empowering champions

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COVER PHOTO: Enrico Casati, Christmas Bird Count for Kids event in Sudbury, ON. Find a Christmas Bird Count location near you at birdscanada.org.

INSIDE FRONT COVER PHOTO: Christmas Bird Count for Kids, Stanley Park, Vancouver, BC. Photo: Jen Beechey
This year, Bird Studies Canada helped prepare and release a milestone report: *The State of Canada’s Birds 2019*. The bird observations you may have contributed as a Citizen Scientist confirmed some worrying trends: long-term declines continue for shorebirds, grassland birds, and “aerial insectivores” – the swallows, swifts, nighthawks, whippoorwills, and flycatchers. On the brighter side, most ducks, geese, swans, hawks, eagles, and falcons continue to increase over 1970 levels.

Conservation of wetlands was a huge step forward for waterfowl, just as bans on persistent chemicals like DDT were for birds of prey. Champions of their cause have worked hard and seen success. Now the bird groups in decline need champions, too – you!

The keys to conservation success have been and always will be in the hands of champions: concerned individuals like you, who invest your time and donations, encourage your family and friends, and volunteer in surveys and field projects.

As you will read in this report, we have made great progress in all of our major goals for bird conservation, thanks in large part to our dedicated staff and the tremendous support we receive from partners and supporters, like you.

If you are new to birds and conservation, we welcome you. You can become a champion too! We can help you learn more and connect you to others who share your new interest. If you are a veteran birder or bird enthusiast, we need you to help guide others, champion conservation and recovery, and tell your stories to help inspire others to action.

Thank you for your outstanding support to date, and join us as we drive forward for more results. We can and must turn around bird declines, conserving nature for all wildlife, and for people, too.

**Be a champion. Be a voice for birds today.**
innovating conservation solutions

Our approach to conservation involves forging innovative partnerships with landowners, land managers, and stewardship volunteers. Much of this work focuses on reducing habitat loss and degradation – among the most pressing threats to birds. Some examples include:

- Contributing to 36 multi-agency working groups collaborating to conserve species and habitats. Examples include: the Americas Grasslands Working Group, Partners in Flight, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, the Green Budget Coalition, the Haida Gwaii Biosecurity Coalition, and the Long Point Biosphere Causeway Management Group. We’re proud to recognize the strength that comes from collaboration.

- Helping 40 high-conservation-priority species through habitat projects. SwiftWatch is one example. We coordinate volunteer monitoring and stewardship efforts to protect 55+ roosting and nesting sites in Ontario and the Maritimes, which together host thousands of swifts per night during migration.

- Working with 62 landowners on more than 16,000 hectares of native prairie in Manitoba, helping to maintain some of the last populations of prairie endemic birds, like Chestnut-collared Longspur and Sprague’s Pipit. This involves encouraging low-intensity “conservation grazing” of community pastures outside of protected areas.
40 HIGH-CONSERVATION PRIORITY BIRD SPECIES BENEFIT FROM BIRD STUDIES CANADA HABITAT PROJECTS.

Long-billed Curlew, Prince George, BC.
Photo: Alyssa Hollyoake

The State of Canada’s Birds 2019 report can be found at stateofcanadasbirds.org

Leach’s Storm-Petrel chick
Photo: Laura McFarlane Tranquilla
conserving important places for birds

The Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA) program is an international conservation initiative of Birdlife International, co-led in Canada by Bird Studies Canada. More than 6200 people volunteer their time as Citizen Scientists to monitor and steward IBAs in Canada.

Our actions at IBAs include promoting nature appreciation through birding tourism (Niagara River, ON), reducing disturbance to migrating shorebirds (the Bay of Fundy), supporting bird monitoring “blitzes” and engagement of Indigenous communities (Manitoba), conservation planning (Prince Edward Country, ON), invasive species removal at sites across Canada, and partnering to preserve BC’s threatened Fraser Delta IBA.

Canada has nearly 600 IBAs. The red arrow indicates Ellice-Archie and Spy Hill Community Pastures. Canada’s newest IBA.
The Fraser Delta is Canada’s single most important piece of bird habitat along the Pacific Flyway. It also supports one of the largest salmon runs in the world. Bird Studies Canada is working with partners Nature Canada and BC Nature to advocate on behalf of this critical ecosystem. Our actions include:

- Set-up and management of fraserdeltaiba.ca to provide an online information portal as well as an online petition to garner signatures of support for a Fraser Estuary Restoration and Management Plan.
- Promotion of the need for increased protection of shorebird habitats in particular, and for stronger environmental governance to preserve the integrity of the entire ecosystem.
- Work with Nature Vancouver, Wild Research, and Delta Naturalists Society to submit concerns and advocate for local politicians to take action to prevent the loss of bird habitat at the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant in the Sturgeon Bank section of the Fraser IBA.

Canada’s newest IBA, the Ellice-Archie and Spy Hill Community Pastures IBA, was recently designated at the border of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. There, Bird Studies Canada is partnering with cattle ranchers to steward bird Species at Risk, like Sprague’s Pipit and Chestnut-collared Longspur, and the rich associated prairie biodiversity.

Bird Studies Canada is greatly increasing its efforts to protect habitat for birds in Canada’s vast Boreal region. Working with key strategic partners, we are promoting the establishment of new protected areas and helping support the creation of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas. We are also engaging the public in efforts to conserve Boreal birds in southern Canada, where many of the Boreal’s 300-plus bird species can be found in winter or during migration.

EVEN IF YOU LIVE IN SOUTHERN CANADA, YOU HAVE A VITAL CONNECTION TO THE BOREAL SINCE ‘BIRDS BRING THE BOREAL SOUTH’ WHEN THEY MIGRATE!
empowering champions for birds

In 2018, more than 57,000 people across Canada volunteered for one or more of our 30+ Citizen Science programs and volunteer stewardship activities. Support from volunteers for monitoring and conservation efforts is an outstanding example of champions empowered to take action for birds.

**OF NOTE:**

It’s the 25th year for the Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Program and the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey is nearing its 40th anniversary. Tens of thousands of surveys completed by many dedicated Citizen Scientists in these long-term monitoring programs are now being put to use by a brilliant team of young graduate students with support from our Long Point Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Program to solve timely conservation issues faced by loons, ducks, and rails.

A bird walk at the Toronto Bird Celebration.
Photo: Justin Peter
Thanks to the support of Acart and Pattison Outdoor we reached over a million transit riders with an innovative ad campaign for the Toronto Bird Celebration.

"...I LOVED IT BECAUSE I SAW MY FIRST INDIGO BUNTING! THEN I FOUND OUT ABOUT CANOE BIRDING, AND I HAD TO TRY IT, I LOVE CANOEING. I THINK BIRDWATCHING IS SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU THINK, IT JUST... MAKES YOU HAPPY. I AM GLAD I SAW THAT AD ON THE SUBWAY."

– Nicole L., after attending the Toronto Bird Celebration for the first time

Bird Studies Canada was proud to co-host the 27th International Ornithological Congress and be a community partner for the first-ever Vancouver International Bird Festival. Photo: Ellen Jakubowski

1500 INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS DELEGATES FROM 74 COUNTRIES (30 PRESENTATIONS LED OR CO-LED BY BIRD STUDIES CANADA)

30,000 VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL BIRD FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS
Our education program brings the work of Bird Studies Canada into classrooms and communities across Canada, helping to connect youth with nature. We’re working with teachers and parents to engage students through birds and science in their schoolyard and neighbourhood. This year more than 3200 children participated in Bird Studies Canada youth programs like Schoolyard Bird Blitz and Christmas Bird Count for Kids. Teachers also used Bird Studies Canada’s education resources to have their classes take part in Project FeederWatch and Project NestWatch. The user-friendly bird identification tools created for our education program are proving to be wonderful additions to the classroom, festivals, and elsewhere.

MORE THAN 3200 CHILDREN ACROSS CANADA PARTICIPATED IN BIRD STUDIES CANADA EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

Schoolyard Bird Blitz, Salem Elementary School, Sackville, NB. Photo: Liza Barney
One in eight bird species is at risk of extinction globally. In Canada, we are losing long-distance migrants, like shorebirds and many songbirds, faster than any other bird group. Bird Studies Canada is at the hub of a coalition of university, technology, and conservation partners pioneering a groundbreaking new approach to understand and reverse population losses. We are able to simultaneously track hundreds of migratory species, identify barriers to their survival, and drive better returns on conservation investments.

Our Motus Wildlife Tracking System combines traditional radio-tracking technology, automated across the Western Hemisphere with the newest and tiniest radio-tags safely fitted onto birds, bats, and large insects like the Monarch Butterfly. Motus is revolutionizing our understanding of small animal migration, telling new stories in extraordinary detail about what individual birds are doing, where, and when.
The Motus network has now grown from its Canadian origins to 28 countries worldwide, including 14 in the Americas, with >870 receivers tracking over 20,000 individual animals of almost 200 species. Two hundred and eighty Motus projects have either been completed or are underway, from which 74 scientific papers have been published to date.

Motus brings the ability to determine where conservation interventions are most effective. Motus has finally confirmed that an iconic, rapidly declining shorebird, the Red Knot, gets the fuel it needs to more quickly reach the Arctic, breed successfully, and return to southern South America, from horseshoe crab eggs in Delaware Bay, New Jersey. This information is helping to reduce harvest levels of the crabs at this critical migratory bottleneck.
74 SCIENTIFIC PAPERS USING MOTUS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED
thank you

Prairie Pothole wetland - Matador Community Pasture, SK.
Photo: Pete Davidson.
2018 - 2019

genesis donationS

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John R. McKeenan (London, ON)
Richard G. Miller (Toronto, ON)

Memorial donationS

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1 APRIL 2018 – 31 MARCH 2019
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- Canadian Wildlife Service
- Employment & Social Development
- Environment & Climate Change Canada
- Environmental Careers
- Habitat Stewardship Program
- Natural Resources Canada
- Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council (NSERC)
- Parks Canada
- Public Works
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between $100,000 & $999,999
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Lotek Wireless
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- Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
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Gosling Foundation
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Earth Rangers
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Pacific Wildlife Foundation
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  ▪ Wildlife Trust Fund
Province of Nova Scotia
  ▪ Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation
  ▪ Labour and Advanced Education
  ▪ Natural Resources
  ▪ Species at Risk Conservation Fund
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Tolko Industries Ltd.
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Weyerhaeuser Canada Ltd.
Wild Birds Unlimited
Anonymous – 1

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The RaeLipskie Partnership
Thompson Rivers University
Toronto Ornithological Club
Tulane University
Virginia Tech
Wildlife Preservation Canada
World Wildlife Fund Canada
York University
2018 - 2019

financial report

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Year ending March 31

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<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</strong></td>
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SOURCE OF FUNDS

- 5% Earned Income
- 35% Government
- 6% Corporate
- 20% Foundations/Non-Profit
- 34% Individuals

USE OF FUNDS

- 78% Research & Conservation
- 2% Amortization of Capital Assets
- 20% Program Management, Administration & Fundraising
<table>
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Our audited financial statements are available online at birdscanada.org."
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*Until September 2018
**From September 2018

Dr. Sonya Richmond, former Bird Studies Canada employee, is walking The Great Trail across Canada with partner Sean Morton connecting individuals, families, and youth to nature through birding.

Photo: Sean Morton
our mission

To conserve wild birds of Canada through sound science, on-the-ground actions, innovative partnerships, public engagement, and science-based advocacy.

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