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# Latest News



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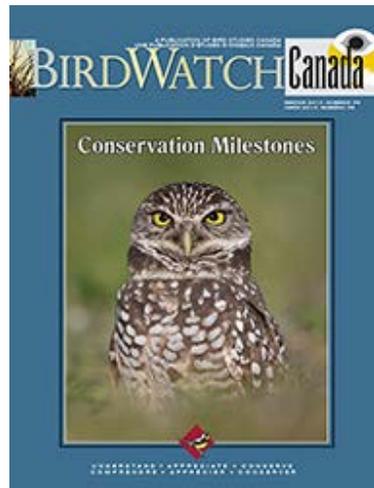
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**10 February 2017** – The Winter 2017 edition of *BirdWatch Canada* (No. 78) features the achievements of Bird Protection Québec on its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and includes highlights from the 2016 Great Canadian Birdathon and Nocturnal Owl Survey, and more. [Visit our website](#) to view the table of contents, and to read about a special milestone for the James L. Baillie Memorial Fund for Bird Research and Preservation.

Published by Bird Studies Canada, *BirdWatch Canada* reports the latest results from our programs, and includes topical feature articles about the world of birds. By donating \$35 or more annually, members and supporters provide valuable funding for bird research and conservation, and receive a subscription to our magazine, free participation in any of our Citizen Science programs, and a charitable tax receipt for the full amount of the contribution. Please donate today! Make an [online membership donation](#) or call us toll-free at 1-888-448-2473.

**Join Us Next Weekend for the Great Backyard Bird Count!**



Blue Jay Photo: John Pizniur

**10 February 2017** – Join the tens of thousands of people worldwide taking part in the **Great Backyard Bird Count** next weekend, from February 17-20. This free, fun, and family-friendly event engages birdwatchers of all skill levels in counting birds to support conservation. **Participating is easy**, and it helps the birds! You can count for just 15 minutes on a single day or for as long as you like on all four days, entering a separate checklist for each time and place that you count. If wintery weather keeps you indoors, you can even count the birds outside your window!

Visit the website throughout the weekend to share your photographs, learn more about **bird identification**, and **explore the results** in real time, as observations are submitted.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is a joint project of **Audubon** and the **Cornell Lab of Ornithology** with Canadian partner **Bird Studies Canada**, and is supported in Canada by **Armstrong Bird Food** and **Wild Birds Unlimited**.

### **New Paper Shows Value of Bird Observatories**

**8 February 2017** – A new paper by Dr. Erica Dunn (Chair of the Baillie Fund and a long-time associate of Bird Studies Canada) highlights the valuable contributions bird observatories have made to the understanding of bird migration, and the opportunities they offer for further research and collaboration. The article “Bird Observatories: An Underutilized Resource for Migration Study” was recently published in *The Wilson Journal of Ornithology*. You can **read the abstract online here**.

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## **NATIONAL**

### **Citizen Scientists Gear up to Survey Owls**



**10 February 2017** – An early spring highlight for over a thousand Canadians is their annual **Nocturnal Owl Survey**. Each year, adventurous Citizen Scientists listen for and count owls along remote roads. Volunteers from nine regional survey programs collect valuable information that documents owl distribution and abundance. You can see the results of their latest work in the newly-published Winter 2017 edition of *BirdWatch Canada* (No. 78).

Bird Studies Canada gratefully acknowledges all the conservation partners who have supported the Nocturnal Owl Surveys. We also thank the 2016 participants for their continued support, and wish the 2017 survey teams a wonderful season!

As with all long-term monitoring programs, there is an annual need to fill survey gaps. If you are interested in the Nocturnal Owl Survey Program, please contact your regional coordinator through our [website](#).

### **Summer Positions with Bird Studies Canada**

**9 February 2017** – Bird Studies Canada is hiring for a number of seasonal positions across the country. Position descriptions – including location, job requirements, and application dates – are being posted on the **Job Opportunities page** of our website. Please read the descriptions carefully before applying to ensure you meet the qualifications. Be sure to check back frequently for new opportunities in the coming weeks!

### **Apply Now for the 2017 Young Ornithologists' Workshop**

**9 February 2017** – Each spring, Bird Studies Canada and Long Point Bird Observatory select six of Canada's most promising young birders between the ages of 13 and 17 to receive the Doug Tarry Bird Study Award. The winners are invited to participate in a birding trip to Long Point, Ontario for the Young Ornithologists' Workshop. The award covers all direct costs (recipients are responsible for transportation to and from Long Point).

The 2017 workshop will take place from Saturday, August 5 to Sunday, August 13. Participants receive hands-on training in field ornithology, including: bird monitoring and banding, bird identification, museum specimen preparation, birding trips, guest lectures, and more! Applications are due by April 30. For information and an application form, [visit our website](#) or email [lpbo@birdscanada.org](mailto:lpbo@birdscanada.org).

The workshop is supported by Bird Studies Canada's Doug Tarry Natural History Fund.

### **New Partnership to Protect Bird Habitat**

**3 February 2017** – Bird Studies Canada is excited to introduce the **Important Bird and Biodiversity Area Local Action Fund**! This new partnership with Nature Canada and the Gosling Foundation provides grants to local organizations, empowering them to protect, restore, and enhance ecosystems within threatened **IBAs**.

Funded projects could look quite different across Canada, but will all feature local groups implementing conservation action within priority IBAs. Examples could include: establishing and supporting **IBA Caretaker groups**, encouraging municipalities to recognize and conserve IBAs, or working with Indigenous communities to protect IBAs on their traditional lands.

Please visit the **IBA Local Action Fund webpage** to find out more, including how to apply. Questions can be emailed to [ibafund@naturecanada.ca](mailto:ibafund@naturecanada.ca).

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## **REGIONAL**

### **Launching the Saskatchewan Breeding Bird Atlas**



Clay-colored Sparrow Photo: David Messmer

**10 February 2017** – We are excited to announce the launch of the [Saskatchewan Breeding Bird Atlas website](#). At this stage, the site contains a simple overview, maps, and manuals, but be sure to bookmark it and check for updates in the coming weeks. Registration is now open for the project, so get involved today!

The Saskatchewan Breeding Bird Atlas is the result of a partnership between Bird Studies Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Nature Saskatchewan, and the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation. Other funders and partners are being sought for this ambitious project, which will be the largest Citizen Science volunteer effort ever conducted in Saskatchewan. This tool for bird conservation will map species distributions, identifying hotspots of avian biodiversity, and will help to determine the status of breeding birds in the province.

### **Québec's Oldest Bird Club Celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

**10 February 2017** – Last month, Bird Studies Canada's President Steven Price and Québec Program Manager Andrew Coughlan travelled to Montréal to help launch Bird Protection Québec's centennial celebrations. Steven gave the first of the society's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lectures. Speaking to a packed house, he highlighted bird conservation successes of the last century, as well as future challenges. He also emphasized the importance of forging strong international collaborations, as many declining species that breed in Canada spend the majority of their lives elsewhere in the Americas. After a toast to the future success of BPQ and bird conservation efforts in Québec, Steven and Andrew seized the opportunity to meet and thank many Bird Studies Canada members and program participants.

You can learn about the first 100 years of BPQ in the latest issue of [BirdWatch Canada](#). Details of the society's celebratory activities are available on their [website](#).

### **New Wildlife Management Area Designated in Southern BC**

**6 February 2017** – Part of the Chehalis River Estuary Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) was recently designated as a Wildlife Management Area by the Province of British Columbia. The [Chehalis River Estuary IBA](#) lies just outside Harrison Mills in the Lower Mainland of BC. This IBA supports globally significant numbers of Bald Eagles and Trumpeter Swans, as well as other species including salmon, amphibians, and mammals.

The newly-named [Lhá:lt/Harrison-Chehalis Wildlife Management Area](#) has been in the works since the 1980s, and members of local naturalist groups and the BC IBA Caretaker Program have worked hard to monitor the area and conduct outreach and stewardship activities within the IBA. The new designation means the area will be managed for fish and wildlife conservation, and activities that may impact wildlife will be prohibited or restricted. A hearty thank-you to all the volunteers and stewards of the area who have worked so hard to protect and enhance this ecologically important area.

## Long Point Getaway Funds Bird Research & Conservation



**Long Point Bird Observatory (LPBO)** is making their **private cabin** at the Tip of Long Point, Ontario available for rentals of five days or more during spring and fall migration. Visit between April 20 and June 10, or between September 1 and October 25. The proceeds will support LPBO's migration monitoring program.

The rustic cabin sleeps up to six and has all the basic amenities. Your only neighbours will be the birds (and a handful of researchers, housed in a separate building). Spend your days simply relaxing and enjoying the wildlife, or opt to receive casual or intensive hands-on training in field ornithology from LPBO biologists.

For more information, or to book your adventure, email [lpbo@birdscanada.org](mailto:lpbo@birdscanada.org).

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Bird Studies Canada is Canada's leading national organization dedicated to bird science and conservation. Charitable registration number 11902-4313-RR0001.