

LPBO E-news



LONG POINT BIRD OBSERVATORY Winter 2012



2011 Fall Expedition

On September 30, six brave souls embarked on a mystical adventure at Long Point with promises of wilderness, birds, banding, and peace and tranquility. They were met with driving rain, and strong, cold North-Easters sweeping across Long Point's Inner Bay. That's the risk you take in October in southern Ontario – it can be balmy or blustery.

Inclement weather made for a slow start, but it worked out well as it gave everyone a chance to get familiar with the local area, handle and band their first birds, and get used to the daily routine and lifestyle at LPBO. Three days into the expedition, the winds subsided enough for a boat trip along the south shore of Long Point. As the saying goes at LPBO: we guarantee you'll always be safe, but not necessarily dry! We came ashore about 1 km east of the Tip and began the real adventure.

Over the next seven days, the team

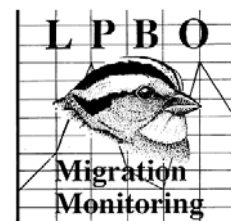
joined LPBO researchers in banding 750 birds of about 50 species, including a number of warbler species, Northern Saw-whet Owls, and a variety of raptor species (including all three Accipiters and a number of Peregrine Falcons). Daily censuses and observations provided numerous other highlights, including White-rumped Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, and Laughing Gull. The team also tagged and conducted a daily census for the final wave of migrating Monarch butterflies on their way to Mexico.

It was an action-packed week that was full of laughs and surprises. Every day was capped off with a great home-cooked meal and estimated totals by the fire. We would like to express our most sincere thanks to our expedition participants, and we hope to see them back at LPBO soon.

For information on a similar Spring Fling, see page 9.

CONTENTS

- [Page 2](#) Long Point Christmas Bird Count Summary
- [Page 4](#) Fall 2011 Season Summary
- [Page 6](#) Noteworthy Sightings
- [Page 8](#) LPBO Fall 2011 Volunteer Roster
- [Page 8](#) Hugh T. Lemon Student Award
- [Page 9](#) Special Thanks & LPBO Spring Flings
- [Page 10](#) Support LPBO This Birdathon Season
- [Page 10](#) Doug Tarry Natural History Fund
- [Page 11](#) Book Review: Petrels, Albatrosses, and Storm-Petrels of North America
- [Page 12](#) LPBO Scrapbook



Long Point Christmas Count 2011

A Great Day by Any Standard!



Inner Bay waterfowl Photo: Ron Ridout

It is standard for this summary of the annual Long Point Christmas Bird Count to begin with a brief account of the day's conditions, to set the stage for the bird observations. While this year's report is no exception to that rule, it deviates significantly from similar accounts of recent years with this statement: it was a fabulous day! Fifty observers in approximately 14 parties enjoyed bright overcast conditions with temperatures just below the freezing point and, most importantly of all, light winds from the north all day. It was a great day to be out looking for birds, and the 111 species found certainly reflect that.

Conditions leading up to count day on December 17 were ideal for birds lingering beyond normal departure dates and, for the first time in several years, the Inner Bay was wide open, as were the area's marshes. That said, the mild weather before the count was coupled with one of the wettest autumns on record. Many low-lying areas around the lakeshore and creek valleys were inundated with high water, and areas that are normally dry required hip-waders or were simply impassable.

Christmas counters hope for a mild autumn and early winter and then, right before count day, look for a brief wintry blast of snow to concentrate the birds in pockets of cover. Though seemingly reasonable, these hopes are rarely met. This year we had everything in place except the pre-count snowfall, so there was some anxiety that the landbirds might not be concentrated enough to be easily found. And, to a certain extent, those fears were borne out. Songbirds were low in numbers, with almost no record counts for any species in that group (more on that



One of eight Snowy Owls on CBC day. Photo: Ron Ridout

shortly). On the other hand, with so much open water, all waterbirds were present in good numbers, making for an interesting count for those lucky enough to have some manner of watery habitat in their area.

Several observers out before first light were rewarded with a record count of 37 Eastern Screech-Owls. One party (Diane Salter and Ted and Paula Gent) was lucky enough to have two Northern Saw-whets respond to their calls. Seven Great Horned Owls were about average for the past decade but, for the first time since the early 1960s, Snowy Owls outnumbered Great Horneds with a total of eight counted. It has been a great winter for Snowys in many southern areas right across the continent. One apparently even made it to Hawaii!

Other raptors present were well below 2010's high counts and more in line with the long-term averages. Bald Eagles totalled 28, down from last year's record 43, but still an impressive count. The Big Creek party (Adam Timpf and myself) was

lucky enough to witness four Bald Eagles and a young Golden leaving a roost right at first light. While the area is never a hotspot for American Kestrels, the two seen are a reflection of how difficult it has become to find this species at Long Point.

Not surprisingly, the bulk of the 66,707 birds seen on count day were ducks. High counts included a record 1509 Gadwalls and above-average numbers of American Wigeon (570), Redheads (6004), Greater Scaup (5722), Scaup sp. (11,380), and Red-breasted Mergansers (2183). Three lingering Double-crested Cormorants tripled last year's record count. A record 3580 American Coots were counted around the Inner Bay. The 443 Sandhill Cranes were also a new record, and almost assuredly will be a new Canadian high count.

The anticipation of unusual species always adds a degree of excitement to the day, and this year's count provided several exceptional moments. Highlights included

an American Woodcock (Audrey Heagy, with the help of her two dogs), Eastern Phoebe (Adam Timpf), White-eyed Vireo and Tufted Titmouse (both by Mark Jennings), and a Brewer's Blackbird (Bill Lamond and Kevin McLaughlin).

With close to 190 species on the all-time list, it is difficult to add to the total on a yearly basis. Therefore two new species added were quite incredible. Both were the first winter records for Long Point and exceeded their record late departure dates here by almost two months. The first was a Spotted Sandpiper found on Courtright Ridge by Michael Bradstreet. The second was a Yellow Warbler found by Bob Curry (also seen by Barb Charlton and Rob Dobos) in the *Phragmites* along Turkey Point beach, of all places.

The count always seems to provide a high assortment of birds along with some surprises, which go a long way towards



Some of a record 443 Sandhill Cranes. Photo: Ron Ridout

enticing observers back year after year. We have a very loyal group of counters, and I thank them for their outstanding effort once again. And, as always, I would like to thank

my wife Anne Marie for putting on such a fabulous meal. She was assisted this year by Shirley Pond, Audrey Heagy, and Dave Okines.

Species List

Cackling Goose cw, Canada Goose 1042, Mute Swan 30, Tundra Swan 426, Wood Duck 2, Gadwall **1509**, American Wigeon 570, American Black Duck 133, Mallard 2004, Northern Shoveler 6, Northern Pintail 7, Green-winged Teal 12, Canvasback 526, Redhead 6004, Ring-necked Duck 15, Greater Scaup 5722, Lesser Scaup 2358, scaup sp. 11,380, White-winged Scoter 8, Long-tailed Duck 20, Bufflehead 205, Common Goldeneye 129, Hooded Merganser 38, Common Merganser 251, Red-breasted Merganser 2183, merganser sp. 522, Ruddy Duck 35, duck sp. 5010, Ring-necked Pheasant 1, Ruffed Grouse 7, Wild Turkey 104, Common Loon 1, Pied-billed Grebe 16, Horned Grebe 1, Red-necked Grebe 1, Double-crested Cormorant **3**, Great Blue Heron 5, Turkey Vulture cw, Bald Eagle 28, Northern Harrier 23, Sharp-shinned Hawk 6, Cooper's Hawk 6, Northern Goshawk 2, Red-tailed Hawk 55, Rough-legged Hawk 4, Golden Eagle **1**, American Kestrel 2, Merlin 1, American Coot **3580**, Sandhill Crane **443**, **Spotted Sandpiper 1**, American Woodcock 1, Little Gull 6, Bonaparte's Gull 530, Ring-billed Gull 1415, Herring Gull 304, Great Black-backed Gull 3, Rock Pigeon 122, Mourning Dove 154, Eastern Screech-Owl **37**, Great Horned Owl 7, Snowy Owl 8, Northern Saw-whet Owl **2**, Belted Kingfisher 6, Red-bellied Woodpecker 51, Downy Woodpecker 136, Hairy Woodpecker 27, Northern Flicker 32, Pileated Woodpecker 8, Eastern Phoebe 1, Northern Shrike 4, White-eyed Vireo **1**, Blue Jay 254, American Crow 407, Horned Lark 24, Black-capped Chickadee 505, Tufted Titmouse 1, Red-breasted Nuthatch 20, White-breasted Nuthatch 102, Brown Creeper 31, Carolina Wren 25, Winter Wren 5, Marsh Wren 5, Golden-crowned Kinglet 77, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 4, Eastern Bluebird 35, Hermit Thrush 6, American Robin 5, Gray Catbird 1, European Starling 1325, American Pipit 40, Cedar Waxwing 66, **Yellow Warbler 1**, Yellow-rumped Warbler 11, Eastern Towhee 1, American Tree Sparrow 1301, Chipping Sparrow 2, Field Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 65, Swamp Sparrow 61, White-throated Sparrow 87, White-crowned Sparrow 13, Dark-eyed Junco 992, Snow Bunting 1, Northern Cardinal 159, Red-winged Blackbird 8395, Rusty Blackbird 24, Brewer's Blackbird 1, Common Grackle 227, Brown-headed Cowbird 1661, blackbird sp. 1403, Purple Finch 5, House Finch 226, White-winged Crossbill 316, Pine Siskin 349, American Goldfinch 368, House Sparrow 626.

Total Species 111

Total Individuals 66,707

Count Participants

Jody Allair, Ron Allenson, Ian Barnett, Gregor Beck, Michael Bradstreet, Tom Bradstreet, John Brett, Rachel Bryan, Peter Carson, Barb Charlton, Andrew Couturier, Claire Couturier, Bob Curry, Darleen Degriek, Sarah Dobney, Rob Dobos, Myles Falconer, George Finney, Pat Finney, Christian Friis, Mary Gartshore, Jennifer Gedye, Paula Gent, Ted Gent, Audrey Heagy, Jim Heslop, Norm Holden, Catherine Jardine, Mark Jennings, Barry Jones, Kevin Kavanagh, Adam Lambert, Bill Lamond, Denis Lepage, Nicholas Lomas, John Lounds, Stu Mackenzie, Jon McCracken, Kevin McLaughlin, David Okines, Jason Parkins, George Pond, Shirley Pond, Ron Ridout, Scott Ruttle, Andrew Sawyer, Bob Stamp, Adam Timpf, Elisabeth van Stam, Ross Wood.

Fall 2011 Migration Monitoring Program Summary

By Stu Mackenzie and Ross Wood

Photo: Eleanor Page

L PBO's fall 2011 migration monitoring season began in late July, with the arrival of six of Canada's top young birders for the [Doug Tarry Young Ornithologists' Workshop \(YOW\)](#). During orientation and net set-up at the Old Cut Research Station, the surrounding area was teeming with migrant Yellow Warblers and *Empidonax* flycatchers. This activity fuelled high levels of enthusiasm, which pulled the teens out of bed well before dawn the next morning for their first introduction to bird banding. Following their morning at Old Cut, Ontario Bird Banding Association President David Okines walked the YOWs through banding their first bird – a Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

As the hot, humid days of August hung over southern Ontario, the official migration monitoring season began (at Old Cut on August 15; the Tip and Breakwater opened up on the 16th and the 27th, respectively). Three YOW alumni returned as Young Ornithologist Interns to work on special research projects, and to assist with migration monitoring. The team of international volunteers didn't have to wait long for the first bit of excitement. A large storm on August 20 dropped numerous shorebirds on the Tip, including a stunning American Avocet that paused briefly before continuing west down the point. Another week, another storm, and another great mix of 16 shorebird species happened upon the Tip, highlighted by a Whimbrel, Red Knot, and the first of many White-rumped Sandpipers. Focus shifted briefly toward passerines near the end of August when a rare Ontario migrant was discovered at the Tip: an adult Loggerhead Shrike.

Shorebird diversity and numbers remained high throughout September. A



One, possibly two, Cattle Egrets remained until a record-late December 8th. Photo: Ron Ridout

juvenile Western Sandpiper showed up at The Tip on September 4. It hung around all afternoon with a Least and Semi-palmated sandpipers, affording great study views of 'peeps.' Not to be outdone, a record early Purple Sandpiper turned up on September 20. As September went on, the bulk of the neotropical migrants moved through and a trickle of early temperate migrants arrived, along with the start of the impressive fall raptor migration. In the second week of September, huge numbers of raptors were pushed out onto the point by favourable northwest winds. An astonishing 2836 Sharp-shinned Hawks were counted at the Tip on September 10, with lower but still impressive numbers being counted heading east toward The Tip from the other two stations. The onslaught of 'sharpies' continued for three days.

Cooler temperatures and fall-like conditions finally prevailed toward the end of September. As the final push of neotropical migrants moved through and an influx of temperates arrived, a group of loyal LPBO/BSC supporters embarked on a new endeavour, an "LPBO Expedition." Six participants came for a week of nature, birds, banding, and camaraderie. The start of this program coincided with a massive Myrtle Warbler migration, and some participants were treated to a young Swainson's Hawk that cooperatively circled over the Old Cut parking lot on October 2. The group arrived at the Tip of Long Point after a run of terrific storms that brought a new wave of migrants and a particularly good run of diurnal raptors. October 4 was particularly memorable as Latin American Trainee Alejandro Sosa





LeConte's Sparrow. Photo: Neil Pearson



Yellow-throated Warbler. Photo: Neil Pearson

captured four Peregrine Falcons, two Red-tailed Hawks, two Cooper's Hawks, one Northern Goshawk, and a bounty of Sharp-shinned Hawks. Other expedition highlights were a Common Raven (two flybys on October 3), a Laughing Gull, and a Red-necked Phalarope on the October 7 morning census. The expedition experienced almost everything that Long Point has to offer in October: cool storms, hawks and owls, great diversity, mass migration, great friends, and a few rarities.

October was the month of the Myrtles, with many thousands counted and a new LPBO record high of 2045 banded. There were days, particularly at Old Cut, when nets weren't opened due to the volume of Myrtles. Smaller numbers of hardier warblers and temperate migrants were mixed in the flocks, including an unexpected Yellow-throated Warbler banded at the Tip on October 25. This bird remained in the area until it succumbed to a Merlin on

October 28. There was a substantial influx of Atlantic Brant at the Tip with flocks of 90 and 32 observed on October 26 and 27, respectively. October 28 was full of surprises. The team at the Tip was treated to excellent views of typically bashful Le Conte's Sparrow. Old Cut countered with two goodies of its own: a White-eyed Vireo scolding visitors from the dogwoods that line the parking lot, and a first-year male Summer Tanager heard calling and located a few doors down from Old Cut. This bird was a record late by two months, and persisted until at least November 1.

When we see the striking white silhouettes of Tundra Swans backed by gray skies, we start to think about shutting down the stations. However, southerly winds had the crew wiping sweat off their brows as they packed up the Tip in surprisingly warm double-digit weather. Even at the end of the season, raptors continued to flow through; it seemed as if the large

buteo (Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and Rough-legged) flight had only just begun. Before departing, the crew managed to catch a couple more Red-tailed Hawks, and banded the season's only two Long-eared Owls. Once everyone was back on the mainland, migrants continued to trickle through and there was an overwhelming feeling that the birds weren't quite finished. On November 16, the day after the season had officially ended, nets were opened one last time for only a couple hours and more than 100 birds were banded. The last bird of the year was the season's only Northern Shrike – an impressive bird to mark the end of an impressive season.

As always LPBO, is indebted to the 44 volunteers from eight countries, and numerous collaborative researchers from the University of Western Ontario, who made this season so successful. For more information about the programs of LPBO, explore our [2011 Program Report](#).



Purple Sandpiper. Photo: Tom Finch



Peregrine Falcon. Photo: Neil Pearson

Long Point Noteworthy Bird Sightings, July 2011 to February 2012

Compiled by Stu Mackenzie and Ron Ridout

Greater White-fronted Goose – Two were observed at the corner of Argyle St. and Lynn Rd., Simcoe, on December 31 (DJTH, ED).

Snow Goose – Eight birds flew over the Tip on October 22 (MKS, M.Obs). 28 were in the fields north of Hahn Marsh November 25 (SAM, M.Obs.). A high count of 42 were seen near Erieview on December 2 (JRA).

Ross's Goose – One adult and two young birds were present in the Long Point area from November 25-December 2 (SAM, M.Obs.).

Brant – A record 90 birds stopped briefly at the Tip on October 26 (MKS, M.Obs.). Another 32 birds were seen at the Tip on October 27 (LPBO). A single bird was observed at Port Dover on December 17 and 23 (AT). Another single bird (perhaps the same individual) was observed in the fields north of the Hahn Marsh on January 27 (SAM).

Cackling Goose – Individuals were observed from BSC headquarters on December 19 and January 4 (DL). Four were in the fields north of the Hahn Marsh on December 31 (DL).

Wood Duck – Two birds were on Big Creek at the 4th Concession Rd. on December 17 (AT).

Green-winged Teal – One near Port Royal on January 25 (SAM) and two males in a small pond on Front Rd. near Turkey Pt. on January 27 (KK) provided Long Point's first January records.

Northern Pintail – Mild temperatures in late January prompted a large influx of northbound migrant waterfowl into southern Ontario. 350 Northern Pintails in the fields west of Port Royal on January 31 (RR) were a part of this migration.

Canvasback – 25,000 on the Inner Bay on February 4 (RR) were part of a mass of early returning waterfowl into the area.

Redhead – 8000 Redheads on the Inner Bay on February 4 (RR) were involved in the same influx.

Common Merganser – 14,000 Common Mergansers on the Inner Bay on February 6 (RR) were a record count for Long Point.

Ruddy Duck – 45 individuals on Big Creek on January 22 (RR) preceded the warm weather but were lingering individuals forced into the last remaining open water (apart from the open waters of Lake Erie).

Wild Turkey – A high single flock count of 61 birds was made at Walsingham East ¼ Line and County Rd. 42 on January 10 (RR).

Common Loon – A late bird was observed off Long Point Provincial Park on January 11 (SAM).

Pied-billed Grebe – 45 lingering birds on Big Creek on January 22 (RR) were forced into the last suitable open water in the area.

Double-crested Cormorant – The first returning bird was observed on Big Creek on February 3 (AT) and was joined there by a second individual on the 4th (RR).

Cattle Egret – Two were seen at Dedrick Creek and the 1st Concession on November 8 (AT, SW, M.Obs). One bird (or possibly two birds) remained in the area until December 8 (M.Obs.).

Plegadis Ibis – A flock of five was observed flying northwest over BSC Headquarters on September 9 (SAM).

Turkey Vulture – Late birds were seen flying over Front Rd. west of Hwy. 59 on December 2 (RR), and another bird was at the Walsingham East ¼ Line and McDowall Rd. on January 10 (SAM).

Bald Eagle – There was a high count of 28 on December 17 (CBC). Most remained through February (M.Obs.).

Sharp-shinned Hawk – A high count of 2836 were counted at the Tip on September 10 (MKS, M.Obs.).

Swainson's Hawk – One first-year bird was observed circling over the Old Cut parking lot before heading east on October 2 (ALB, TMF, et al.).

Golden Eagle – There were numerous observations in late October and early November (LPBO). A young bird was observed at Big Creek and 4th Concession on December 17 (AT, RR).

Merlin – One bird was seen west of Port Royal on December 17 (BL, KM). A wintering individual was observed in Port Rowan on January 28 and February 18 (JRA).

Virginia Rail – One was found freshly killed on Concession Rd. 4 at Mud Creek on January 18 (AEH).

Sandhill Crane – A high count of 443 was tallied on December 17 (CBC). Well over 100 were still present by mid-February (M.Obs.).

American Coot – A late high count of 5000 birds on Long Point's Inner Bay on December 31 (DL) dwindled to about 800 by late January. The birds were pressed into one small lead in the frozen bay by mid-January, providing easy targets for approximately two dozen hungry Bald Eagles.

American Golden-Plover – Three were observed over Old Cut on September 22 (SAM).

American Avocet – One bird was present on the Tip at dawn on August 21 (RWW, MHD, AS, M.Obs.).

Spotted Sandpiper – A record late bird was observed on Courtright Ridge on December 17 (MSWB).

Whimbrel – Singles were at the Tip on August 28 (M.Obs.) and September 4 (RWW).



Western Sandpiper – One young bird was observed at the Tip on September 4 (RWW, GKW).

White-rumped Sandpiper – Regular observations were made at the Tip all season, with a high count of 28 on September 8 (MKS, M.Obs.).

Purple Sandpiper – A record early bird was observed and photographed the Tip on September 20 (TM, MKS, M.Obs.).

Red-necked Phalarope – One bird was off the south shore of the Tip on October 7 (RWW, M.Obs.).

Sabine's Gull – One young bird was observed at the Tip on October 14 (TM).

Little Gull – Regular sightings throughout the period, with a high count of 13 off Hastings Drive on November 9 (JRA), and a late sighting of an adult on the Inner Bay on January 18 (SAM, RWW).

Laughing Gull – One young bird was at the Tip on October 6 (SAM, RWW).

Franklin's Gull – One first-cycle bird was at the Tip on October 21 (MKS, M.Obs.).

Lesser Black-backed Gull – A single bird was at the Tip on September 4 (RWW, GKW) and another was seen from the BSC Headquarters on January 1 (SAM, JSB).

Common Tern – A high count of 2000 was tallied along the south shore of Long Point near Gravelly Bay on August 2 (M.Obs.).

Black Tern – A record late bird was at the Tip on November 2 (NAP, MRI, M.Obs.).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo – A late bird was found at Old Cut on October 16 (RWW).

Eastern Screech Owl – A record 37 were found in the area on December 17 (CBC).

Snowy Owl – One was seen on the BSC HQ building on November 26 and 27 (DL, TB, SAM). A total of eight were counted on December 17 (CBC).

Red-bellied Woodpecker – A record high of 52 birds were counted on December 17 (CBC).

Eastern Phoebe – One was observed at Big Creek and 3rd Concession on December 17 (AT).

Loggerhead Shrike – One unbanded adult bird was at the Tip on August 29 (MHD, M.Obs.).

White-eyed Vireo – One bird was banded at Old Cut on September 24 and remained in the area until September 29 (LPBO). Another was observed at Old Cut on October 28 (SAM). A late adult was observed near Booth's Harbour on December 17 (MJ).

Warbling Vireo – A late bird was at Old Cut on census, October 30 (RWW).

Common Raven – One bird was seen over Turkey Point marsh flying west on October 1 (KK, AT, M.Obs.). Another was at the Tip on October 4 (MRI, SAM).

Gray Catbird – A late bird was observed east of Port Rowan on December 17 (JSB, MJ, SAM).

Nashville Warbler – A record late individual was observed at Old Cut from November 25-27 (MKS et al.).

Yellow Warbler – A record late bird was found at Turkey Point on December 17 (RC, RD, BC).

Yellow-throated Warbler – One was banded at the Tip on October 25 and subsequently observed until it was eaten by a Merlin on October 28 (LPBO).

Clay-colored Sparrow – One was observed on the dyke at Old Cut on September 24 (SAM).

Le Conte's Sparrow – One was observed at the Tip on October 28 (NAP, TMF).

Vesper Sparrow – Individuals near the Coves on January 27 (SAM) and Port Royal on February 13 (SAM) were noteworthy.

"Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco – One first-year female was banded at The Tip on November 1 (LPBO).

Summer Tanager – A hatch-year male was observed on Old Cut Blvd. from October 28-November 1 (SAM, M.Obs.).

Yellow-headed Blackbird – One female was seen at Big Creek National Wildlife Area on October 15 (DIB).

Brewer's Blackbird – One bird was west of Port Royal on December 17 (BL, KM) and was observed again on January 2 (SAM). Possibly the same individual was observed northwest of Clear Creek on January 15 (RR) and again near Port Royal on February 13 (SAM).

Common Redpoll – A flock of 22 was seen northwest of Clear Creek on January 14 (GP).

Hoary Redpoll – One female was with a flock of Common Redpolls northwest of Clear Creek on January 14 (GP).

Observers: Jody Allair (JRA), Avery Bartels (AVB), David Bell (DIB), John Brett (JSB), Barb Charlton (BC), Long Point Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Robert Curry (RC), Rob Dobos (RD), Mark Dorriesfield (MHD), Erica Dunn (ED), Tom Finch (TMF), Audrey Heagy (AEH), David Hussell (DJHT), Matt Illes (MRI), Mark Jennings (MJ), Kevin Kavanagh (KK), Bill Lamond (BL), Denis Lepage (DL), Stu Mackenzie (SAM), Kevin McLaughlin (KM), Gavin Platt (GP), Teresa Montras (TM), Neil Pearson (NAP), Ron Ridout (RR), Andrew Sawyer (AS), Matt Slaymaker (MKS), Adam Timpf (AT), Steve Wilcox (SW), Graham Wood (GKW), Ross Wood (RWW), Many Observers (M.Obs.).



Fall 2011 Volunteer Roster

Long-term Volunteers (*One month or more*)

Avery Bartels (Nelson, BC), Tom Finch (Sheffield, England), Joseph Gabriel (Port Rowan, ON), Matt Illes (Ottawa, ON), Kristin Jonassen (London, ON), Lisa Kennedy (London, ON), Brendan McCabe (London, ON), Liam McGuire (London, ON), Teresa Montras (Roses, Spain), Sarah Nagl (Berlin, Germany), Neil Pearson (Providence, RI), Alejandro Sosa (Cotorro La Habana, Cuba), Ian Thomas (Vancouver, BC), Lucia Turčoková (Levice, Slovakia), Ana Maria Venegas (Santiago, Chile), Warren Verina (Temiskaming, ON).

Short-term Volunteers (*Less than one month*)

Karen Alexander (Burlington, ON), Leah Den Besten (St-Bruno-de-Montarville, QC), Tina Den Besten (St-Bruno-de-Montarville, QC), Samantha Brimble (Ottawa, ON), Morgan Brown (London, ON), Allana Cavers (Simcoe, ON), Rachael Derbyshire (Guelph, ON), Paula Gent (South Walsingham, ON), Ted Gent (South Walsingham, ON), Dawn Miles (Kitchener, ON), Eleanor Page (London, England), Ryan Rea (Huntsville, ON), Carly Rivard (New Liskeard, ON), David Ross (Tadworth, England), Jessica Shrubbs (Delhi, ON).

LPBO Expedition

Bryan Drown (Hamilton, ON), Jim Mackiewicz (Etobicoke, ON), Lynda Mackiewicz (Etobicoke, ON), Celine Moore (Georgetown, ON), Ann Scarfe (Victoria, BC), Linda Slade (Guelph, ON).

Friends of LPBO

The Friends of LPBO provide invaluable assistance in a variety of ways. They are the friendly folks who greet visitors to our Old Cut facility throughout the migration seasons. They staff the LPBO store on a daily basis and keep the supply of hot drinks flowing. Many supply the 'starving' assistants with nutritious cookies and cupcakes. Others undertake parking control on the busiest days. Simply put, they have become family and we couldn't get by without them.

Hugh McArthur – Volunteer Coordinator

Gail Adams, Geoff & Sue Atkins, Pat Finney, Joe Gabriel, Paula & Ted Gent, Len Grincevivi, Don & Yvonne Henderson, Barb Hourigan, Gail & Otto Larsen, Ruth Ann Logan, Ted Maddeford, Sandra Maxwell, Diane Salter, Stephanie Sindon, Wendy Smith, Evelyn Stone, Julia Wever, Margaret Wheeler.

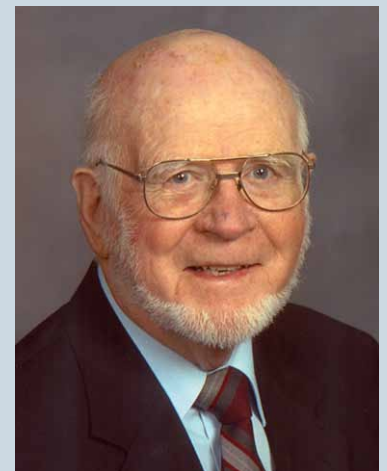
LPBO Endowment Funds and Planned Giving

LPBO relies heavily on its Endowment Funds. You can make a lasting contribution to bird conservation by contributing to the LPBO Endowment Fund or by leaving a gift to LPBO in your will. Your donation will ensure that LPBO can continue to make substantial contributions to bird conservation through research, training, and education at Long Point and elsewhere. For more information about planned giving, please call us toll-free at 1-888-448-2473 ext. 111, or email esecord@birdscanada.org.

Hugh T. Lemon Student Award

LPBO is saddened by the passing of Dr. Hugh T. Lemon. Hugh and his brother Tom volunteered for LPBO in the early 1970s, and both enjoyed periodic subsequent visits to the area. With Hugh's passing, the Lemon family graciously directed memorial donations toward the formation of the Hugh T. Lemon Student Award, to be administered through the LPBO Endowment Fund. These funds will support student training and educational activities, for example funding graduate students conducting research on Long Point, and assisting with long-distance travel for participants of the Young Ornithologists' Workshop. Thank you very much to Doris Lemon and family, for their gift to bird conservation.

If you would like to make a contribution to the Hugh T. Lemon Student Award, contact us at lpbo@birdscanada.org.



Special Thanks!

LPBO is a program of Bird Studies Canada. We gratefully acknowledge the support of BirdLife International, Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service, Imperial Oil Foundation, The Gosling Foundation, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) – Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Program, OMNR – Terrestrial Assessment Program, Ontario Power Generation, Ontario Trillium Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and all our volunteers and supporters. Special thanks to all the donors who have contributed to the LPBO Endowment Fund, and to our generous Legacy Donors who have left gifts in their wills for LPBO.

LPBO's programs are supported by Long Point Bird Observatory's Endowment Fund, the Doug Tarry Natural History Fund, the Baillie Birdathon, and many individuals. LPBO is also grateful for the permission it receives to operate its programs on properties owned by: County of Norfolk, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada, Long Point Company, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Transport Canada, and Mr. and Mrs. R.C. Stanley.

Personal Contributions

Over the past three decades, LPBO has had the great fortune of receiving annual donations from **Joan Falconer** in the form of beautifully-crafted 8"x12" cloth bird bags. Many of Joan's original bird bags are still in circulation, while others hang proudly in Old Cut's bird bag hall of fame. Thank you for your years of valuable support, Joan.

LPBO volunteers will sleep better in the years to come thanks to a very kind donation of high-end, resort-quality pillows for each one of LPBO's 30 beds from **Linda Slade**! Thank you Linda!

On the maintenance side of things, LPBO's lawn at Old Cut will remain trim thanks to the donation of an electric lawn mower from **Joseph Gabriel**. Gabe also donated a valuable piece of equipment for any field/research station – a post-pounder. Thank you Gabe!

LPBO would like to thank **Laura Mackenzie** for transforming Old Cut over the past year with new curtains for the vast majority of its windows, providing privacy and shade for all guests staying under our roof.

We are also grateful to Gena Norbury and Nancy Chard for their wonderful contributions to our supply of bird bags.

Visitors to the Old Cut Research Station over the past few years might have noticed a magnificent garden developing that looks good at all times of the year. LPBO has the Friends of LPBO to thank for this, especially **Sandra Maxwell** (Master Gardener).



A special thank you to Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop (Toronto Store) for providing LPBO with a year supply of bird seed! Visit Wild Birds Unlimited Nature Shop at 5468 Dundas Street West Toronto (Etobicoke), ON, or on the web at www.toronto.wbu.com.

LPBO Wish List

LPBO is always looking for donations of high-quality items to help maintain and upgrade our facilities and programs. If you have a donation, please contact lpbo@birdscanada.org. LPBO is currently in need of: barbeques (propane), bicycles, large library card catalogues, optical equipment, non-perishable food, and a new truck!

LPBO 'Spring Flings'

Do you want to experience spring migration at the Tip of Long Point? Long Point Bird Observatory will welcome a select few birders and naturalists to the Tip Cabin during the height of spring migration! This is your chance to explore the wild Tip of Long Point – one of the last remaining wilderness areas in southern Ontario.

Guests will stay in LPBO's private and rustic quarters nestled alongside a large sand dune, on the south shore of the eastern Tip of Long Point. Your only real neighbors will be the birds (and a handful of researchers, housed in a separate building). Spend your days birding and enjoying other wildlife around the Tip, taking photos, or just relaxing. The days are entirely yours to schedule.

You may also choose to participate in the migration monitoring program, on a casual or intensive basis. Guests who select this option will receive hands-on training, and will work alongside LPBO biologists and volunteers as they engage in their daily bird monitoring and research activities. We welcome the opportunity to share our experiences with enthusiastic people who share a passion for birds and nature.

There is a magical peace at the Tip – and in this tranquility, you may discover a rewarding alternative to the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

For more information, contact Stu Mackenzie at smackenzie@birdscanada.org.



Support LPBO this Birdathon Season!

The Baillie Birdathon began as a key fundraiser for the core programs of Long Point Bird Observatory (LPBO). Today, more than 7000 people from across Canada (and from several countries around the world) participate in and/or sponsor the [Baillie Birdathon](#). During any 24-hour period in May, participants are sponsored (at a flat rate, or on a per-species basis) to find as many bird species as they can. In 2011, more than \$250,000 was raised in support of bird conservation in Canada. A significant portion of this went to other like-minded conservation organizations and Canadian Migration Monitoring Network stations.

How can you participate and help LPBO?

Participating in Birdathon is easy. Just [click here](#) to register. If you're new to Birdathon or already participating, you can ensure that most of your great fundraising and birding efforts support LPBO by **designating LPBO to receive a portion of the funds you raise**. Participants can also join LPBO's "Cygnus Crusaders" and fundraise with other LPBO loyalists. Participants have a chance to win some [fantastic prizes](#)! If you're not interested in participating, please consider sponsoring a member of LPBO's Birdathon team.



2012 Birdathon T-shirt Design

Join us for the Long Point Birdathon Weekend

Participating in the Long Point Birdathon Weekend is one of the easiest and most enjoyable ways to complete your Birdathon. On Saturday, May 12, 2012, registered Birdathon participants are invited to come to Long Point and join Bird Studies Canada (BSC) staff, volunteers, and other Birdathon participants for a day of birding and fun, featuring good food and friendly people. A final tally topping 100 species is virtually guaranteed!

Guided hikes will be conducted at LPBO's Old Cut Research Station and to key sites on the mainland. Participants are treated to coffee and donuts in the morning and an informal chili dinner in the

evening. As an added bonus this year, the national Bird Studies Canada Guest Birder, Dr. Bridget Stutchbury, will conduct her Birdathon in the area that day, and she plans to join us at BSC Headquarters for dinner in the evening. Saturday's activities are capped off with an early evening hike around the BSC Headquarters property, and at nearby Big Creek Marsh. Those who wish to stay over to complete their Birdathon can visit Old Cut on Friday or Sunday morning.

Migration monitoring will be in operation if you wish to observe this important research in action. We will scout the area in the days leading up to the Long Point Birdathon Weekend, and will prepare a detailed list of locations where some of the more difficult-to-see species may be found. And, of course, local staff and volunteers will be on hand.

Pre-registration is required for participation in the May 12, 2012 LPBO Birdathon events. To register, please contact Kris Dobney at kdobney@birdscanada.org or by phone at 1-888-448-2473 ext. 121, before May 1, 2012.

For those planning to stay over, local accommodation information can be found on the [Norfolk County Tourism](#) website. If you can't make it to Long Point to conduct a Birdathon with us, please consider participating in your own Birdathon for LPBO, any time in May, anywhere in the world. Simply visit the [Baillie Birdathon](#) pages to register, and remember to specify LPBO as the recipient of your hard-earned fundraising dollars.

Remember: You must designate LPBO in order for LPBO to benefit from your Birdathon.

Doug Tarry Young Ornithologists' Workshop

Long Point Bird Observatory is looking for keen teen birders to apply for the 2012 Doug Tarry Natural Young Ornithologists' Workshop, to be held from Saturday, August 4 to Sunday, August 11. Participants will receive hands-on



training in field ornithology, including bird banding, censusing, field identification, birding trips, preparing museum specimens, guest lectures, and more! Six of Canada's most promising ornithologists between the ages of 13-17 will be selected to attend, and will receive the Doug Tarry Bird Study Award to cover all on-site expenses. For those traveling long distances, special grants may also be available to help offset air travel costs. Applications are due by April 30, 2012. For more information and an application form, contact us at lpbo@birdscanada.org, or visit www.birdscanada.org/longpoint.



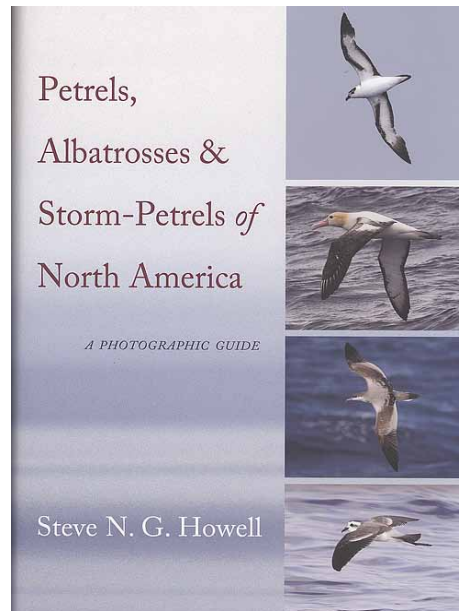
Petrels, Albatrosses, and Storm-Petrels of North America - A Review

by Ron Ridout

Steve N.G. Howell's *Petrels, Albatrosses and Storm-Petrels of North America* is the latest in his list of North American ornithological references. Other books by this highly-regarded author include *A Guide to the Birds of Mexico and North Central America*, *Hummingbirds of North America*, *Gulls of the Americas*, and *Molt in North American Birds*. Steve has been associated for over 20 years with Point Reyes Bird Observatory and is a leader with one of North America's best tour companies.

As a landlubber with but a handful of pelagics under my belt, I welcomed the lengthy introduction which covers all aspects of pelagic birding, from taxonomy and topography of the birds to how to get the most out of a pelagic. At 49 pages, this amount of detailed information might have been dry enough to soak up the Atlantic Ocean, but such was not the case. Howell's writing style offers a great deal of technical information in a fashion that is easily understood. So while the temptation to skip the introduction and dive into the species accounts is great, taking the time to review the intro will be worthwhile for all but the most seasoned old salt.

Immediately following the introduction, Howell launches into each of the 70 individual species accounts. They are divided into three groups: Petrels, Albatrosses, and Storm-Petrels. Each account includes detailed discussion on taxonomy, status and distribution, and field identification including similar species, habitat and behaviour, description, and molt.



The range maps for each species include timing by month and are very informative. Accompanying the text are several high-quality photos showing the species at various angles and flight attitudes, dorsal and ventral views, and different plumages. They are, for me, the real treasure trove of the book. Photographing birds at sea on a rolling boat is no easy task. The quality of all the shots speaks to Howell's expertise as a photographer.

At nearly two kilograms, the book can hardly be called a field guide. I suspect that most birders will use it for intense study before a trip, and review afterwards. All of the latest information on this difficult group is presented, including the long-rumoured split of the Band-rumped Storm-Petrel group; as well, the latest field marks for a

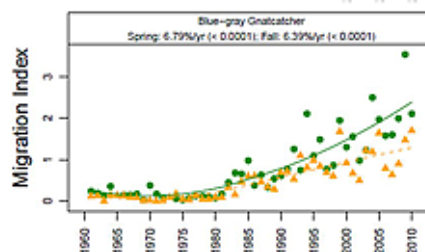
number of difficult species pairs are shown, such as Sooty/Short-tailed Shearwater. Many of the field marks presented were worked out by the author through years of field experience.

One criticism I have of the book likely has more to do with quality control off the printing press. Many of the photos in the review copy I received were highly compromised by a heavy magenta cast, to the point where it was difficult to ascertain the proper colour of the bird. I suspect that this flaw is limited to a few copies, and one hopes it is not present throughout the press run. The colour cast was not present in the digital copy of the book I purchased for my iPad.

Birders looking to take this book into the field may well want to purchase the digital copy. Obviously, while some care must be taken, a tablet may just be the answer for accessing this book under field conditions. I found the electronic layout to be fairly similar to the book, with the only downside being the tablet's inability to show more than two photos at a time. As mentioned earlier, the digital photos are colour-correct and with a swipe of the screen can be enlarged. This is a very cool feature. Tablets may also be the wave of the future if video could be incorporated into ebooks. I find phrasing such as 'slightly snappy wingbeats' or 'buoyant glides' difficult to interpret without actual field experience. Video of such behaviour would be far easier to understand. Perhaps we will see this step in the next edition of this highly informative photographic guide.

Interested in learning more about trends in Ontario's bird populations?

Browse population trends for more than 200 species of birds, derived from data collected by LPBO over the past 50 years! These trends are available through BSC's National Data Centre portal, "[Nature Counts](#)."



LPBO Program Report Available Online

A detailed summary of all the programs of LPBO can be found in our annual program report, [available here](#). Discover details about the birds banded, skim through our impressive list of volunteers, and learn more about the Doug Tarry Natural History Fund activities. You can also stimulate your brain with updates on our collaborative research and our recent publications.



LPBO Scrapbook



"Alejandro said, Cuba is in that direction. Keep looking!"



Matt Slaymaker's LPBO 'Movember Moment.'



Alejandro Sosa demonstrates guerilla tactics on raptors.



A handful of Hoary Bats. They really are cute.



Matt Illes is gob-smacked by a goshawk.



Fall expedition members showing off survival suit couture.



Tom Finch influenced by his fellow countryman.



The Shanty overflows on a good day at the Tip.