

# The 2009 Baillie Birdathon

## Thank You to Donors from Carolyn Barnes

Thank you so much for your donation to the Baillie Birdathon. Ninety percent of your contribution has gone directly to the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory.

The Observatory, located near the end of Long Point, bands several thousands of the migratory birds that pass through this area every spring and fall. The information collected from year to year helps us understand the population densities, longevity and migratory routes of numerous bird species. The Observatory is part of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network.

This year, as last, I did the Birdathon as part of Cheryl Anderson's team. There were five of us this year: Cheryl, Sarah and John who were visiting from Waterloo, Walter, a very experienced birder, and myself, not experienced at all, I'm afraid -- but very enthusiastic.

Thanks to the sharp eyes and expert identification skills of the rest of the team, we saw, or heard, 82 different species of birds. Quite a bit better than last year, when our total on a cold, wet, windy day was just 57.

We hit several of the County's well-known birding spots on May 22 including Point Traverse Woods, the Observatory itself, the road to the Point Traverse Lighthouse, the trails and beaches of Point Petre, and Kaiser Crossroad. Highlights for me were the Black-billed Cuckoo near one of the nets at the Observatory, a stunningly blue Indigo Bunting on the road opposite the Point Traverse woods, and an American Bittern that boomed unseen across the shallow waters of the Kaiser Crossroad.

The most numerous birds of the day were Cedar Waxwings and Yellow Warblers, both exceedingly beautiful birds in quite different ways. If you'd like to see the list of all 82 species, just let me know.

Again, thank you for supporting the Prince Edward Point Bird Observatory. Your assistance will help ensure that the Observatory can continue its important work -- work that, ultimately, will help our bird species survive.