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Spring 2006



# IPBO Newsletter

*Innis Point Bird Observatory*

## In This Issue:

Upcoming Events.....1

Owl Banding 2005:  
A new species for IPBO!.....2

Spring Bird Count and Baillie  
Birdathon, 6-13 May 2006.....3

2006 MAPS Program.....4

## Ten Years of SMMP!

This spring will see the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year Innis Point has run a Spring Migration Monitoring Program. That's an exciting milestone, and one which could not have happened without your ongoing support. Congratulations to all involved. How can you mark the anniversary? How about a day of birding to help support the next ten years! Join us for the first ever Ottawa Area Spring Bird Count and Baillie Birdathon. (See page 2 for more details)



Photo: Louise Gancz

## Upcoming Events

### Volunteer Training

This Spring we will hold training sessions for volunteers. Training will focus on extraction, scribing (for newcomers) and banding when time permits. These sessions will be held in April: Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>, Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>, Monday 17<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>. To sign up please contact Celia Bodnar at [bodnarm@magma.ca](mailto:bodnarm@magma.ca).

### Spring Migration Monitoring Program

As always, the program will be running daily from April 24<sup>th</sup> to June 7<sup>th</sup>. This intensive program involves not only banding, but also a daily one-hour census, general observations and counts. Ideally, we need approximately 4-5 volunteers daily. Please contact Celia Bodnar at [bodnarm@magma.ca](mailto:bodnarm@magma.ca) to schedule your days at Innis Point.



Photo: Eve Ticknor

## Owl banding 2005: A new species for IPBO!

by Jude Phillips

Last fall, 2005, was the fifth continuous year of Northern Saw-whet Owl banding at IPBO, and what a successful year it was! Not only did we band 54 Northern Saw-whet Owls, but we also banded a Long-eared Owl (second ever banded at IPBO), and a Boreal Owl, the first ever seen or banded at IPBO! In addition, more than 50 volunteers came out to watch, help and enjoy the owls.

Last fall, we added two new mist nets to our normal array of six nets. The new nets were very successful: one-third of all the owls captured were caught in the new nets, even though they were

open only half of the nights that we banded.

The other exciting news was that a Northern Saw-whet Owl we banded last year on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004, was recaptured this year at Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory (PEPtBO), just southeast of us on the north shore of Lake Ontario. This brings the total number of owls banded at IPBO and later

recaptured at PEPtBO to three.

As always, I would like to thank everyone who came out and participated, especially the BICs. I hope to see you all again in September/October for the 2006 Owl Banding program.

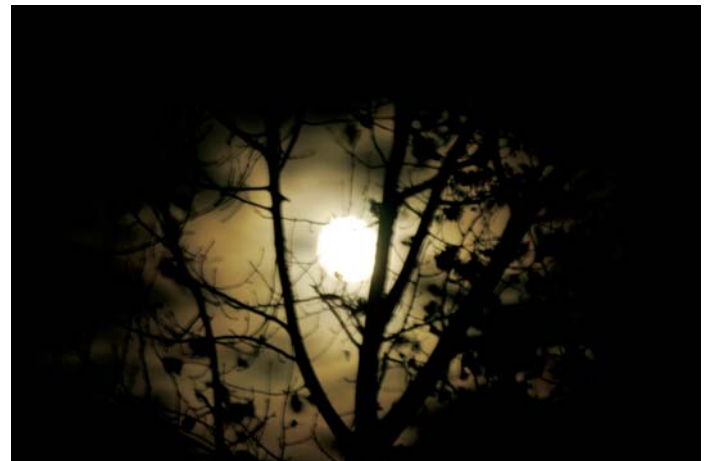


Photo:David Britton



Photo: Mike Bovd

## LOOK LIKE FUN? THIS COULD BE YOU!

### Become a Member of Innis Point Bird Observatory!

Support volunteers working to better understand what's happening to bird populations

Please remember to send in your 2006 membership

Innis Point Bird Observatory

P.O. Box 72137

North Kanata RPO

Kanata, Ontario

K2K 2P4

Membership Categories

Annual Membership: \$20, Contributing: \$25,

Sustaining: \$50, Life: \$300.

Donation \_\_\_\_\_

## Spring Bird Count and Baillie Birdathon, 6-13 May 2006

by David Britton

Here's your opportunity to take part in a beginner-friendly event that is of great benefit to IPBO. Yes, it is a fund-raiser, but it is also educational and fun. And no, we are not asking you to buy anything or donate your own money – though you are welcome to do so if you want to!

The first annual Ottawa Spring Bird Count will be held 6-13 May 2006, in conjunction with Bird Studies Canada's Baillie Birdathon fund-raiser. Here's what happens: birders get sponsorships from their friends and family, either at a flat rate or per species that they find in a 24-hour period. At the end of the week, we will all get together for a wrap-up celebration dinner and social evening.

Last year 5 IPBO members took part in the Baillie Birdathon and raised \$994.95 to help keep IPBO running. This year we have a more structured event and we hope that more IPBO members will take part. We want to keep track of the number of species found within the 50 km Ottawa birding circle during the week and we will get together at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden on 13 May to compare notes and tally up the birds and dollars raised.



Photo: Bill Petrie

Moreover, we are upping our target for money raised to \$2,000. Here's where you can help. See the flyer accompanying this newsletter for information on how to take part.

You can take part as an individual or as part of a team. Everyone is welcome. To form a team, choose your teammates and a name for your team. We will have a friendly competition and some modest prizes for species found and number of sponsors signed up by individuals and teams. This is not only for experts: we will have some prizes and surprises for beginners and for just taking part.

If you're a beginner and worried that you don't have the bird identification skills or knowledge of good birding areas, I will be

leading a group birdathon for sponsored birders on Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. We will start at Innis Point and then visit several local birding hotspots, finishing up at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden at 6:00 pm to tally up our species. The pace will be casual and we'll focus on bird identification, including bird song. Last year we saw 102 species, despite cold and windy weather. If you would like to do your birdathon with me on this date, please contact me at the address or email at the end of this article.

If you can't take part in the Bird Count (or even if you can) you can still help us reach our targets by sponsoring our feature birders Celia and Kieran Bodnar: just complete and mail the pledge form on the flyer. Celia is known



Photo: Bill Petrie

to you as an active volunteer and IPBO Board member, and as the editor of this Newsletter. Kieran is her 3 year-old son -- which just goes to prove that the Spring Bird Count is for experts and beginners alike.

Thanks to the 4 IPBO members who took part with me in last year's Baillie Birdathon: Celia Bodnar, Andrea Clouston, Jude Phillips and Eve Ticknor. We all had a great time birding, while supporting a good cause. Now

we invite you to join in the fun!

For more information or if you have questions or comments, please contact me,:

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## 2006 MAPS Program: Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship

by Martha Caskey

Once again I am seeking volunteers from the IPBO membership to assist with the MAPS program at Innis Point. In 2005, we changed from primarily a one-person operation to one where volunteers were actively sought; their participation was a great success. So now, for the 15<sup>th</sup> season of MAPS at Innis Point, I want to continue with this new and better way to operate the program.

The emphasis on MAPS is breeding birds, not migrating birds - so that is the fundamental difference from SMMP. MAPS stands for Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship. This program is coordinated by the Institute for Bird Populations

It started in 1989 and now includes about 500 stations. Innis Point was one of the very first stations. All the data we collect is sent to Point Reyes and the banding data is also sent to the Bird Banding Office at CWS like all the other IPBO banding data. More information can be found at <http://www.birdpop.org/maps.htm>.

The MAPS season is divided into 10 10-day periods - and the starting date depends on latitude. So we start banding at Innis Point in period 4, which is May 31 - June 9. There is one banding day in each of the 10 day periods - a total of 7 banding days bringing us to the end of the breeding season in late July/early August.

gate time will normally be 5:50 am. (Sometimes, if the day promises to be hot, I will start about 1/2 an hour early.)

This year in addition, there will be some MAPS preparation days on Saturdays in May so that the nets can be erected and some good observations sites staked out. These will start at the late 8 a.m. gate time for Saturdays at Innis Point and typically last about 3 hours. Although there is no banding in May, all observations will be recorded and reported (Egret Pond is part of the MAPS site and a great place to observe: Wood Duck nests are very active in May and hopefully our nesting Ospreys will be back.)

Since so many volunteers in 2005 indicated a preference for weekends, I will try and schedule the sessions for the weekend whenever possible, but first priority will have to be the weather. Since all the activity has to take place outdoors for MAPS, including the banding itself, I have to pick a day without rain - it's a pain to try and write up data sheets when they're damp. Here is a preliminary timetable for the season:

Saturday, May 13 8 a.m. MAPS prep session  
 Saturday, May 20 8 a.m. MAPS prep session  
 Saturday, May 27 8 a.m. MAPS prep session  
 Sunday, June 4 5:50 am 1st MAPS banding session  
 Sunday, June 11 5:50 am 2nd MAPS banding session  
 Sunday, June 25 5:50 am 3rd MAPS banding session  
 Sunday, July 9 5:50 am 4th MAPS banding session  
 Sunday, July 16 5:50 am 5th MAPS banding session  
 Sunday, July 23 5:50 am 6th MAPS banding session  
 Sunday, July 30 5:50 am 7th (and last) MAPS banding session

I will send out an email close to the day to confirm the date - but it is best if volunteers let me know whether they are coming so I can



Photo: Barbara Campbell

be looking for them at the gate. I will have a cell phone with me when I am at Innis Point (858-4255, or my home number is 832-3862). It is possible to operate with one person (catching 20 birds is a big day for a MAPS session and 6-8 is typical)- but the more eyes the better. Not only banding data is collected but observations as well. So if there are more people than needed to concentrate on banding, then people can get a chance to go looking for nests or other signs of breeding activity.

What to bring - the normal stuff for a day at Innis Point. Binoculars, insect repellent, layers of clothes, food, water. As for footwear--well, it can be wet early in the season so rubber boots are

always useful - but may not be strictly necessary. One additional need for MAPS is a folding chair - standing or leaning on the car can get tiresome. The "banding station" consists of a card table I bring along in the trunk of the car.

I look forward to another great season of MAPS at Innis Point and working again with a great set of volunteers. If your interested in participating, please contact Celia Bodnar at [bodnarm@magma.ca](mailto:bodnarm@magma.ca).



Photo: Barbara Campbell