



Our September 30 meeting 7pm at Bloomfield Town Hall will feature Sandbanks Provincial Park superintendent Robin Reilly. Robin has come to the County from Quetico Provincial Park in Atikokan. He will explain the Sandbanks' Management Plan and ideas for the park's future. 7 pm at Bloomfield Town Hall – come prepared to report on your sightings this past summer.

Sandra Dowds, the PECFN Newsletter editor, unfortunately has had to put her computer in the hospital. This is a reduced replacement while we all hope the operation is successful.

#### PECFN Shorebird Outing: Pleasant Bay, September 16

On Tuesday, September 16, at 5:00, 11 members of PECFN set out with Terry Sprague on a walk from North Beach to Pleasant Bay in search of shorebirds. It was a blustery beautiful evening – we all marveled at the gorgeous autumn light, the hint of autumn colour in the leaves, the surging white caps on the lake, the last remaining wild flowers of the season. Unfortunately, the wind soon precluded much hope of finding shore birds. Instead, we cut up into the dunes to see what else we could see and to get a look at the impressive crop of wild rice growing in Pleasant Bay. Terry told us how he, after hearing complaints about how the Pleasant Bay wild rice explosion was frustrating boaters, informed Rick and Jeff Beaver of the Alderville First Nations of it, and they came and harvested it. Rick and Jeff Beaver had never seen such an abundant supply in the area and had to get a bigger boat! After that we cut into a road along farmland where we were delighted with a wonderful view of a Merlin eating grasshoppers. In a last ditch effort to find shorebirds, we decided to take the trek to the channel at the far end of Pleasant Bay, which Terry thought might be a little more protected from the wind. And there they were!

Here's our list for the outing and some photos by Sydney Smith:

4 Mute Swans, 1 Northern Flicker, 1 Merlin, 1 Double-crested Cormorant, numerous Ring-Billed and Herring Gulls, numerous Killdeer, a few Semipalmated Sandpipers, 2 Greater

Yellowlegs, 2 Least Sandpipers, 1 Spotted Sandpiper, 2 Hudsonian Godwits, 4 Black-bellied Plovers (hard to identify because they were immatures).



wild rice/ North Beach /SSmith



Merlin S Smith 09/14



Merlin eating dragonfly/S Smith/09/14



Killdeer S.Smith/09/14`



Greater Yellow Legs /Sydney Smith/09/14

The October 28 Meeting speaker will be Josh White, Ontario Nature Greenway Program Coordinator. Josh is a young and enthusiastic champion of wilderness; he'll give us a presentation on the Natural Heritage System planning work he has been doing at ON.



**The Field Guide to Butterflies of Prince Edward County** is now in its third printing. If you have not yet got your copy there will be some at the meeting and they are available at Books and Company in Picton.

October 21 **ebird workshop at Picton Library**, 7-8:30 pm. Open to the public. Mike Burrell, Ontario Important Bird Areas Coordinator will be showing us how to use this online bird reporting site. Ebird is a way for us to streamline the process of getting data that is collected in the field into the hands of projects that can use it – a perfect example is the IBA Program . It is also fun to compare your sightings with others.

October 18 **Ontario Nature East Region Fall meeting** will be hosted by the Upper Ottawa Valley Nature Club in Deep River. An opportunity to visit the northern fall countryside and hear from other Naturalist activities in eastern Ontario. Please call Elizabeth 613-476-7522.



We have a date for the final **Appeal Court hearing on Ostrander Point – Dec. 8-9 Osgoode Hall Toronto**. There will be an update at the September meeting.

**Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory Fall Fund Raising Dinner and Silent Auction**  
Saturday, October 25, 6-10 pm, Waring House Banquet Hall. Tickets \$65  
Speaker: Colin Jones, The Dragonflies and Damselflies of Ontario



#### MIGRATION MATTERS WEEKEND

Join us on the **Thanksgiving weekend (Oct. 11, 12, 13)** for our MIGRATION MATTERS event. Guided bird walks (9 am each morning from the Observatory). \$5 per person (children under 12 free!) Banding demonstrations. Banding takes place from 8a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Coffee/treats at our hospitality tent Free Migration Matters magnets Bring binoculars if you have them and practice identifying birds in their fall migration plumage. Each walk will last approx. 2 hours.

#### **Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory Saw-whet owl Banding.**

Banding will take place every suitable night for the whole of October, rain or strong winds mean its unlikely there will be netting, easterly to southerly winds are a lot less likely to produce any owls as is the period of the full moon - Oct.5-12

**Best periods are Oct 1-4 and the last week of October.** First net check of each night is **1-1/2 hours after sunset**

PECFN Executive is announcing **two motions to be voted on at the October meeting**. One is a Bylaw amendment to add a sub clause to Article VII – Finances:

1. Monies received from any source, such as memberships, projects, gifts and memorials shall be used to further the purpose of this organization.

a) All funds received of a commercial nature will be used to advance and support Article II of Pecfn's Purposes specifically:

b. foster and encourage conservation of natural habitat;

c. undertake specific projects and initiatives related to public education, conservation and awareness of our natural environment.

The other resolution is to meet the requirements of our Not-for-Profit status:

PECFN members agree to not appoint a professional auditor if it has an annual revenue of up to \$250,000 for the financial year of 2014-15.

### Enjoy a wonderful day touring the County with Terry Sprague

And at the same time support Ostrander Point.

Terry Sprague and Sandbanks Vacations have donated a special Fall Bus Tour to help raise much needed funds for the Ostrander Point Appeal Fund.

The Tour will be held on Oct 7 - a great date to see all the wonderful fall colours. To book one of the 12 seats - available for a donation of \$100 per person - visit [www.saveostranderpoint.org](http://www.saveostranderpoint.org) . The complete itinerary is listed below.

### October 7th Tour Schedule

8:30 - 9:00 a.m. meet Terry and your very special group across from Prinzen Ford.

9:00 a.m. leave Bloomfield and head for Sandbanks Park. We stop at Lakeshore Lodge and travel back in time to 1870-1972 when this famous destination drew over a million visitors during its 102 history. From this vantage point, we can see the famous West Lake sand bar, the largest sand dune baymouth bar separating fresh water in the world.

10:30 a.m. arrive at Lake on the Mountain. We will explore the myths and legends of this famous lake and learn about its origin.

11:30 a.m. arrive at Black River Cheese. Our route will take us through `Grimmon`s Woods` on C.R 13, (which should be a cascade of colour by then). A

brief stop at the cheese factory, the only remaining original cheese factory location in the County.

Noon: arrive at Jackson`s Falls B & B for lunch.

1:15 p.m. brief stop at Mariner's Museum & Park (stay on bus), marine history, shipwrecks.

1:30 p.m. Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory, learn about bird banding, history of the area, lighthouse, and the commercial fishing industry. The entire peninsula from this location to Point Petre has been designated as an Important Bird Area.

3:00 p.m. Little Bluff Conservation Area. View from the bluff and the site's history during the Barley Days, and the location of a seismic station on the property.

4:00 p.m. arrive Bloomfield completing a most wonderful day.





