

BPBO Beakon

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



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Special Events Planned for Annual General Meeting!

The Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory invites all members to join us the day of our next AGM to enjoy birding, banding, photography, and story-telling! The Annual General Meeting will be held on **Saturday, April 12th, 2003** at the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority in Owen Sound. Beginning at 9 am, members may choose to join a bird-watching hike around the Conservation Authority property and Inglis Falls. At 11 am, join photographer, Ethan Meleg, for a nature photography workshop. Weather permitting, banding demonstrations will be running most of the morning. A light lunch will be provided at noon, followed by the actual AGM at 1 pm. Story-teller, Ron Baker, will close the day with story, *The Snow Goose* by Paul Gallico.

Directions to the Conservation Authority Office: The Conservation Authority Office is on the edge of Owen Sound, west of Highway 6 & 10. From Highway 6 & 10, turn west onto County Road 18 at the Petro Canada in Rockford. Follow the Conservation Authority signs onto Inglis Falls Road. The Conservation Authority office is approximately 3 km down the road on the right.

BPBO Inquiries

For more information about
The Bruce Peninsula Bird
Observatory and our efforts,
please refer to our website:

www.bpbo.ca

Or you can contact us at:

info@bpbo.ca

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Migration Monitoring at Cabot Head, Fall 2002

Fall migration monitoring for 2002 began on August 13th, and continued daily until November 2nd for a total of 82 days of coverage. Twenty-four volunteers contributed 146 person-days of effort towards the migration monitoring program.

1,530 Birds of 69 species were captured in fall 2002. Highlights of the banding were *five additions* to the Cabot Head banding list. These include Cooper's Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Kingbird, American Pipit, and a hybrid Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler. The hybrid represents the first record for the Cabot Head checklist area. In total, a respectable 158 species were observed at Cabot Head Research Station (CHRS) this fall season. See page 3 for a summary of the capture statistics for fall, 2002.

Fall, 2002 was an important year for the migration monitoring program at Cabot Head. Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory (BPBO) is now in a position to fully streamline and standardize operations in 2003 for both spring and fall migration seasons.

Acknowledgments

BPBO is indebted to the 24 volunteers who contributed their time to the field research at Cabot Head in fall 2002. These volunteers came from various regions in Ontario as well as England to assist with the migration program. The following persons volunteered this fall:

Holly Britton, Jim Burrell, Mary Anne Cain, Cindy Cartwright, Ted Cheskey, Camille Cheskey, Deb Diebel, Jana Dilny, Corinne Down, Rachael Edwards, Audrey Heagy, Bakiss Laurent, Tara McEachern, Hal McGray, Gwynda McKay, Levi Moore, Marion Mosolf, Rod Steinacher, Katy Stevenson, Bryony Swinfen, James Turland, Simon Turland, Al Woodhouse, and Colin Zantinge.

Special thanks are due to the following people who assisted with the management of field operations at Cabot Head:

Ron Baker, Ted Cheskey, Deb Diebel, Audrey Heagy, Ethan Meleg, Marion Mosolf, Rod Steinacher, Chris Tomsett and Norah Toth.



Photo Credits: Daniel Derbyshire

Left: The first Eastern Kingbird ever captured at Cabot Head.
Right: The first American Pipit ever captured at Cabot Head.

Summary of Capture Statistics for Fall, 2002

(Includes captures from non-standard nets.)

<i>Species</i>	<i>Banded</i>	<i>Recap</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Banded</i>	<i>Recap</i>
Cooper's Hawk	1	0	Yellow Warbler	6	2
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	0	Chestnut-sided Warbler	5	0
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	0	Magnolia Warbler	17	5
Black-billed Cuckoo	2	0	Black-throated Blue Warbler	21	1
Belted Kingfisher	1	0	Myrtle Warbler	90	3
Downy Woodpecker	1	1	Black-throated Green Warbler	116	4
Pileated Woodpecker	1	0	Blackburnian Warbler	5	2
Eastern Kingbird	1	0	Pine Warbler	2	0
Eastern Phoebe	4	0	Western Palm Warbler	6	0
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	3	0	Blackpoll Warbler	6	0
Traill's Flycatcher	3	0	Black-and-White Warbler	26	10
Least Flycatcher	3	0	American Redstart	103	17
Northern Shrike	2	0	Ovenbird	10	1
Blue-headed Vireo	1	0	Northern Waterthrush	11	0
Red-eyed Vireo	51	11	Mourning Warbler	1	0
Blue Jay	3	0	Common Yellowthroat	17	5
Black-capped Chickadee	29	23	Wilson's Warbler	5	2
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	8	Canada Warbler	7	1
Brown Creeper	53	9	American Tree Sparrow	10	1
Winter Wren	3	0	Chipping Sparrow	3	0
Golden-crowned Kinglet	490	39	Clay-colored Sparrow	1	0
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	71	4	Savannah Sparrow	1	0
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	0	Song Sparrow	20	8
Gray-cheeked Thrush	19	4	Lincoln's Sparrow	9	0
Swainson's Thrush	11	0	Swamp Sparrow	4	0
Hermit Thrush	16	0	White-throated Sparrow	49	29
American Robin	11	0	White Crowned Sparrow	29	15
Gray Catbird	10	7	Slate-colored Junco	43	4
Brown Thrasher	1	0	Scarlet Tanager	1	0
American Pipit	1	0	Northern Cardinal	1	1
Cedar Waxwing	43	2	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	0
Blue winged x Golden winged	1	0	Purple Finch	2	0
Tennessee Warbler	3	0	American Goldfinch	3	0
Orange-crowned Warbler	10	2			
Nashville Warbler	41	0	Total	1530	221

*Species highlighted in bold are first banding records for Cabot Head.

Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory Research Station Photo Gallery



Photos, Clockwise: Eastern Kingbird, Yellow Billed Cuckoo, Brown Thrasher, Wilson's Warbler, and Blue-winged Warbler x Golden-winged Warbler (first record for Cabot Head).

Photo Credits: Daniel Derbyshire

Thank-You For a Successful Season!

BPBO would like to take this opportunity to thank Daniel Derbyshire, Cindy Cartwright, and Audrey Heagy for another successful season of research and educational programming. We wish our staff a safe and happy holiday season, and we hope to see you back next spring.

BPBO would also like to say a special thank-you and farewell to former BPBO Board Member, Robin Bloom. During his time with BPBO, Robin volunteered at the Cabot Head Research Station, contributed to the newsletter, and helped BPBO progress toward our goals. In September, Robin began a new position with the Canadian Wildlife Service in Ottawa. Thank-you, Robin, for your valuable work on behalf of BPBO. We will miss you!

Whoooo's Out There? Now We Know!

Quickly dubbed the "Owl Lady" by visiting students, local bird bander, Cindy Cartwright, delighted visiting students, parents, and teachers at the Institute for Outdoor Education and Environmental Studies near Wiarton this fall with banding demonstrations and visits from migrating owls. Through a partnership with the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory, the Institute had the exciting opportunity to host Cindy, and the BPBO owl banding and public education project. The IOEES property has been deemed an ideal location for owl banding as it sits on the thinnest cross-section of the Bruce Peninsula. As the birds resist flying across large expanses of water, they are funnelled through this thin stretch of land between Lake Huron and Georgian Bay.



Cindy was stationed at the IOEES from early September until November 8th, conducting the owl banding for as many as three nights a week. During this time she banded 50 owls against a backdrop of Great Horned Owls calling in the distance, and northern lights dancing in the sky. After spending their summer in northern Ontario, the owls were migrating through the peninsula on their way to the eastern United States - from New York to the Carolinas - for the winter. Of the owls banded, one was a Screech Owl, and the rest were Saw-Whet Owls. Of the Saw-Whets banded, 29 were female, four were male, and the remainder were undetermined. This is determined by measuring the wing chord length of each bird. The owl research conducted by BPBO will contribute to a growing body of knowledge of owl migration and population trends.

At the Institute, Cindy also conducted a short afternoon program for visiting students, explaining the intricacies of bird banding and conducting banding demonstrations when possible. Cindy became a "celebrity guest", and an important addition to the program at the Institute... especially when she appeared with an owl in hand to many of the Institute's evening programs. The IOEES looks forward to the return of the "Owl Lady" in the early spring when the owls and song birds journey northward again on their spring migration.

In addition to Cindy's work at the Institute, several banding demonstrations were conducted at MacGregor Provincial Park. These demonstrations exposed close to fifty participants to bird banding, and increased participation is expected in the spring when weather conditions are more favourable and the program is expanded to include more locations.





Two Saw-Whet Owls captured and banded at the Institute for Outdoor Education and Environmental Studies, Fall 2002.

Saw-Whet Owls are only 8 " tall in the hand.

Photo Credits
Deborah Diebel.

Education Committee to Focus on Raising BPBO's Profile

Research remains a priority for BPBO, however, BPBO also realizes this research will become meaningful only when it is communicated, and put to use in conservation efforts. Conservation work is often carried out by scientists, but just as often the impetus and support for such work must come from the public. Recognizing the need for public support for bird conservation efforts, an Education Committee was struck by BPBO this spring. The committee is working on formulating a strategy for raising BPBO's profile as an educational resource in the community.

The goals of the committee are two-fold. First, BPBO will be working to increase public awareness of the diversity and importance of the bird population on the Bruce Peninsula. Second, BPBO would like to become a resource for those interested in birds and bird conservation in the region. Upcoming projects of the committee will include:

- continuation and streamlining of the partnership with the Institute for Outdoor Education and Environmental Studies;
- increased number of banding demonstrations;
- further construction work on BPBO's website;
- guided tours of the Cabot Head Research Station;
- updated Checklist of the Birds of Cabot Head; and,
- possible development of exciting new resources for birders in the area.

For more information about these projects, or to become involved in BPBO's efforts, please contact Ethan Meleg (see back page for contact information).



BPBO's Education Committee plans to continue to expand and improve educational outreach programs, such as the partnership with the Bluewater District School Board to bring banding demonstrations to school

children. Here, children at the IOEES get a close-up look at a Saw-Whet Owl.

Photo Credit: Deborah Diebel

BPBO Fundraising Gearing Up In 2003

A new BPBO Fundraising Committee has been established with Chair Ted Cheskey and members Doug Van Hemessen and Noreen Steinacher. Like most non-profit, incorporated organizations, an effective fundraising strategy and its communication is a necessary ingredient to carrying out the valuable work of an organization. First steps will include the development of some promotional materials highlighting the vision, programs and results of activities at the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory this past year.

Fundraising strategies for 2003 may include assessing corporate and individual potential, continuing to access grants, planning special events and promoting membership growth. We will keep you in touch with the specifics throughout the year. Members of BPBO, and friends and supporters are invited to participate in the fundraising challenges of 2003 with ideas and support. Any comments can be directed to Ted Cheskey. Stay tuned for upcoming, exciting developments!

The Glasshouse Gets a Face-Lift!

There are two unique stone cottages on-site at the Cabot Head Research Station. Each faces a different direction, boasting equally beautiful vistas of the surrounding area. When banding began at the site, the main cottage facing Wingfield Basin was cleaned and repaired by many volunteers, making it acceptable for use by BPBO's Field Ornithologist and a handful of volunteers. Likewise, the second building, affectionately known as the "Glass-House" because of the large picture windows on all sides, is currently being upgraded to make it habitable. When BPBO took over the site the building had deteriorated to an inhospitable state. The front porch had rotted, and the electrical and plumbing services had been dismantled. It was in dire need of a new roof and several of the windows were missing.

Due to the assistance and support of local MPP, Bill Murdoch and his sidekick, Arnie Clark BPBO was able to obtain a grant from the MNR Protection and Enhancement Program to move forward with planned renovations to the Glass-House. The money provided by the P&E Fund boosted these efforts, and the cottage is now much closer to completion. The porch has been reconstructed, and a new front door installed. A new steel roof has rendered the building waterproof, and limited electrical service has been installed. Volunteers from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists Working for Wilderness program spent a weekend this summer sprucing up the exterior, and other volunteers tore up carpets and cleaned the interior.

We would like to thank everyone who was involved in our renovation efforts. There is still a great deal of work to be done before the renovations are complete. The Board, in

consultation with Ontario Parks, will be making some important decisions about the function of the building before the interior is completed. BPBO will keep members informed of our progress toward this goal in up-coming editions of the newsletter.

An Ontario Parks Update

By: Norah Toth, Natural Heritage Education Coordinator

During the summer of 2002, the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory and the Park Steward program used the Cabot Head Research Station. I was very pleased with the volunteer participation of our stewards and the positive results for the facilities. An additional benefit was having Bob Lesperance as handyman for Ontario Parks. Without his participation, we would not have made the progress we did.

The financial support of the BPBO and the Park Stewards (whose volunteer contributions were made to the Friends of Cabot Head) has allowed Ontario Parks to jump forward with long-range goals for these buildings. We were pleased to see a new roof placed on the "glass house" and some structural repairs made to this building. This will certainly prevent the building from deteriorating any further. Although not yet complete, the road into the Research Station is much improved over last year. The addition of the phone line was probably the most exciting thing to happen this year. This added an aspect of security that we had been missing, and certainly allowed Daniel Derbyshire to connect with the world beyond Cabot Head! Ontario Parks is grateful for the commitment of the BPBO to these projects.

Cont'd...

Ontario Parks has begun plans to write a Park Management Plan, which will encompass all the nature reserve class parks on the east side of the Bruce Peninsula – Hope Bay Forest, Lion's Head Promontory, Smoky Head, White Bluff and Cabot Head. Presently, all these parks are non-operating parks, each with its own Interim Management Statement. As we progress with the management plan, public consultation will be an important part of the process.

Ontario Parks thanks the BPBO for their fundraising efforts for the Cabot Head Research Station, and their commitment to Cabot Head Provincial Nature Reserve.

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. We are grateful for 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 done by BPBO is completed by volunteers, but we need a qualified master bander to oversee the migration monitoring research. 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. Every year we need to raise \$12,500.00 over and above our grants to operate 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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