



Prince Edward County Field Naturalists PECFN Newsletter

November 2016

Past Events

HIKE AT PLEASANT BAY September 28th

Photo by Brian Durell



From left, Sandra Dowds, Amy Bodman, Carrie Simon, Pauline Morissette, Terry Sprague and Pat Peterson.

Thirty-two species today during a 4 km walk along the Pleasant Bay beach between North Beach Provincial Park and the Pleasant Bay channel. Bird of the day was most certainly the BLUE JAY as they were around us for the entire two and a half hour walk, like mosquitoes would be in the spring. An estimated 300-400 individuals, some in flocks of 30 or more, but always a few in sight all the time. Shorebirds were loafing around the channel, comprising one juvenile BAIRD'S SANDPIPER, a LESSER YELLOWLEGS, 1 SEMIPALMATED PLOVER, 12 KILLDEER and 8 LEAST SANDPIPERS. A CASPIAN TERN darted in front of us at one point – somewhat late, although they have been known to linger well into October. Twenty-eight MUTE SWANS were floating around out in Pleasant Bay with 30 CANADA GEESE. Three COMMON MERGANSERS were seen on the shore of Lake Ontario. Good habitat along the trail we followed over the dunes for YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLERS, but only three were seen, along with NORTHERN FLICKER, 2 SONG SPARROWS, a WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH, AMERICAN ROBINS and MOURNING DOVES. Early on in the walk, a BELTED KINGFISHER was seen. Eight TURKEY VULTURES kettled above us throughout the walk, as though expecting us to keel over from the heat.

by Terry Sprague

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Ontario Nature Eastern Regional Meeting, October 1st 2016

Oct 1 PECFN Executive attended the Ontario Nature East Region fall meeting in Belleville. We heard what clubs were doing around our region and we presented the following Resolution on Renewing the Migratory Bird Act.

Be it resolved that Ontario Nature:

- (1) Request the governments of Canada and Ontario to officially recognize and conserve identified and future Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas and
- (2) Request that Canada work with the governments of United States and Mexico to do the same within all migratory pathways and
- (3) That Ontario Nature request our sister National, Provincial and Territorial Naturalist organizations to support this resolution.

Canada, the United States and Mexico have an opportunity to begin the adjustment needed to protect existing wildlife from the effects of climate change and other forms of habitat loss while renewing the 100 year old Migratory Bird Act. It is as simple as updating the Migratory Bird Act to conserve the known staging areas of migrating birds. If protected, the biodiversity of these areas will, at the same time, also conserve critical habitat for many other species including bats, Monarch butterflies, reptiles and amphibians, etc. This action could start with recognizing and protecting the Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas across our continent - identified because they are critical to birds' and all other migrating species' survival. Currently a designation as an IBA provides no official protected status.

More than 75% of Canadian bird species spend at least half of the year outside of Canada. But migration is risky. Travelling hundreds or thousands of kilometres, birds must find food, shelter and safe passage, both enroute and at their destinations. They depend on a chain of stopover sites between their breeding habitats and wintering habitats. If habitat is lost or damaged at any one of these points in their annual journey, it can have drastic consequences. The highest proportions of species at risk are in the regions most heavily impacted by human activities: the Lower Great Lakes / St Lawrence, the West Coast and Mountains and the Prairies.

Our Resolution, seconded by the Kingston Field Naturalists and the East Region will go to the Ontario Nature Annual General Meeting June 3, 2017 if the Ontario Nature Board agrees. Board approval will probably depend on whether they think it is practical for Ontario Nature to take up a task of this size. We feel that it should be the role of all Canadian naturalists to defend critical wildlife habitat especially at risk from the effects of climate change.



Golden-crowned Kinglet. Photo by Sydney Smith

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Priority Resolution on: Renewing the Migratory Bird Act by Protecting Bird Migration Areas

WHEREAS: During a March 2016 state visit between Prime Minister Trudeau and President Obama a commitment was made to develop a vision of migratory bird conservation for the next 100 years;

WHEREAS: the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) “State of the Birds 2016” reported that 37 per-cent of all 1,154 species on the continent needed urgent conservation action

WHEREAS: Environment Canada and Bird Studies Canada Partners in Flight has reported the loss of 1.5 billion birds;

WHEREAS: human-related mortality of bat species is unsustainable as reported by O'Shea, T. J., et.al in Mammal Review, 46;

WHEREAS: migration stopover areas are being developed by industries across North and South America;

WHEREAS: climate change is increasingly disrupting the connectivity between migrating species and their food sources;

WHEREAS: a study of breeding and wintering survival rates of Black-throated blue warblers showed that over 85% of annual mortality occurs *during* migration;

WHEREAS: Birdlife International reports that water bird communities have moved 300 km northwards in the last 22 years;

WHEREAS: representatives of the Amherst Island and Prince Edward County Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) have requested the federal Ministry of Environment to conduct an assessment of the cumulative effects on migratory flyways by industrial developments such as turbine projects;

WHEREAS: USFWS currently recommends 3 mile buffer zones from Great Lakes shorelines and Saskatchewan Guidelines set a buffer zone of 5 kilometres from IBAs;

Now Therefore Be it resolved that Ontario Nature:

- (1) Request the governments of Canada and Ontario to officially recognize and conserve identified and future Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas and
- (2) Request that Canada work with the governments of United States and Mexico to do the same within all migratory pathways and

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(3) That Ontario Nature request our sister National, Provincial and Territorial Naturalist organizations to support this resolution.

Moved by: Myrna Wood, Prince Edward County Field Naturalists

Seconded by: Kurt Hennige, Kingston Field Naturalists

Sponsored by: Prince Edward County Field Naturalists and Kingston Field Naturalists and the ON East Region



Trees in an urban setting. Photo by Susan

Tree Meeting, October 18th

Representatives from the Master Gardeners, the Horticultural Society and PECFN met with councillor Lenny Epstein to discuss how we can give public input into the County's tree policy, which is currently under review. Participants expressed dissatisfaction with the removal of mature trees and the poor maintenance of trees on county roads and streets. Two working groups were set up, one to look at the updated policies of other municipalities, in order to approach Council with some ideas, and the other to research Heritage trees in the County and how they can be protected. If you are interested in participating in this project please contact PECFN executive.

**Friday, November 25th, Hastings Stewardship Council,
Trenton Woodlot Conference at Batawa**

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Birds of Northumberland County

Tuesday, November 29th, 7:00pm



Upcoming events

Come join us to hear Elizabeth Kellogg of the Willow Beach Field Naturalists talk about the birds of Northumberland County, our neighboring county just to the west of us. The talk will explore the extensive range of habitats in Northumberland County - forests, shoreline, tall grass prairie, farmland, marshes and Black Oak savannah, detail sample species that visit the area and feature beautiful photos taken by local photographers.

Elizabeth Kellogg is a naturalist with a particular interest in birds. She birds mostly in southern Ontario, particularly in Northumberland County, and oversees several long-term nest box banding projects at Darlington Nuclear Generating Station, Alderville Black Oak Savanna and Wesleyville OPG site. With her husband, Roger Frost, she does public bird banding demonstrations regularly at Presqu'ile Provincial Park, Darlington Provincial Park, Alderville Black Oak Savanna, Thickson's Woods Nature Reserve and for the Friends of Second Marsh. She writes a regular column for NorthumberlandToday.com as well as her own blog on birding: elizabethkellogg.blogspot.com.

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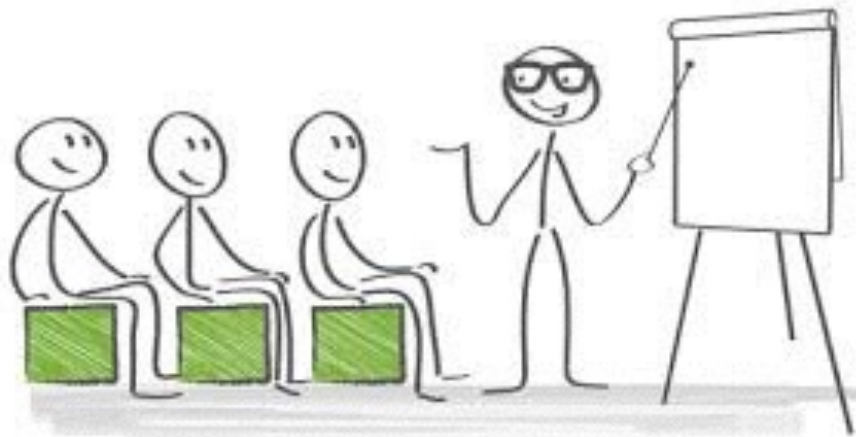
BioBlitz 2017

The BioBlitz is set for the weekend of June 10th to 11th at the Miller Family Nature Reserve. We hope everyone will write the date on their calendar and plan to participate and help out if at all possible.

2017 is the launch of BioBlitz Canada, so we should all plan to be involved as part of our 150th Birthday of Canada and 20th birthday of PECFN celebrations.

Members' Night : January 31st, 7pm Bloomfield Town Hall

This is the night when PECFN members have the opportunity to make a short (15 minutes or so) presentation to the group.. PECFN member Ramesh Pooran will talk about his interest in the Night Sky. Have you been on an interesting trip? Do you wish to share your particular interest with us? Email us to let us know if you'd like to share your interest with your fellow PECFN members.



Amherst Island: Monday January 16th (bad weather date, January 17th)

Join Joanne Dewey and fellow PECFN members for our annual trek to Amherst Island to look for owls.

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Native Plant of the Month

Pitcher-Plant (*sarracenia purpurea*)



Photo by Susan Banks

Heavily veined red or green leaves are usually half filled with water. The flaring lips are lined with downward-pointing bristles that help trap insects

White-crowned sparrow. Photo by Sydney Smith.



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<p>MOTION 3: Moved by Sheena, seconded by Amy: THAT the OPAF account be closed. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</p>	<p>SHEENA</p>
<p>(C) Programs Outdoor programs As the PECFN-PEPtBO liaison person, Amy will let Sue know about PEPtBO events, such as the various Christmas bird counts, for the newsletter. Sandra will contact Joanne Dewey about the Amherst Island owl count.</p> <p>Indoor programs Nov. 29: Elizabeth Kellogg (nest boxes) -- Amy will take them to dinner at Agrarian at 5:00 p.m.; all are welcome. Sheena will prepare a \$50.00 honorarium cheque and Sandra a card. Jan. 31, 2017: members' night -- all members will be encouraged to participate. Amy will have some film footage. Heather Coffey will be asked to speak on lichens. Remind Ramesh about NightSky presentation. We must remember Pamela Stagg (feathers) for 2017-18. Feb. 28: Terry Sprague (Community Wildlife Monitoring Program) -- confirmed Mar. 28: Gavin North (bees) -- confirmed April 25: Angus Reed (climate change) -- confirmed May 30 (AGM): David Okines (birdathoning in the County)</p>	<p>AMY SANDRA</p> <p>AMY SHEENA SANDRA</p>
<p>(D) Fundraising Committee CSAGE is working to obtain a judicial review of the <i>Green Energy Act</i> by the Supreme Court. They are holding a public information/fundraising event at 2:00 p.m., Nov. 27, at the Waring House. They have asked PECFN to make a presentation at the event. After discussion, it was agreed that Amy and Sheila would prepare remarks. Sandra will let CSAGE know that PECFN plans to join in.</p>	<p>AMY/ SHEILA SANDRA</p>
<p>(E) Ostrander Point and White Pine Tribunals: Eric is continuing the legal fight. Amherst Island is an increasing source of worry, and it was agreed that PECFN should support the campaign there as best we can:</p> <p>MOTION 4: Moved by Sue, seconded by Amy: THAT PECFN contribute \$1,000.00 to APAI. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</p>	<p>SHEENA</p>
<p>(F) Official Plan Review In answer to a question from Sue, Myrna explained that it's too</p>	

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<p>(iv) Celebrations next year of the 20th anniversary of PECFN's will be discussed at a later date.</p> <p>(v) Since Dianne Saxe, the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, will be speaking at the Trenton Woodlot Conference in Batawa on Nov. 25 about the provincial government's plans for mitigating climate change, Amy suggested that someone from PECFN be in the audience to ask her how she sees the importance of natural habitat (wetlands, etc.) in maintaining a stable climate. Amy will draft a possible question, which should be short and to the point.</p> <p>4. Next meeting Tues., Dec. 6, noon to 2:00, in the upstairs public room at the Picton Library.</p>	AMY
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Memberships are due.

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