



BIRD STUDIES
ÉTUDES D'OISEAUX **CANADA**
Canada's Voice for Birds

Latest News



Find us on
Facebook

Follow us on
Twitter

Canadian co-partner of
un partenaire canadien de



Notre infolettre en français : *Dernières nouvelles*

20 January 2017

[Download a Printable PDF Version](#)

This Week's Highlights

International News

[Christmas Bird Count](#)

[Great Backyard Bird Count](#)

[Avian Conservation and Ecology](#)

[Motus Research to Help Shorebirds](#)

[World Wetlands Day](#)

National News

[Christmas Bird Count for Kids](#)

[Marsh Monitoring Program](#)

Regional News

[Lake Ontario IBA Surveys](#)

[Travel to Alberta with BSC!](#)

Archives

[Bird Studies](#)

INTERNATIONAL

Thank You for Another Great Christmas Bird Count!



Photo: Paul Nicholson

20 January 2017 – Bird Studies Canada extends our sincere thanks to the thousands of participants who have once again made the **Christmas Bird Count** (CBC) an overwhelming success. From December 14, 2016 to January 5, 2017, thousands of Citizen Scientists scanned the skies, waters, fields, forests, and urban areas – virtually every habitat across the continent – to document millions of winter birds.

Results from the 117th CBC season are still pouring in, and it's looking like another banner year. The number of counts should once again exceed 450 in Canada, with 13 new counts and three re-established ones taking place. To view CBC results by count or by species, click on "Current Year" at the top of [this page](#) on the Audubon website. Special thanks go to the hundreds of volunteer compilers who organize local counts and tabulate and submit data, and to regional editors who review results.

Bird Studies Canada coordinates the Christmas Bird Count in Canada. We rely on your donations to lead this important program. Please consider making an [online donation](#). Thanks to everyone for your participation!

Counting Down to the 2017 Great Backyard Bird Count



White-winged Crossbills Photo: Nick Saunders

19 January 2017 – Show how much you care about birds by participating in the 20th annual **Great Backyard Bird Count!** Simply count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more of the count days (February 17-20, 2017) and report your sightings online.

Around the globe, tens of thousands of volunteers – of all ages and birding skill levels – will participate. If wintery weather keeps you indoors, you can count the birds outside your window! This free, family-friendly event is fun, provides opportunities to learn about birds and connect with nature, and supports bird conservation. To learn more, [visit the GBBC website](#) or email Canadian coordinator Kerrie Wilcox at gbbc@birdscanada.org.

You may also be interested in the GBBC photo contest. In 2016, Nick Saunders of Saskatchewan was awarded first place overall for his image of two White-winged Crossbills. Visit the [contest winners page](#) to see more of last year's top entries.

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 Issue of *Avian Conservation and Ecology*

18 January 2017 – The December 2016 issue of *Avian Conservation and Ecology* features 12 articles showcasing research in Canada, the U.S., and Colombia, as well as a guest editorial on the potential pitfalls of labelling certain species “conservation reliant.”

Some of the topics included are: responses of grassland songbirds to climate change in Alberta; modelling detection probability to improve marsh bird surveys in southern Canada and the Great Lakes states; prioritizing tropical habitats for long-distance migratory songbirds; home-range and colony-scale habitat for Pinyon Jays in New Mexico; and adjusting bird-window collision estimates to account for carcass removal by scavengers. You can read the [current issue](#) and [past issues](#) for free on the *Avian Conservation and Ecology* website.

This open-access, fully electronic scientific journal is sponsored by Bird Studies Canada and the Society of Canadian Ornithologists.

Motus Research to Help Shorebirds

12 January 2017 – An article recently featured in the acclaimed publications *Nature* and *Scientific American* summarizes the plight of arctic-breeding shorebirds, and research being done to support conservation. Many shorebird species are thought to have declined by as much as 70% in recent decades; the causes are poorly understood. Threats facing shorebirds throughout their life cycles include: climate change, disturbance from highly abundant Snow Geese in the Arctic, changes at staging areas critical during long-distance migrations, and habitat loss and hunting pressure at overwintering sites.

Bird Studies Canada's [Motus Wildlife Tracking System](#) was highlighted in the article as one of many tools being used to better understand drivers of shorebird declines and inform

conservation actions. We invite you to read this penetrating [article](#) and see Red Knot migrations come to life in the embedded animation of data collected by collaborators using Motus.

World Wetlands Day: Disaster Risk Reduction

10 January 2017 – [World Wetlands Day](#) is observed every February 2 in commemoration of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. It's the perfect time to reflect on the value of these ecosystems and the importance of protecting them.

This year's theme underscores the role of wetlands as natural buffers that mitigate natural disasters. These sponge-like landscapes absorb and release water over time, lessening impacts of floods and droughts. Natural disasters are expected to worsen in the coming years as a result of climate change, so swift action to conserve wetlands is critical.

Marshes, bogs, and other wetlands cover about 14% of Canada's land area. Volunteers in Bird Studies Canada's Marsh Monitoring Programs play a valuable role in tracking the health of these ecosystems and the wildlife inhabiting them. To find out how you can get involved, see the MMP story below.

[Return to Top of Page](#)

NATIONAL

Christmas Bird Count for Kids: Season Summary



Photo: Randy Moratz

20 January 2017 – Canadian winters can be extreme. But this didn't stop hundreds of young birders from venturing outside in the rain, snow, and cold to log 110 species during the [Christmas Bird Count for Kids](#)! Fifty-four events were coordinated across the country – from Yukon and British Columbia to Newfoundland – with 25 new count locations added this year.

Congratulations and many thanks to the event hosts, coordinators, and volunteers who shared their passion and knowledge of birds with their communities. Bird Studies Canada acknowledges the generous support of our national program sponsors, Armstrong Bird Food and the W. Garfield Weston Foundation.

To learn more, visit the [CBC4Kids webpage](#), connect on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) using the hashtag #CBC4Kids, and view our new [CBC4Kids video](#).

Marsh Monitoring Volunteers Wanted



Photo: Allison Patrick

19 January 2017 – Each spring and summer, hundreds of Citizen Scientists in Bird Studies Canada's Marsh Monitoring Program (MMP) survey wildlife in wetlands and share valuable observations with us. If you're in the Maritimes, Québec, or the Great Lakes region, consider volunteering for the MMP!

The **Great Lakes MMP** needs additional volunteers to monitor birds and/or frogs. For information, contact Kathy Jones (volunteer@birdscanada.org) and check out available survey routes on our **online map**.

Andrew Coughlan (acoughlan@birdscanada.org) would be happy to hear from those interested in surveying marsh birds for the **Québec MMP**. New volunteers are particularly needed in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Mauricie, Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean, and Bas-St-Laurent regions.

Maritimes MMP survey routes are available in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. Please tell us about a favourite wetland you'd like to survey! To get involved, email Holly Lightfoot (hlightfoot@birdscanada.org).

MMPs are undertaken with financial support from: the Government of Canada (Environment and Climate Change Canada; National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces); the governments of Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island; Eastern Habitat Joint Venture; Kenneth M. Molson Foundation; John and Pat McCutcheon Charitable Foundation; Wildlife Habitat Canada; Ducks Unlimited Canada; NB Wildlife Trust Fund; and PEI Wildlife Conservation Fund.

[Return to Top of Page](#)

REGIONAL

Volunteers Needed: Bird Surveys on Lake Ontario

19 January 2017 – Volunteers have successfully completed two surveys at the **West End of Lake Ontario Important Bird and Biodiversity Area** (IBA) this season. If you'd like to help, there are still four surveys left to go. With winter in full swing, the waterfowl counts will be exciting as ever!

Volunteers are needed to survey two sections near Hamilton, and four sections from Grimsby to near Niagara-on-the-Lake. If you're looking for winter birding opportunities, contact the Ontario IBA Coordinator (ontarioiba@birdscanada.org) for more information. We hope to see you out there!

Bird Studies Canada thanks the Ontario Trillium Foundation for supporting our work on Canada's **IBA program**. Follow the **IBA Canada Facebook page** for program updates.

Travel to Alberta with BSC!



Photos: Jody Allair (left) and Nick Saunders (right)

Join Eagle-Eye Tours and Bird Studies Canada for our 2017 Members' Trips to the **Alberta Badlands** and the **Canadian Rockies**.

In addition to great birding, the first tour offers an exploration of the unique geology and palaeontology of the Alberta badlands. The second tour features the spectacular mountain scenery of the Kananaskis region and Waterton Lakes National Park.

Highlights: Rock Wren, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Black-headed Grosbeak, Calliope Hummingbird, and a variety of other prairie and mountain birds and mammals!

The tours run back-to-back from May 27 to June 4, 2017 with leader Jody Allair. For more information, contact Eagle-Eye Tours at 1-800-373-5678 or travel@eagle-eye.com.

[Return to Top of Page](#)

Please [visit our website](#) if you wish to change your subscription preferences or unsubscribe.

If you receive duplicates of this email, or if you do not wish to receive it, contact BirdStudiesCanada@birdscanada.org. For questions about the news items or for media inquiries, please email communications@birdscanada.org.

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