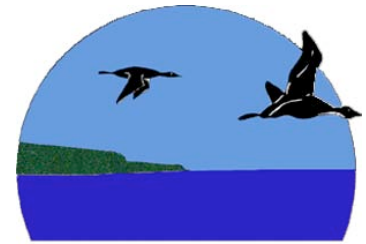


BPBO Beakon

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



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Bruce Peninsula
Bird Observatory

BPBO's Second Fund-Raising Spiced Up With Nicaraguan Theme

By Lorraine Brown, BPBO Secretary

On Saturday November 12, 75 BPBO supporters gathered at the Parish Hall at St. George's Anglican Church in Owen Sound for the second annual BPBO fund-raising dinner.

This year, our meal was prepared by Robin Pradhan, the chef/owner of the Rocky Raccoon Restaurant in Dyer's Bay. As part of our plan to focus on Nicaragua that night, we had asked Robin if he could add Central American touches to our dinner. After a little Internet research, Robin came up with a dinner that fused his usual tasty cuisine with Nicaraguan influences. His pork and vegetable wraps with rice and beans and a fresh salad of avocado, lettuce and tomato were delicious. We're grateful to Robin for cooking for us at a greatly reduced rate. Robin has also offered to serve the occasional free meal to the station scientist at the Cabot Head Research Station in Dyer's Bay. Thank you Robin!

The silent auction was also a big hit. BPBO supporters came out of the woodwork with all sorts of goodies for the table: old collectors' books on birds plus new books on a variety of nature-related topics, bird song tapes, bird seed, even a purple martin house! There were home-made angora mittens, silver jewelry, beautiful photographs for framing, a duck stamp print, prints of Central American birds and many other great items. We made about \$1400 on the silent auction this year. Thanks to everyone who helped out with donations, and also a big thank you to the buyers!

The draw prizes this year consisted of Bob Gray's maple butter, Creemore hot chocolate donated by Janice McKean and Art Wiebe, and Creemore coffee with the BPBO label on it.

The speaker this year was our very own Ted Cheskey. His talk, entitled "From Swainson's Thrush to Sandino's Tanager", focused on the collaboration taking place between BPBO and ALAS, a banding organization in Nicaragua. Ted visited Nicaragua last summer. His photos captured not just the scenery and the birding activity there, but also the people of Nicaragua and their culture. Migrating birds form the link between our two organizations. Many of the species that are banded at Cabot Head are also captured in Nicaragua's migration monitoring nets.

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We raised \$4500 at this event. Thanks to everyone for coming and supporting our efforts. We hope to see you again next year.

Rocky Raccoon Restaurant New Year's Celebration....

On behalf of BPBO, a special thanks is extended to the Rocky Raccoon Restaurant for preparing our fundraising dinner in November! Chef Robin Pradhan, and his wife Shelley are open to serve you Wednesday through Sunday at the Rocky Raccoon Restaurant in Dyer's Bay. You can also join them for a five-course meal and celebration on New Year's Eve. Tickets are \$75.00/each. Join them in their unique location for gourmet meals that are truly a feast for the senses! For reservations or more information, call 519-795-7652.

Message From The President

By Rod Steinacher, BPBO President

This past August, I had the opportunity to spend two weeks birding in Central America. The first week was spent in Costa Rica as part of a group organized and led by BPBO's own past president, Ted Cheskey. Cloud forest, jungle, and rural areas were birded. Despite the dense foliage present at that time of year, and with a great deal of assistance from other members of the group, I managed to add 153 new species to my birding life list. The second week I spent with Ted travelling through northern Costa Rica and into southern Nicaragua. Ted's excellent Spanish skills and previous trips to the area meant that our trip was rich in interactions with local residents, broadening my appreciation of the social fabric and living conditions in the region. The realization that many of our breeding bird species here in the Grey-Bruce area over-winter in these countries brought home the connection we have with Central America, whether it is readily apparent or not. Environmental issues, such as the accelerating rate of deforestation in Nicaragua and the need to obtain even basic knowledge of bird populations in that area, need to be addressed by North Americans if we truly care about the birds we often refer to as "ours".

We also had the opportunity to meet with ornithologists in Nicaragua. It became abundantly clear that they faced a number of daunting obstacles to overcome in their drive to study over-wintering bird populations in their country. Nicaragua, a very poor nation when compared with Canadian opulence, does not have government funds to allocate to this type of project. The field conditions endured by researchers are often daunting; extreme heat and humidity, clouds of biting insects, and sometimes ankle deep mud. Technical training and monitoring experience are also areas that need improvement, as only two of the Nicaraguan researchers have had formal training outside the country (both at Long Point here in Ontario). Something as simple as binoculars for field workers to use needs to be addressed. Ted and I were able to put six donated pairs of new and used binoculars, which we had carried with us, into their hands when we met with them.

Providing assistance with data analysis and reporting research results are also necessary to move Nicaraguan research forward and provide a base for constructive action.

So what does all this mean for BPBO, its members and supporters? BPBO had already raised funds last year to forward to Nicaragua and will do so again this year, through a contractual agreement with researchers there. The hope is that we can continue to do so into the future, and conceivably, to increase our level of support. Contributions from BPBO members make a big difference in Nicaragua! BPBO staff will continue to provide technical support to the fledgling ornithological community there and, possibly in the future, facilitate Nicaraguans coming to our Cabot Head Research Station for additional training. As BPBO's collaboration with our Central American colleagues continues, please keep an eye open for ways you can help us help them.

Baker's Blurb

By Ron Baker, BPBO Administrator

Banding has now finished for the season and the station has shut down for the winter. It has been a successful season and we have been well staffed by volunteers – in fact we have had an 'embarrassment of riches' and could not accommodate some volunteers. 'Hats off' to Stéphane Menu for his leadership, commitment and good humour in running the station and making it such a valuable experience for our volunteers. We are now accepting applications for next spring

The Stewardship program was also very successful with both *Wingfield Cottage* and *Grebe Lodge* being occupied for most of the summer when banding was not in operation. Stewards are responsible for monitoring and doing some work around the site. In return they occupy one of the buildings at a very reasonable cost. Our stewards this year were particularly busy. They installed vertical blinds in the Lodge, built a major display on the Cabot Head Road near the entrance to the Station, installed a fan and did electrical wiring, built an enclosure for the water system, cut back brush, did major cleaning of the buildings and site and many other jobs. Thanks to them and other volunteers we are now in very good shape! If you are interested in being a Steward next summer please contact Ron Baker at ronbakerbpbo@sympatico.ca.

We are trying to make the buildings as efficient as possible and thanks to Ontario Parks we now have suspended ceilings in the bedrooms in the Hermitage so that our bander and trusty volunteers have (slightly!) warmer bedrooms. We have also replaced incandescent bulbs with energy efficient fluorescent bulbs. However our hydro line is always at risk and in October a beaver-felled tree took out a hydro pole - getting it replaced was not a simple operation! We are grateful to Ontario Parks for their assistance in restoring power. The BPBO Board has commissioned a study into the feasibility of getting off the grid.

Next year will see the end of our Trillium grant and we have to get as much income from the site as we can. Universities, Colleges and naturalist organizations have been contacted to encourage them to bring groups to Grebe Lodge. We are beginning to get interested enquiries and some bookings. However we need to let people know what a marvelous location it is for naturalists. If you know any likely users please tell them about it and direct them to our web site - www.bpbo.ca or ask them to contact me directly ronbakerbpbo@sympatico.ca.

2005 Fall Migration Monitoring Summary

By Dr. Stéphane Menu, BPBO Station Scientist

This fall, an amazing 2,484 birds of 67 species were banded and 292 birds of 27 species were recaptured at the Cabot Head Research Station. Fall migration monitoring began on August 16 and ended on October 31. Stéphane Menu was again in charge as the Station Scientist. With the assistance of a summer student and several volunteers, the banding and migration monitoring was conducted for a total of 68 days. Fifteen mist-nets were operated every possible day, depending on the weather. It has now been 4 years that the monitoring has been done with a similar protocol, which allows interesting comparisons. Numbers of banded birds (see Table below for banding totals) were in record highs for many species. The continuing monitoring confirmed the need for long-term data to better understand the migration and population dynamics, and the importance of the Cabot Head Research Station.

The weather for this season can be divided into 2 periods of about a month and a half each. From the opening to mid-September, despite some windy days, it was frequently sunny and dry. As a consequence, the coverage was excellent: The 15 nets could be open for the regular 6 hours of the banding period most of the time. Red-eyed Vireos and Cedar Waxwings were captured in record numbers (see Table). The abundant chokecherries proved to be an irresistible attraction for them. Some of the nets are close to these trees, and many Vireos and Waxwings were caught as a result. Our bird bags rapidly turned a deep purple! Other species, mainly warblers, were also caught in record numbers, following a trend noted in various Bird Observatories across the country. During this period, there were many days where 40 or more birds were banded (see Figure). It culminated on September 9 when 87 birds of 18 species (including 11 species of warblers) were banded, the most abundant being the Myrtle Warbler (18 banded and 100 Estimated Totals), the White-throated Sparrow (16 banded and 60 ETs), and the Black-throated Green Warbler (11 banded and 40 ETs).

After mid-September, as summer waned into autumn, the weather turned to frequent windstorms and increased rain. Despite the days and mist-net hours lost to weather, the number of birds caught remained high. Myrtle Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, *Catharus* thrushes and Red-breasted Nuthatch were also caught in record numbers during this time. However, the defining characteristic for this period was the huge numbers of Black-capped Chickadees moving through the area. This bird is not a true migrant, but rather an irruptive species: in years of good reproduction, large numbers of young disperse away from their breeding grounds to find suitable and unoccupied territories. This fall, almost unbelievable movements amazed us throughout October. For example, on the 17th, we banded 141 Chickadees, but we estimated that more than 2,000 Chickadees passed through Cabot Head that day. This species dominated the capture to the end of the season.

Noteworthy sightings include: a Short-billed Dowitcher on August 17; three Blue-gray Gnatcatchers on August 26; a Great Egret on the shore of Wingfield Basin on August 28; a very late Ruby-throated Hummingbird on October 7 (After a while, it found the feeder and seemed to be glad for it!). A very unusual species, a Townsend's Solitaire was seen on October 25, the second record of this species for Cabot Head. It was a long way from its haunts on the Rockies! A Red-throated Loon was observed flying fast over Georgian Bay on October 27. Two Pine Grosbeaks were seen on October 29 and caught later in the day, the first ever banded at Cabot Head. Three other species were banded for the first time at Cabot Head for the fall season (Wood Thrush, Northern Parula, and White-breasted Nuthatch).

Another particularity of this decidedly unusual fall was the higher than usual numbers of recaptures. The recaptures involved mainly birds banded in the same season (97% of the 292 recaptured individuals of 27 species). However, two Myrtle warblers of still unknown “foreign” origin were also recaptured! Change in fat level and weight indicates that a significant proportion of the recaptured individuals used the Cabot Head area to replenish their reserve. They are found in higher proportion in the fruit-eating group (Red-eyed Vireo, Myrtle Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, *Catharus* thrushes), and they undoubtedly took advantage of the productive crops of the fall.

Owl banding was possible for 13 nights, mostly in October. Captures occurred only on 4 nights, with a rather disappointing 7 Northern Saw-whet Owls banded in total. However, the 2 guests of our Owl Night Program chose their night for a visit well and they both were rewarded by close encounters with this charming little owl!

Recognition of volunteers

BPBO and the Station Scientist would like to express their gratitude to the following members of the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory and volunteers for the help at the field station during the banding season: Ben Barr, David Brewer, Ted Cheskey, Meaghan Conway, Alain Deschamps, Réjean Gaudreault, Alexandra Kruperman, Joanna Meys, Sarah Richer, Carl Savignac, Josh Shea, Christina Sobol, and Al Woodhouse

Ron Baker, as the BPBO’s administrator, was again of invaluable help during the fall! BPBO and the Station Scientist would like to extend well-deserved thanks for his work.

Concluding remarks from Stéphane Menu, BPBO’s station scientist

Again, the attraction of the Cabot Head Research Station keeps increasing, luring people from as far away as New Zealand (!) and many volunteers returning from previous seasons. We were also fortunate to have a talented and quick-study summer student, Lindsay Miller, of Miller Lake (on the Bruce). She cheerfully returned to the station in August and stayed with us until early October. She especially enjoyed the opportunity to meet the Kiwis, as she was leaving for a yearlong journey in New Zealand in November! BPBO and I wish her an excellent trip in the Antipodes!

This season marked the fourth year of migration monitoring following a well-established protocol. Some new developments are already emerging, like the unsuspected use of the area as a stopover to refurbish fat reserves by some species. The picture of the migration on the Peninsula is starting to be clearer, although its complexity, paradoxically, is increasing. With banding of new species, like the Pine Grosbeak (they have such a soft and dense plumage!) and sighting of unusual species, the motto stating that “the unexpected is always to be expected at a migration station” hold true once again! I deeply wish that migration monitoring at Cabot Head will be ongoing for a long time. It will certainly yield other surprises and ultimately will contribute to a better understanding and monitoring of bird populations.

Fall Banding Totals of birds captured in mist-nets: 2002-2005.

Species	200 5	200 4	200 3	200 2	Av.	Species	200 5	200 4	200 3	200 2	Av.
Sharp shinned Hawk	3	2	2		2	Nashville Warbler	78	24	48	41	48
Cooper's Hawk				1		NORTHERN PARULA	1				
Merlin		1				Yellow Warbler	4	3	13	6	7
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1		2	2	2	Chestnut-sided Warbler	1		2	5	3
Black-billed Cuckoo			5	2		Magnolia Warbler	34	25	29	17	26
Northern Saw-whet Owl	7	19		1	9	Cape May Warbler	1	1	3		2
Belted Kingfisher		2	1	1	1	Black-throat. Blue Warbler	7	14	18	21	15
Red bellied Woodpecker		1	1			Myrtle Warbler	204	34	92	90	105
Yellow bellied Sapsucker	1		1			Black-throat. Green Warbler	81	115	116	116	107
Downy Woodpecker	3	4	12	1	5	Blackburnian Warbler	10	3	3	5	5
Hairy Woodpecker	2	5	5		4	Pine Warbler		2		2	
Yellow Shafted Flicker	1	2	3		2	Western Palm Warbler	10	1	10	6	7
Pileated Woodpecker				1		Bay-breasted Warbler	6		1		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		1	1	3	2	Blackpoll Warbler	23	7	6	6	11
Trail's Flycatcher	6	3	5	3	4	Black-and-White Warbler	15	17	30	26	22
Least Flycatcher	7	4	5	3	5	American Redstart	65	85	197	103	113
Eastern Phoebe			1	4		Ovenbird	24	16	16	10	17
Eastern Kingbird				1		Northern Waterthrush	1	4	4	11	5
Northern Shrike	1	3	1	2	2	Connecticut Warbler	1		1		
Blue-headed Vireo	11	4	2	1	5	Mourning Warbler	2			1	
Philadelphia Vireo	2		1			Common Yellowthroat	23	31	35	17	27
Red-eyed Vireo	239	31	117	51	110	Wilson's Warbler	10	2	4	5	5
Blue Jay	6	3	4	3	4	Canada Warbler	4	1	4	7	4
Black-capped Chickadee	717	169	368	29	321	Scarlet Tanager	2			1	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	73	62	26	5	42	American Tree Sparrow	12	56	19	10	24
WHITE-BR. NUTHATCH	1					Chipping Sparrow	6	6	1	3	4
Brown Creeper	32	28	48	53	40	Clay-colored Sparrow				1	
House Wren		1	1			Savannah Sparrow	2	1	3	1	2
<i>Winter Wren</i>	4	5	1	3	3	Fox Sparrow	2	3	1		3
Golden-crowned Kinglet	113	262	321	490	297	Song Sparrow	10	10	17	20	14
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	20	62	122	71	69	<i>Lincoln's Sparrow</i>	7	4	2	9	6
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				1		Swamp Sparrow	2	7	11	4	6
Veery	5	3				White-throated Sparrow	199	84	42	49	94
Gray-cheeked Thrush	22	12	16	19	17	White Crowned Sparrow	26	79	22	29	39
<i>Swainson's Thrush</i>	36	16	38	11	25	Slate-colored Junco	56	63	65	43	57
Hermit Thrush	48	24	34	16	31	Northern Cardinal	1	1	3	1	2
WOOD THRUSH	2					Rose-breasted Grosbeak			6	1	4
American Robin	10	16	19	11	14	Indigo Bunting	1	5	5		4
Gray Catbird	12	7	7	10	9	Summer Tanager		1			
Brown Thrasher				1		Baltimore Oriole			1		
American Pipit		1		1		PINE GROSBEAK	2				
Cedar Waxwing	117	16	10	43	47	Purple Finch	2	5	3	2	3
Blue winged x Golden winged				1		Pine Siskin		4			
Golden winged Warbler		1				American Goldfinch				3	

Tennessee Warbler	44	38	8	3	23	Totals (without Chickadees)	176	134	167	153	158
							7	5	9	0	0
Orange-crowned Warbler	3	9	23	10	11	Totals (with Chickadees)	248	151	204	155	190
							4	3	7	9	1

Av.: Average (only for species captured at least during 3 seasons)

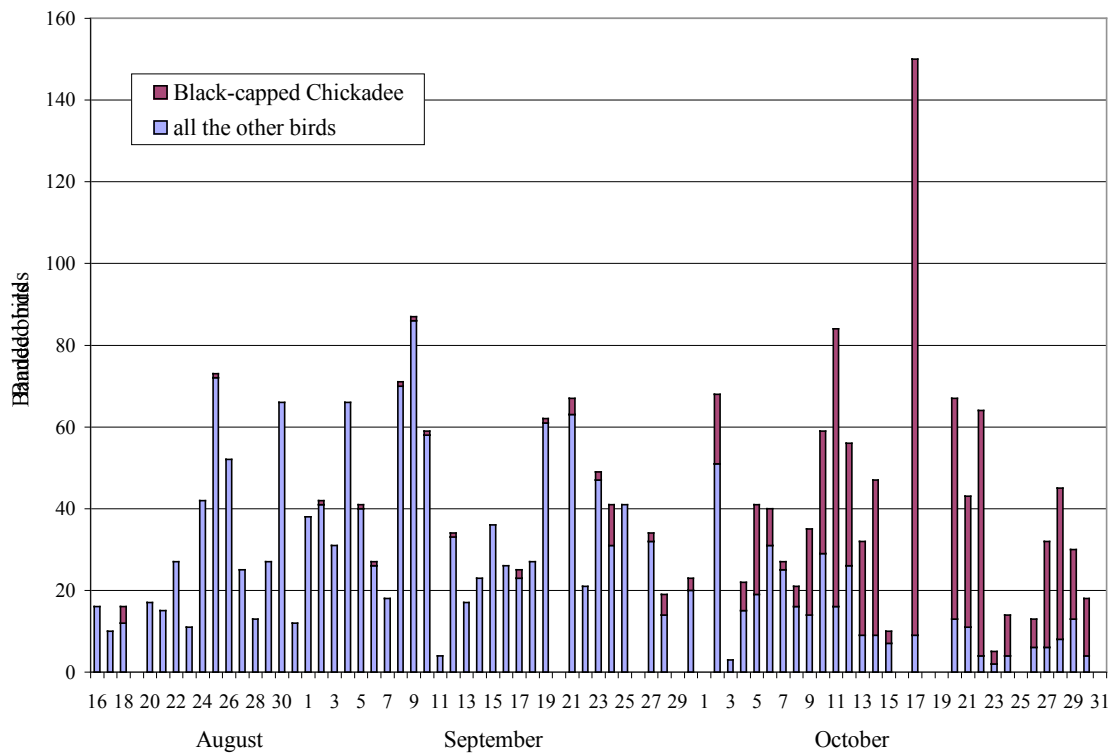
Bold: Record high established in fall 2005 (period 2002-2005)

Italic: Above average (period 2002-2005)

SMALL CAPS: Indicated first fall banding record for CHRS (period 2002-2005)

Data: for 2002: Derbyshire, 2002; for 2003: Menu, 2003; for 2004: Menu, 2004

Banded Birds at Cabot Head Research Station – Fall 2005



2005 Red-necked Grebe Survey Results

By Rod Steinacher. BPBO President

Spring 2005 marked the sixth consecutive year that BPBO volunteers have gathered field data on migrating Red-necked Grebes (RNGRs) in the waters off the upper Bruce Peninsula during April and May. This year, eight different observers followed the five-station survey route from the dock at Dyers Bay to the light house at Cabot Head. A special thanks goes out to (in order of the dates they surveyed RNGRs) John Haselmayer and Deb Diebel, yours truly, Scott Parker, Lionel Gould, Ted Cheskey, Bill Hansen, Joe Johnson, and Doug van Hemessen. These people completed a total 12 surveys.

A total of 2627 waterfowl were observed, with 394 of them being Red-necked grebes. On April 6 John Haselmayer and Deb Diebel observed a season high 279 RNGRs in the survey area (representing about 71% of the RNGRs recorded for the season). Interestingly, just 4 days before that date, the ice cover on Georgian Bay had been 100%. This strongly suggests that the Grebes had been waiting for an opportunity to move north westward from Lake Ontario and the Saint Lawrence River, and began moving as soon as there was any open water on Georgian Bay. Numbers for the remainder of the survey season were quite a bit lower. As expected, on the last two survey dates, RNGR numbers dropped off considerably. On May 11, just one RNGR was observed and on May 14 there were no RNGRs present.

RNGR numbers are up from the last two years; 394 in 2005, 270 in 2004, and a survey low of just 126 grebes in 2003. This contrasts sharply with the first three years of the survey from 2000 to 2002 when the yearly average was 1 000 RNGRs observed. Although it is certainly too early to establish a firm trend, grebe numbers seem to be on the rise. It is hoped that in 2006 observers will see even more Red-necked Grebes.

The co-star of the surveys definitely has to be the Long-tailed Duck (formerly the Oldsquaw). They can be present in large numbers during the survey period with large "rafts" of LTDUs feeding and making their distinctive calls out on the Bay. 1 627 LTDUs were recorded this year (representing about 62% of all waterfowl observed), with season highs of 317 seen by Ted Cheskey on April 30 and Joe Johnson spotting 307 on May 7.

With planning for the 2006 survey season beginning in late January, please try to keep a few dates open in April and May to assist BPBO with this valuable scientific project.

Happy Holidays from BPBO!



Spring 2006 Workshops Being Offered at Grebe Lodge

By Noreen Steinacher, Fundraising Committee

For this coming spring we have organized an exciting selection of weekend workshops certain to be of interest to BPBO members and the wider community. What a setting! Grebe Lodge is a rustic facility along the shores of Georgian Bay ideally equipped for small group, nature focused experiences. Look for more information and dates at www.bpbo.ca in January, 2006 detailing choices of birding, photography and art workshops with friendly and expert leaders and facilitators. Whatever the workshop theme, participants are sure to enjoy the sites and sounds of spring migration on the Bruce.

BPBO Goes to Pumpkinfest!

The BPBO display was available this year for the public to see at the 2005 Pumpkinfest held in Port Elgin on October 1 and 2. The weather was great for that time of the year, and previous attendance records were shattered with an excess of 60,000 people recorded.

The BPBO display was situated in the Ontario Power Generation Tent, along with Friends of MacGregor, Cindy Cartwright and OPG. OPG provided free display space to all these local environmental groups. OPG was discussing their deep geologic repository proposal, and wanted to talk to environmentally concerned people. We were, in effect, part of the draw to their tent for their target audience. OPG also sponsored several very popular shows of "The World of Raptors" by the Canadian Raptor Conservancy. Participants saw several birds of prey in flight, with some flying at close range over their heads. They included Great Grey Owl, Great Horned Owl, Harris Hawk, American Kestrel and Golden Eagle.

We talked to many people about BPBO and birds in general over the course of this two-day event. Participating in such events helps to let folks know who we are and what we are doing. Many thanks to our display coordinators Lorraine Brown and Bob Gray, and volunteers Joy Albrecht, Judy Duncan, Mary Beth Gray, Liz Squires and Audrey Underwood.

BPBO Wish List

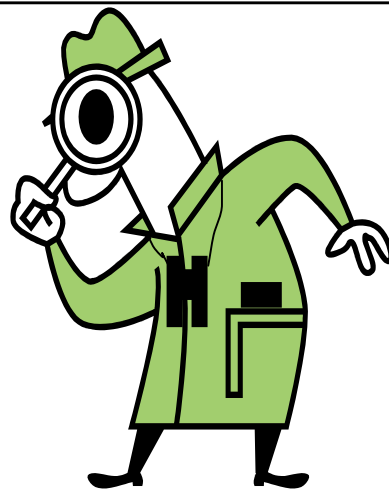
Just in case we are missed by Santa this Christmas (our chimney is closed for the season), we are asking BPBO members to let us know if they can help provide any of the following for the Research Station:

- Propane refrigerator
- Propane oven/stove
- Bicycle
- Bird bags
- Satchel(s) to carry bird bags
- Any field guides for this region (not just bird guides!)

Feeding Winter Birds!

By Rod Steinacher, BPBO President

The time is here for feeding our winter bird friends. Most of our fall migrants have long since headed for warmer areas with better food sources. Should we feed those birds that remain? Will we make them "feeder dependent"? Birds are very unlikely to forget how to find food if feeders are present and having access to feeder food means less depletion of wild foods, which would be available for later use. Cold and hungry over-wintering birds will welcome the food you put out.



When locating feeders, cover for birds approaching and using the feeders is important. Birds don't like to fly across large open areas in view of predators, so nearby shrubs and trees will make them more likely to come for a visit. Low dense cover too close to feeders may, however, also give predators like cats, the advantage. Squirrels can also jump onto feeders if branches are close by. A "baffle" of either the cone or tube type can stop squirrels and raccoons from climbing up to the feeders. Some people consider visiting birds of prey to be pests, but since you are attracting their food base, in a way you are putting out food for them as well. Nature is simply unfolding in front of you.



What food and feeder types to use is almost always the first question those new to winter feeding ask. If putting out the minimum number of food types needed to attract the maximum variety of birds is the way you want to go (and discourage those pesky pigeons and starlings), try black-oil sunflower seeds on a covered tray feeder (for chickadees, nuthatches, cardinals, grosbeaks, and jays), nyger seed in a silo or tube type feeder (for goldfinches, siskins, and redpolls), and some suet in a

coated wire dispenser or a drilled-out hung-up log (for woodpeckers and both nuthatches). Some seed scattered on the ground will also attract sparrows (juncos, song sparrows and maybe a white-throated sparrow) and doves. "Spillage" may also keep your local squirrels happy. Those people feeding in the country may get some Wild Turkeys stopping by, so a large bag of cracked corn could come in handy. Whatever type of feeder system you chose, be sure to keep it clear to prevent the spread of a number of bird diseases. Regular washing with soapy water is good, but a mixture of bleach and water (1:10) works best. Be sure to scrub them down at the end of the season.

With birds coming to your feeder, it is a good idea to have a pair of binoculars and a good bird guide handy. Some familiar birds, such as goldfinches look very different in their "basic" plumage during the winter, so looking up what you see can solve a number of mysteries. Some typically confusing birds, at least to those getting started with winter feeders, include Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, American Tree



Sparrows and Chipping Sparrows, and Sharp-shinned and Coopers Hawks. Since House Finches moved north into our area a decade and a half ago, they have been regularly confused with our own Purple Finches. Making note of differences in the size of birds, their plumage, and behaviour helps when trying to ID your visitors. Most good guide books contain range maps that can be very helpful in clarifying what may be visiting your feeders, but be aware that every winter a few unusual visitors turn up here and there. These definitely provide "spice" to winter viewing. If you are unsure about a possible rarity, contact a more experienced birder from your area to check it out. You never know!!

Observing the behaviour of visiting birds can be very entertaining and patterns and interactions will soon start to emerge from the seeming chaos of a busy feeder station. Many people find keeping a daily list of visitors to their feeder to be rewarding. Noting the maximum number of a particular species that are on or near the feeders at any given time is a standard way to set the top number for the day. Three chickadees on the feeders and two more in the nearby trees means you were visited by no less than five individual chickadees that day. Of course, the number using your feeders may be much higher, but this minimum number is what can be used by those collecting data on over wintering bird populations. Consider joining "Project Feeder Watch" (by going to the Bird Studies Canada web site at <www.bsc-eoc.org> and clicking on "National Programs"), but above all, enjoy focusing your attention on our hungry bird friends this winter.

Be sure to visit our website at www.bpbo.ca for all of the latest news about BPBO!

GREBE LODGE BOOKINGS SET TO BEGIN – CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!

Grebe Lodge was refurbished last year, and is now ready to accommodate birders, artists, writers, hikers, university groups, and other nature enthusiasts. Visitors will be inspired by the lakeside setting of this cozy cottage. Set on the Georgian Bay waterfront, in sight of the spectacular Niagara Escarpment and Wingfield Basin, Grebe Lodge features sleeping arrangements for 12 people, separate washroom facilities, a kitchen, round fireplace, several balconies, and wrap-around windows. Rental rates for Grebe Lodge are \$20.00/night for students and non-profit groups, with a fee minimum of \$200.00/night. For all other groups, the fee is an affordable \$30.00/night, with a minimum charge of \$200.00/night. To book your accommodations now, or for more information check out our website at www.bpbo.org. Wingfield Cottage is also available to anyone wishing to act as a steward. The weekly fee is \$500.00. Application forms are available on the website.

Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory Board, 2004-2005

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