to show up for these walks!) At 11:30 lunch will be served, and there will be a reprise of BPBO's famous "bird quiz". This will be followed by a short business meeting at 12:30, which will include the election of the new board.

As you may know, BPBO is having a trip to Nicaragua at the end of March, led by our own "El Presidente" Ted Cheskey, and "El ex-Presidente" Rod Steinacher. By the time of the AGM, the participants will have just recently returned from their trip, and so, for our programme, they will be sharing their observations. Should be an exciting afternoon!



A Word from the President

By the time you get this Newsletter, some of us will be winging our way to Nicaragua to experience the heat, the culture, (and of course) the birds. Many of these birds will be unfamiliar for most of us, but some will be like old friends. This is because Nicaragua is a critical winter destination from some of the species that live on or migrate through the Bruce Peninsula. The work of Nicaraguan ornithologists, students, and people living near and volunteering at their many small monitoring stations has proven this. They capture and observe numerous Swainson's Thrushes, Wood Thrushes, Tennessee Warblers, and others. For the last four years we have supported the work of these tiny bird observatories, called MOSIs, with an annual small donation.

The BPBO–Eagle Eye Tours trip participants are providing an additional donation to assist in these operations. The MOSI sites sometimes involve local children as well as university students and land owners in the bird monitoring activities, which primarily involve mist netting and banding over a few days each month. Our group will see at least one of these operations first hand as we visit an active MOSI site on the Mombacho Volcano near the colonial city of Granada.

The trip to Nicaragua, or the support we provide to Fauna and Flora International – Nicaragua, were not even twinkles in eyes of the founding board nine years ago. Our immediate preoccupation was establishing a solid migration monitoring station at Cabot Head Provincial Nature Reserve. This required fixing leaky and dilapidated buildings, establishing monitoring protocols and finding competent people and money. Beyond our board members' contributions, people like Marion Molsoff were extremely generous with their time, allowing BPBO to turn the corner and get to where we are today. I am particularly indebted to the support that Ontario Parks has provided us from day one. Indeed, Ontario Park's Norah Toth who holds an ex-officio position on the Board and park Superintendent Chris Tomset, have provided BPBO with tireless and consistent support in innumerable ways. Put simply, we would not be where we are without those two. We have been extremely fortunate to have two superb long-term "staff" as part of the BPBO family. Anyone who knows Ron Baker will recognize his hand work in the way we

have developed and manage our migration monitoring station at Cabot Head. Ron, a resident of Dyers Bay, is a visionary, and has been very generous in imparting his wisdom and time to our fledgling organization over the years. Dr. Stéphane Menu, our station scientist is returning for his seventh year. Stéphane has brought to us a dimension of scientific rigor and consistency that has been essential to our success thus far.

Each year brings new challenges. Getting "off the grid", and developing an educational program focused on resident of the north Bruce are part of our long-term plans to which we are making steps of progress. Your support, be that through your membership, a donation, participation in a workshop, participation as a summer steward or Grebe Lodge user, or a volunteer contribution to our operations is the key to our success. Many hands make light work. Throughout my nine years on the Board, (one in ex-officio capacity) I have witnessed the work of those many hands - which all should take a moment to applaud the fruits of our efforts.

-Ted Cheskey, BPBO President



Migration Monitoring at Cabot Head - Fall 2008

Season Summary:

August: Fieldwork for fall migration monitoring began at Cabot Head Research Station on August 16, with fifteen mist nets in operation. August is normally a quiet month of migration in southern Ontario. A total of 370 birds for 38 species were banded in August. American Redstart was, by far, the most common species caught, with 38% of the banding total, followed by Cedar Waxwing and Red-eyed Vireo (about 8% each). The American Redstart is usually the most abundant species during the late summer, both observed and banded, because of its large breeding population around the station and its rather early fall migration. The banding total for American Redstart is the second highest of the 7 years of fall monitoring, with 171 birds banded.

On August 31, 38 species (including 12 of warbler) were recorded (either caught or observed), one of the highest totals of the season. Around 100 Common

Loons were seen on Georgian Bay that day, as well as about 100 Common Mergansers and the first Red-necked Grebe of the season. Other birds of summer were rarely seen this year: Common Terns were seen only once above Wingfield Basin on August 22 (2 individuals) and Caspian Terns were seen only twice, one bird each on August 22 and 23.

September: This was the most diverse month: 49 species were caught compared to 38 for August and 37 for October and 95 species were detected in total (compared to 79 and 80 for August and October, respectively). Many species migrate mainly during this month (i.e., warblers, White-throated Sparrow and Swainson's Thrush), while early migrants are still moving through (American Redstart and Black-and-white Warbler, for example); as well, the earliest individuals of late migrant species can also be encountered at the end of the month (Kinglets, Hermit Thrush, Sparrows). However, banding in September was less busy than August: an average of 20 birds a day were banded. September 24 was the best day for the month: 75 birds of 18 species were banded, mostly White-throated Sparrows, Slate-colored Juncos and Hermit Thrushes. September's most common species caught were White-throated Sparrow (accounting for 16% of the monthly total), Golden-crowned Kinglet (13%), Red-breasted Nuthatch (8%) and Red-eyed Vireo (6%). The day with the best diversity of the season was on September 7, with 45 species detected, include 11 warbler species, 3 woodpecker species, and a Great Egret.

Many species not monitored by banding migrate mostly in September. The first flocks of Canada Goose were seen in August but the bulk of the migration was in the first half of September. Similarly, flocks of Double-crested Cormorant were seen daily since August. Numbers of Cormorants dropped drastically after mid-September from an average of 50 to less than 10, indicating that most of them have left. The last individual was seen on September 25.

October: October is usually the busiest – although less diverse - banding period of the fall migration season at Cabot Head Research Station. This was still the case in 2008, as 686 birds of 37 species were banded, for a daily average of 25 birds captured. Banding was possible almost every day of the month, as only 4 days were lost because of wind and/or rain. The most common species caught were Golden-crowned Kinglet, with 183 individuals banded (27% of the

Banding Totals, Cabot Head Research Station, Fall 2008

Sharp shinned Hawk	2	Chestnut-sided Warbler	1
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	Magnolia Warbler	20
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	Cape May Warbler	2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	Black-throated Blue Warbler	18
Downy Woodpecker	4	"Myrtle" Warbler	59
Hairy Woodpecker	8	<i>Black-throated Green Warbler</i>	37
"Yellow-shafted" Flicker	3	"Western" Palm Warbler	2
Pileated Woodpecker	1	Bay-breasted Warbler	5
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	1	Blackpoll Warbler	6
"Traill's" Flycatcher	5	<i>Black-and-White Warbler</i>	25
<i>Least Flycatcher</i>	4	<i>American Redstart</i>	171
Eastern Phoebe	4	<i>Ovenbird</i>	16
Great Crested Flycatcher	1	Northern Waterthrush	8
Blue-headed Vireo	8	Mourning Warbler	2
Red-eyed Vireo	66	Common Yellowthroat	17
Blue Jay	4	Wilson's Warbler	9
Black-capped Chickadee	47	Canada Warbler	5
Red-breasted Nuthatch	93	American Tree Sparrow	28
Brown Creeper	31	Fox Sparrow	3
House Wren	1	Song Sparrow	22
Winter Wren	8	Lincoln's Sparrow	4
Golden-crowned Kinglet	255	Swamp Sparrow	5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	63	White-throated Sparrow	158
Veery	4	White-crowned Sparrow	53
<i>Gray-cheeked Thrush</i>	8	"Slate-colored" Junco	83
Swainson's Thrush	15	Eastern Towhee	1
Hermit Thrush	39	Northern Cardinal	1
American Robin	21	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1
<i>Gray Catbird</i>	2	<i>Baltimore Oriole</i>	1
Cedar Waxwing	45	Purple Finch	4
<i>Orange-crowned Warbler</i>	4	White-winged Crossbill	22
Nashville Warbler	22	Pine Siskin	44
<i>Yellow Warbler</i>	1	<i>American Goldfinch</i>	1
		Total (without Chickadees)	1568
		Total (with Chickadees)	1615
		Species Total	68

Record high (in **bold**) and low (in *italic*) numbers established in the Fall 2008 banding season; ties for highest and lowest included.

(From data covering the period 2002-2008).

monthly total), followed by White-throated Sparrow and Slate-coloured Junco (10%), and Ruby-crowned Kinglet (7%). Red-breasted Nuthatch was also another regularly caught species and in high number. With 41 banded in October and a total of 93, it breaks the record of 89 established in fall 2007.

On October 15, an astonishing and unprecedented 38 Pine Siskins were caught in one swoop! Siskins were seen regularly all fall (with the first one on August 21) in small flocks, but, as canopy feeders, they are rarely caught in our nets. It was thus highly exceptional to get that many in one net. This big catch undoubtedly helped the banding total of October 15 to be the season highest with 86 birds banded.

Among other late October migrants, a flock of 30 Snow Buntings was observed on October 24 (this species was also observed after the regular count period). An adult Northern Shrike was seen on October 31, the very last day of monitoring (although a young had been observed in the Pine Barrens on the afternoon of October 18). Reflecting the paucity of sighting, none were captured this fall, the second time only with fall 2006.

Even though the first Bald Eagle was seen on August 18, almost all the observations were made in October, with this magnificent species detected on 14 days during this month. Except for adult plumage, there is enough variation in the immature plumage to allow individual identification. It is especially useful for daily tallies as this species tends to linger around the area, no doubt finding the bluffs and open water to its liking. For 11 days out of 17 with observation of this species, at least two, perhaps up to four, Bald Eagles were detected, whereas most of the daily observations of the previous falls were of single individuals. As it is felt that it was usually different birds between days, it seems that the number of Bald Eagles seen at Cabot Head is increasing.

Unusual Sightings and Captures:

A few unusual sightings or captures were made this fall, confirming the unofficial motto that “the unexpected is always to be expected at a migration station”. Even though monitoring has been going on since 1998, new species can still be added to the area checklist. This fall, it was a Red Crossbill seen during census by BPBO President Ted Cheskey. While we’re on the subject of crossbills, many White-winged were observed this

fall, right from the first day; usually these were flying high above the canopy or feeding in spruce. However, on September 13, we caught 3 of them, a first for the station and an amazing bird to hold in hands! And, more amazingly, a flock of 19 White-winged Crossbills got caught in a net on October 19!



White-winged Crossbills were caught in significant numbers at Cabot Head in fall 2008, presaging the major irruption of the winter of 2008/2009.

Other rarely banded species were to fly in our nets this fall: Two Yellow-billed Cuckoos were banded, one on August 16 and the second on September 24. A Great Crested Flycatcher was banded on August 30, only the second ever to be captured in the fall. An eastern Towhee was banded for the first time in fall at Cabot Head on October 13. Likewise, a beautiful - and quite late - adult male Northern Parula was banded on October 15. A Northern Saw-whet Owl was banded in the early hour of October 1st during the regular banding. (Note that no formal program of owl banding was undertaken this fall).

Pileated Woodpeckers were detected several times throughout the fall. But the real excitement came on October 18 when one second-year female was caught – and did not escape – in a net! Given its size, this species can easily free itself from the station nets, as their small mesh size target more songbirds. It is only the fourth Pileated Woodpecker caught in fall and the sixth in total since 2002.

Whip-poor-will was heard across the basin a few times at dusk in early September. Another crepuscular species, Common Nighthawk, was observed flying high above

the basin a few evenings in September and also once in the morning on September 7. A lonely and very unusual Snow Goose was spotted flying fast above West Bluff on September 13. An early Rough-legged Hawk was seen shortly on October 12.

Surprisingly, species usually seen in fall, though in low numbers, were missed this season: No Peregrine Falcon, Red-bellied and Red-headed Woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatch were detected.

Recaptures at Cabot Head

The rate of recapture at Cabot Head was relatively high in fall 2008: A total of 307 recaptures for 204 individuals of 29 species were recaptured. The vast majority of recaptures (194 i.e. 95%) came from birds banded this fall, but representing only 12% of birds banded during the season. However, there was one foreign recapture of a Black-and-White Warbler (origin still unknown). There were also a few recaptures from the previous banding done at Cabot Head: One Black-and-white Warbler previously banded in spring 2002 as an after-hatch year female was recaptured for the first time! This Black-and-White Warbler is thus at least 7 years old (the oldest individual known was 11 years old). Almost all the recaptures from a previous season were American Redstarts, not surprisingly given the abundance of this species in the area.

Recognition of volunteers

Nine volunteers contributed 154 person-days to the fall migration monitoring season. Special thanks are due to the 3 long-term volunteers, Jennifer Rowlands from England, Catherine Jardine and Lisa Kennedy, both from Ontario, for their help with operating the station. Volunteers greatly assured the success of the operations at Cabot Head and all help is appreciated. John Haselmayer, BPBO vice-president, kindly took charge of the station for the opening day.

Volunteer effort:

1-8 Days: Mary-Ann Cassidy, Brooke Condon, Jackie Lampert, Josh Shea, Michelle Watson, Al Woodhouse.

One month or more: Catherine Jardine, Lisa Kennedy, Jennifer Rowlands.

-Stéphane Menu

Spreading the Word about the BPBO Park Steward Program

As many members know, BPBO has cottage facilities on site at Cabot Head that are available for our Park Steward Program. They are located at the research station within the pristine wilderness area of the Cabot Head Provincial Nature Reserve. The scenery –with Wingfield Basin on one side, and Georgian Bay on the other – is absolutely stunning.

The BPBO board would very much like to see these buildings utilized to full capacity; both to ensure that there are people on-site during the summer, and also to generate some much-needed funding for our migration monitoring program. Last year the cottages were not used nearly enough. It may have been because most people just didn't know about these facilities, or it may be that we were charging too much; we are not certain. But we are sure that we need to keep the Cabot Head buildings in use this summer, and that people should be looking for a really good vacation value during these uncertain economic times.

The board of directors has decided to reduce the weekly rate of Wingfield Cottage by \$100 to \$550. Also, the group rate for the much larger Grebe Lodge has been reduced from \$300 to \$250 per night, and from \$250 to \$200 per night for university/college groups and other non-profit organizations.

Wingfield Cottage is available when the migration monitoring program shuts down between June 6 and August 15. The Park Steward Program involves spending a very limited amount of time each day helping with on-site tasks, such as doing minor maintenance, or providing information to boaters mooring in Wingfield Basin in the evening. More detailed information is provided on the web site: www.bpbo.ca.

We hope that you will consider using these facilities yourself this summer, or pass this information along to any friends or family members who might be interested in spending a week on the beautiful Bruce Peninsula. Participants will be able to experience nature first-hand, and assist the Observatory. All revenues generated support the work of BPBO.

-The BPBO Board

Upcoming Weekend Workshops at Grebe Lodge

The following is a condensed description of the workshops being offered at BPBO's Grebe Lodge, at Cabot Head. For a more complete description of the workshops, and to download a registration form, please go to <http://www.bpbo.ca/workshops.html>. -Ed.

Hitting the Peak – Spring Migration at Cabot Head

Dates: Friday, May 8 (evening) to 2 p.m. Sunday, May 10, 2008

Group Size: Up to 10 adult participants

Cost: \$250.00 all-inclusive: meals, accommodation & program (\$235.00 for BPBO members). Day rates available for residents of the Northern Bruce Peninsula.

Leaders: Ted Cheskey and Rod Steinacher

Workshop Description: What! Nicaraguan birds at Cabot Head? Well, come and find out for your self as a participant in the famous “hitting the peak” birding weekend at the superb Cabot Head Research Station of BPBO. Freshly back from Nicaragua, Ted and Rod, your leaders will prod and humour you, prepare delicious meals and help you observe about one hundred species of birds at one of the most spectacular locations in Ontario. We will take time not only to observe many species, but also observe and learn about their behaviours and life histories. Last year, we watched in awe as scores of songbirds streamed over their heads, non-stop for hours. An estimated 30,000 in one morning! Will we witness a similar spectacle? Will we see the audacious mating ritual of the Woodcock, observe the bellicose Sandhill Crane interactions at Crane Lake, or perhaps spot an eagle on Middle Bluff?

In the evening, nocturnal birding, sharing stories, laughs, and perhaps astronomy will keep us busy and stimulated. Saturday morning starts early, visiting local birding hotspots, and observing fascinating aspects of migration monitoring including banding. There will be opportunities to explore the stunning landscapes and spectacular habitats through hiking and shoreline walks.

Leaders: Ted Cheskey, BPBO president, Ontario and international bird conservation advocate, author and experienced guide. Rod Steinacher is a life-long

naturalist and educator, now resident of the Upper Bruce; his roots go almost as deep as the old-growth cedars, and his wit is as sharp as a November westerly at the Cape.

Photographing Nature: Developing a Photographic Style

Dates: May 22 to 24 (Friday evening to Sunday afternoon).

Workshop Price: \$250 all inclusive with day rates available for residents of the Bruce

Group Size: up to 12 adults

Description of the Workshop: The program is designed for beginner to intermediate photographers interested in developing a photographic style that is theirs alone. A review of basic techniques - exposure, composition, selective focus and lens choice will lead participants to discover how understanding their use of these techniques can influence their style.

Participants will have a variety of opportunities to share and practice their photographic techniques. Saturday evening will be spent reviewing and discussing photographs taken during excursions in and around the spectacular Cabot Head area on the Bruce Peninsula.

Participants will need to bring a film or digital camera with manual capabilities. A notebook computer with photo editing software is recommended but not required.

During this spring weekend, participants can observe the workings of the research station with bird migration monitoring and banding activities on site.

Leaders: Rob Cotton is a fine art photographer who has been involved in photography for about 30 years. Since 1998, he has conducted seminars and workshops on many aspects of photography. He classifies his work to date as ‘landscape photography’ and his work has been exhibited at galleries throughout the area.

Rod Steinacher has been photographing since the early 1970's, more recently assisting with the photography workshops offered by BPBO. He enjoys sharing photographic images, ideas, and techniques with both beginners and accomplished photographers. Rod is currently retired and living along the shore at Cape Hurd, just outside of Tobermory, where photography is a daily activity. He makes use of the ever-changing lighting conditions, seasons, and exciting serendipitous moments in nature to make his pictures.

2008 Red-necked Grebe Survey

Nine surveys were completed for 2008, on track with our nine year average of 9.4 completed surveys, with weather again playing a major role in 2008 in keeping us from completing all of the scheduled surveys. A total of **242 Red-necked Grebes** were observed during the survey, a dramatic increase over 2007's 97 birds. 111 RNGRs were observed altogether at Station #1 during for the survey period, 18 at Station #2, 46 at Station #3, 64 at Station #4, and 3 RNGRs were observed at Station #5. An average of 27.0 Red-necked Grebes were counted for each hour of observing time for 2008, down somewhat from the nine year average of 49.1 (but up considerably from the previous two years' average of 15.0).



It is interesting to note that, due to some creative rescheduling, two surveys were completed on Wednesday, April 16. The first survey began at noon and was completed by 2:00 p.m.. No RNGRs were observed at any of the stations. The second survey, beginning at 4:30 p.m. and ending just under 1.5 hours later, observed 94 RNGRs, with only Station 5 turning up no grebes. This is not some strange counting error; a large flight of RNGRs apparently arrived during the mid-afternoon and distributed itself along the Dyers Bay coastline. We do not clearly understand the RNGRs' migratory movements, so this is a bit of a surprise. The next day, April 17, more than 100 RNGRs were reported in an informal observation at Station #1, right at Dyers Bay. It appears likely that more grebes continued to arrive on the 16th and stay over in the area on the 17th.

Other waterfowl counted during the surveys are also of interest. Once again, the 284 Long-tailed Ducks made it the most numerous bird counted on the survey

(and just edging out our RNGRs by 42 individuals). Common and Red-breasted Mergansers each tallied 78 individuals, and there were 52 Horned Grebes observed. All three species of scoter were represented in 2008; 38 White-winged, 4 Black, and 3 Surf Scoters were counted. A few (29) Double-crested Cormorants showed up during the second half of the survey period. Only 4 Mallards and 2 Buffleheads were seen for 2008. Three Tundra Swans, a bird we rarely see during the surveys, made a fly-by on April 30.

Thanks to all the volunteers (in alphabetical order) who helped with last year's survey; Andrew Armitage, Lorraine Brown, Don Douma, Bill Hansen, Vince Hart, John Haselmayer, Joe Johnson, Scott Parker, Rod Steinacher, and Michelle Watson. The surveys could not have been completed without their help! Please consider helping out with the upcoming 2009 Red-necked Grebe surveys, if you are not already one of the "regulars". We can always use the help!

-Rod Steinacher



BPBO and the Baillie Birdathon

The Baillie Birdathon is annual fund-raising event, originated by the people at Long Point Bird Observatory (the organization which would later give rise to Bird Studies Canada). In the birdathon, the idea is that the participants gather sponsors, who pledge a certain amount per bird species seen during a single day (technically, any contiguous 24-hour period).

Birdathon funds are organized and distributed to a large number (85 this past year) of conservation and research groups and organizations, right across Canada. All of these groups, despite their geographical diversity, share a common interest in preserving the birds of Canada.

Especially important, from our perspective, is that a major beneficiary of these funds goes towards supporting the Canadian Migrations Monitoring Network (CMMN), the coast-to-coast network of bird observatories of which we are a part. Without the network, there would be really no point to what we do - we would just be a solitary "voice in the wilderness."

Birdathon money contributes to BPBO directly, too, through something called "Revenue Sharing" this is a system through which participants in the Baillie Birdathon can choose an approved organization (like

BPBO, for example), and designate the organization to receive a portion of every dollar that the participant makes. When all the money has been collected for the year, the Baillie Fund people calculate the proportion owed to each designated organization, and remit it to them. The real beauty of the system is that this proportion is “graduated” – the more money birdathoners who designate a particular organization make, the greater the proportion is that goes to that organization.

Here’s a numerical example of how this works, and what it means to BPBO. As of the end of 2008, Birdathon pledges collected have amounted to about \$227,000 in total. Of this, the amount collected by participants who designated BPBO as the organization they wished to benefit was \$3067.72. The bulk of this goes directly into the general Baillie Fund (for the benefit of the CMMN an so on), but through Revenue Sharing, \$724.90 of this came directly back to BPBO, to help us to maintain our migration monitoring programme. It’s a win-win deal!

I hope you will consider participating in this worthwhile event – or, if not, perhaps being a sponsor. It’s a great way to spend a spring day - it’s fun, it’s a great work-out for your birding skills, and it’s good for bird research. To register, or just learn more about the Baillie Birdathon, check out the Birdathon web page at www.bsc-oec.org/organization/birdathon.html.

-Peter Coo



News ‘Bits and Bites’ from BPBO:

A very interesting recovery: A bird of “ours” has been recaptured, well south of the border, in the U.S. A Blue Jay, banded at Cabot Head June 8, 2005, was re-caught by a bander just outside Clarkson, Kentucky, on December 05, 2008. (It is a very rare event for passerine birds, like Blue Jays, to be recaptured at a different station). That’s about 1100 kilometres SSW of the original banding location (Cabot Head). Since it is likely that this bird is a regular migrant, doing this trip twice a year, it would therefore likely have logged at least 7700 kilometres in between captures!

In case anyone is wondering, Clarkson, Kentucky is about 100 kilometres SW of Louisville. Or, to put it in terms that CBC listeners will understand, about 19,963,680 Blue Jay lengths ESE of Reading.

Getting off the grid: The movement towards reducing the Cabot Head Research Station’s dependence on our (somewhat fragile) connection with our electrical utility is proceeding. Some solar power equipment has been donated, and we recently have made some headway towards getting it installed. Watch this space for further developments on this front!

An Unexpected Visitor at Grebe Lodge: Our trusty and loyal Ontario Parks Technician, Bob Lesperance, undertook an inspection trip up to Cabot Head this winter. In the course of this inspection he made a somewhat disturbing discovery - evidence of a forced entry into the lodge! Apparently, some time this winter, a Ruffed Grouse had gained access to the interior of the lodge – by way of the living room window.

Alas, neither the grouse – nor the window – survived the encounter. All that remained was a scattering of feathers from the former, and a large hole in the latter. Fortunately, damage to the rest of the building was negligible, and it should be good as newly-restored by spring.

“Grebe Lodge: where you don’t have to go to the wildlife, the wildlife comes to you!”

-Peter Coo

A Big “Thank You!”

Thanks to all of you who renewed your membership, or took out a new membership, in the past year. We could not do this without you!

BPBO would like to extend a warm welcome to the following people who have taken out new memberships (or upgraded their membership to a higher level):

Individual:

Eleanor Currie
Reta Davis
Anne Gillespie
Jeff Siddall
Laura Weihs
Gwen Binsfield
Judy Gay
Michael Patrikeev
John Saulters
Theresa Stafford
Elise Longo
Donna Baker
S. E. MacMahon
Joanne Avison

Life:

Audrey Heagy

Family:

Pat and Barbara Martin
Sophie Gibbs and Family
Anita and Ward Wilson
Erin Grundy and Peter Allemang
The Miller Family