

MEDIA RELEASE JUNE 25, 2023

Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory and Friends of South Shore

Re: New Partnership sees research station established on South Shore

Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory (PEPtBO) and Friends of South Shore (FOSS) are pleased to announce a new partnership to launch a summer research station at Soup Harbour on Prince Edward County's south shore. The research will monitor bird populations as part of the [North American Institute for Bird Populations' Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship \(MAPS\)](#) program. The station is located on Soup Harbour, between Salmon Point and Point Petre, west of the Bass Family Nature Reserve.

The MAPS program is a continent-wide collaborative initiative among public agencies, non-governmental groups, and individuals to support the conservation of birds and their habitats through bird banding research. The Soup Harbour station is one of five MAPS sites operated by PEPtBO along the South Shore. However, as much of the South Shore's land is privately owned, avian data collection west of Point Petre's public lands has been difficult until now.

PEPtBO monitors bird migration and collects long-term data on bird populations, breeding success and survival. These data provide important evidence for land planning and conservation measures to protect bird populations and their habitat, known to be particularly important along PEC's South Shore. PEPtBO is one of the busiest and most productive research stations within the [Canadian Migration Monitoring Network \(CMMN\)](#), which is a collaborative initiative of more than 30 bird observatories across Canada, Birds Canada, and Environment and Climate Change Canada. All bird banding data collected by PEPtBO from migration and MAPS stations research go to the CMMN. Here the data are analyzed and shared with organizations across North America to support bird populations and protect their habitats.

As part of its South Shore natural heritage protection work, FOSS has facilitated the MAPS station location on private property on Soup Harbour and will provide funding for its operation for five years. Soup Harbour is an important habitat for many Species-at-Risk birds in Ontario, including Bald Eagle, Barn Swallow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Grasshopper Sparrow, Wood Thrush as well as other at-risk animals, including the Blandings and Snapping Turtles, Little Brown Bats and Monarch Butterflies. The area includes a Class 1 Provincially Significant Wetland and is part of the designated Natural Core Area of the South Shore as identified in PEC's current Official Plan ([Schedule B](#)). Through this partnership with FOSS, PEPtBO will now be able to expand their data collection to provide a more inclusive record of avian presence, health, and habitat on the South Shore, and through this, provide support for evidence-based land planning and conservation decision-making.

The launch of the station's operation brought much excitement as the first birds banded included a female Pileated Woodpecker (a Species-at-Risk), and a breeding pair of Indigo Buntings (female, L and male, R) Photo credit: Ashely Jensen, Assistant Bander at PEPtBO.

Both PEPtBO and FOSS are community non-governmental organizations operating in Prince Edward County with a geographic and program focus on the south shore, sharing common goals of public education, ecological awareness, and support for habitat conservation in Prince Edward County.

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