



  
2016

BIRD STUDIES CANADA  
ANNUAL REPORT



CANADA'S *voice for*

# Birds

*Bird Studies Canada is Canada's leading national charitable organization dedicated to bird science and conservation.*



3	Message from the President
4	By the Numbers
6	Tracking Priority Species
8	Conserving Key Sites
10	Research for Conservation
12	Engaging Champions
14	Legacy and Memorial Gifts
16	Individual Donors
18	Sponsors and Partners
20	Financial Statements
22	Board of Directors

## *a message from* Our President



Steven Price  
President  
Bird Studies Canada

One hundred years ago, wise leaders signed a treaty to jointly conserve migratory bird species shared by Canada and the United States. A treaty with Mexico 20 years later completed the North American conservation picture. Today, the treaty is one of the most successful examples of international conservation anywhere.

The *State of North America's Birds 2016* report ([www.stateofthebirds.org](http://www.stateofthebirds.org)) measures North America's performance in the century since the treaty's signing, and identifies some challenges for the one ahead. Many seabird, shorebird, grassland, and tropical species are in crisis or have been seriously declining for years or even decades. Fortunately, widespread recovery of many waterfowl and raptor species over the last 40 years clearly demonstrates that investment and conservation action can reverse dire declines.

In the pages ahead, we share some results Bird Studies Canada has generated for birds. With support from our volunteers, partners, and financial contributors, we are:

- extending our Motus Wildlife Tracking System across the Western Hemisphere, most recently to British Columbia, the U.S. Gulf states, and Panama
- striving to be Canada's Voice for Birds by speaking up for bird conservation with science-based credibility
- deploying 40,000 volunteers in Citizen Science programs to monitor bird populations and habitats.

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What's next for Bird Studies Canada? Several exciting projects are now taking flight!

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### We are:

- coordinating Saskatchewan's first breeding bird atlas, an important addition to the suite of atlas projects on which we collaborate across the country
- reducing threats to native seabird colonies on islands off Canada's west coast through removal of invasive alien predators
- partnering for grassland bird conservation, and promoting more sustainable and bird-friendly livestock management on critical prairie grasslands
- delivering 'virtual ornithology' classes, connecting students in all parts of Canada with our field biologists and educators for compelling live interactive experiences.

If you donate or volunteer, or both, thank you very much. If you're considering becoming more involved, please explore our mission, goals, and track record. Long-time supporters and new friends alike will be invaluable in helping us meet the challenges ahead for the next 100 years of bird conservation.



*by the* Numbers

BANK SWALLOW | Since 2010, Bird Studies Canada has monitored one of the largest concentrations of breeding Bank Swallows in the world to identify important sites and inform recovery efforts.

Founded in 1960

40,000

Citizen Science volunteers contributed 650,000+ hours in 2015. Estimated monetary value of 2015 Citizen Science contributions: \$13 million

Budget  
\$5 million  
for research & conservation

7500+  
members



60,000+

newsletter subscribers receiving regular bird conservation updates

75  
staff

7  
regional offices.  
Programs active in all  
13 Canadian provinces  
& territories

2300 participants in our 2015 school programs

6500

participants in our 2015 youth & education programs

27,000

people reached through all 2015 outreach events & education programs



Bird Studies Canada staff contribute to roughly **35 peer-reviewed scientific publications a year**. Since 1995, 200+ BSC-authored journal articles have been published, and cited over 2500 times.

**Assessments of over 35 species at risk in Canada** have been informed by our Citizen Science data and staff expertise, leading to Recovery Strategies and conservation actions, including over \$3 million in funding.

Bird Studies Canada's National Data Centre (Canada's largest bird information warehouse) contains **more than 40 million bird records**, and is the primary source for reporting on the state of all birds in Canada and recommending priorities for action. Since 2005, we have fulfilled more than 8000 data requests from researchers, government agencies, policymakers, and conservation organizations.

*tracking*  
Priority Species





Photo: Ana María Gonzalez

Within five years, Bird Studies Canada aims to track 50 migratory bird species of conservation concern throughout their life cycles, to inform targeted improvements to hemisphere-wide conservation. An essential tool to help achieve this goal is the Motus Wildlife Tracking System, one of the world's most ambitious bird tracking initiatives.

In 2016, we were awarded a prestigious two-year grant of \$560,000 from CANARIE, the leading investor in Canadian digital innovation. This critical funding, which recognizes our outstanding scientific credentials and potential, supports development of the Motus research software platform, and will enable the Motus network to span the Western Hemisphere – and beyond!

The state-of-the-art Motus platform will not only support research and conservation needs, but will also allow the general public to explore the vast Motus database, and view tagged animals' movements.

In 2016, 365 receiving stations in six countries tracked 72 species, including some bats and insects. We're gaining amazing new insights into bird movements, and priority areas and habitats. The system has detected incredible journeys, including 1400 km overnight Red Knot flights from James Bay to the Atlantic coast.

*The Motus Wildlife Tracking System is a program of Bird Studies Canada, in partnership with Acadia University and collaborating researchers and organizations. This project has been undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada.*

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In 2016, 365 receiving stations in six countries tracked 72 species

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IBA CARETAKERS, PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY, ON | Photo: Mike Burrell

## *conserving* Key Sites

Canada's Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas ("IBA") Program is a science-based initiative to identify, monitor, and conserve a network of sites that provide essential habitat for Canada's bird populations. There are nearly 600 IBAs in Canada. IBA designations are often based on long-term Bird Studies Canada Citizen Science monitoring of globally significant bird populations.

A strong and active network of IBA Caretakers helps us safeguard the health of Canada's cherished birds and the special places they call home. These hands-on volunteers monitor birds and ecosystems, perform stewardship activities, and lead outreach efforts in their communities.

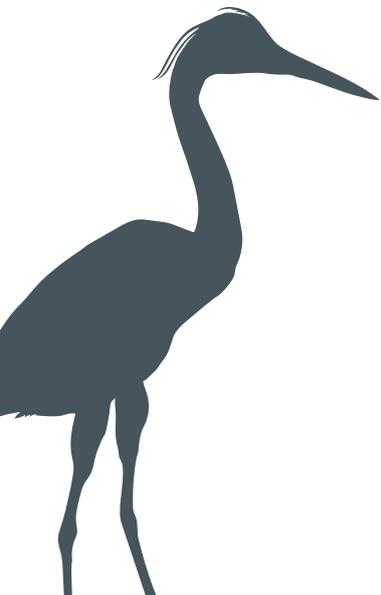
IBA Caretakers working at local sites are making a difference globally! At more than 300 of Canada's IBAs, individual IBA Caretakers and Caretaker groups are improving habitat management, monitoring bird population status and threats, and empowering communities to get involved in stewardship action and science-based advocacy.



WESTERN SANDPIPERS | Photo: Catherine Jardine

This year, Bird Studies Canada launched a major initiative in partnership with NatureServe Canada to quantify and characterize the contribution of IBAs to the conservation of broader biodiversity. Stay tuned for results!

*The IBA Program is an international conservation initiative coordinated by BirdLife International. Bird Studies Canada and Nature Canada are the Canadian IBA Program co-partners. The program is supported by regional partners across the country, and hundreds of volunteers nationwide.*





*research for*  
**Conservation**



Photo: Rob Butler

Using data from our targeted research initiatives and Citizen Science programs, and in collaboration with conservation partners, our scientists monitor bird population trends, investigate declines, and recommend actions to reduce the major threats to Canada's birds.

Breeding bird atlas projects are an important part of Bird Studies Canada's work, touching all levels of the organization and all of our major goals. The tracking of changes in species' breeding ranges over time provides focus for conservation efforts. Through state-of-the-art mapping of results, we identify hotspots for given species, and provide tools for better conserving species and key sites. Atlas fieldwork also helps us engage communities and nurture champions for bird conservation.



NORTHERN PARULA | Photo: Dan Busby

Bird Studies Canada plays a key role in coordinating atlas projects across the country, and in managing data and mapping trends. Thanks to 750,000 hours of effort by 9000 Citizen Scientists in eight provinces, more than 50% of Canada's 1 billion hectares were covered by breeding bird atlas efforts in 2016. These projects generated 8000 freely available maps from 5 million data points for 700 species. The results are used daily for conservation.

In 2015-16 we published new breeding bird atlases for British Columbia and the Maritimes, made important advances toward publication of atlas results for Manitoba and Québec, and prepared for the 2017 launch of fieldwork for a new Saskatchewan atlas.

*engaging*  
**Champions**





Photo: H. Tammemagi

Through Citizen Science, educational, and outreach activities, we cultivate champions for Canada's birds. From volunteer opportunities to public events, workshops, and school programs – join Bird Studies Canada for unique and exciting experiences that foster awareness, appreciation, and stewardship of birds and nature.

Over 40,000 volunteers share their energy, skill, and bird observations with our surveys and monitoring programs. From entry-level beginner- and family-friendly programs such as Project FeederWatch to activities suited to more advanced birders – there's something for everyone! These generous Canadians provide a tremendous service by making their bird observations count for science, and volunteering their

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## Over 40,000 volunteers share their energy, skill, and bird observations with our surveys and monitoring programs

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time to help track the health of bird populations. Each year, our growing team of "Citizen Scientists" contributes more than 650,000 hours of volunteer effort and over 6 million new pieces of information on wild birds across Canada.

Our Bird Science and Environmental Education Program provides high-quality curriculum-based field trip programs to more than 2000 students annually. We reach thousands more across Canada through youth-focused programs such as the Schoolyard Bird Blitz and the Christmas Bird Count for Kids. Interactive distance learning programs connect our biologists with young people throughout the country and beyond our borders.

Introducing urban residents to our Citizen Science and education offerings helps us recruit new communities and further strengthen our supporter base. Urban bird programs in Toronto (Summer Bird Count, Nighthawk Watch) and Vancouver (Window Collision Surveys, Bird Week) create valuable connections between city dwellers and the abundant birdlife in their neighbourhoods.



*legacy and memorial*  
**Gifts**

## Legacy Donations

Many of our cherished friends have decided to leave gifts in their wills to Bird Studies Canada. We are immeasurably grateful to everyone who has made, or arranged to make, a gift to safeguard our birds and environment for future generations. Legacy gifts to BSC support bird research, conservation, and education programs in perpetuity.

In 2015-16, Bird Studies Canada received legacy gifts from the estates of Evelyn Ashford (Atikokan, ON), Audrey Sillick (Don Mills, ON), and Joan Beckley (Toronto, ON).

## Memorial Donations

In 2015-16, Bird Studies Canada received memorial donations honouring the following individuals.

David Ambridge (Cambridge, ON)  
 Dr. C. Davison Ankney (Port Rowan, ON)  
 Maris Apse (Grand Bend, ON)  
 Daphne Barrenger (Ottawa, ON)  
 Anthony Boerkamp, Sr. (Waterford, ON)  
 Juliette Booth (Simcoe, ON)  
 Dr. Jane M. Bowles (Thorndale, ON)  
 Jennifer Carroll (Toronto, ON)  
 Henrik Deichmann (Summerville, NB)  
 Dr. Robert W. Farley (Brantford, ON)  
 Hamish Fraser  
 Dr. Gisela Hurov (Victoria, BC)  
 Dr. David Hussell (Simcoe, ON)  
 Harold Leach (London, ON)

Cathy Maciaczyk (Waterloo, ON)  
 Jim Matthews (St. Thomas, ON)  
 Beverly McLeod (Simcoe, ON)  
 John Meeson (Tillsonburg, ON)  
 Ruth Miller (Sackville, NB)  
 Dorothy Reber (Creston, BC)  
 Robert Sargent (Alabama, U.S.)  
 Irene Schmidt (Cambridge, ON)  
 JoAnne Smith (Walsingham, ON)  
 Elsie Wilson (Port Dover, ON)  
 Stephen and Lois Wingfield (Simcoe, ON)  
 Jim Woodford (Coldwater, ON)

# Individual Donors

Our bird science and conservation work is made possible by the generous ongoing support of countless members and donors. **Thank you!**

## \$1000+

Roy Allen  
 Wally Anderson  
 Dr. Christian A. Artuso  
 Dr. Henry J. Barnett  
 William Barnett  
 Paul and Pat Bigelow  
 Michael and Lynne Bradstreet  
 Dr. Maureen Briscoe  
 Dr. Carl Bromwich  
 Robert Burgess  
 Peter Carson and  
 Mary Gartshore  
 John and Margaret Catto  
 Bonnie Chartier  
 Adrian J. Coote  
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 Virginia L. Davies  
 Dr. Rolph A. Davis  
 Michael and Honor de Pencier  
 Dr. Tony and Dorothy Diamond  
 Aida Diodos  
 Bill Doekes  
 Dr. Erica H. Dunn

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 Thor E. Eaton, Sr.  
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 Margaret Elliott  
 Dr. Robert W. Elner  
 Dr. George and Pat Finney  
 Jack Gibbons  
 Cam Gillies  
 Christopher Goodwin  
 Clive and Joy Goodwin  
 Dr. Philip Gosling  
 Robert and Hendrika Hamilton  
 Verna J. Higgins  
 Dr. Donna Holton  
 Harvey Hunt  
 James Hutchison  
 Suzanne Ivey Cook  
 Richard Jebbink  
 H. Fisk Johnson  
 Richard Jones  
 Kevin and Margo Lee  
 Dr. William P. Lynch  
 Jocelyn MacDonald  
 Timothy E. MacDonald  
 Anne D. Marchand

Michael Dale Marquart II  
 Jean-Pierre Martel  
 Christopher Martin  
 Dr. Peter and  
 Margaret McLaren  
 Paul Mendelson  
 Fred and Jean Mooi  
 Philip J. Olsson  
 Stephen Partington  
 Richard Peckham and  
 Maureen Nowlan  
 Dr. Scott A. Petrie  
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 Ellen Reid  
 Rudy Reiter  
 Don W. Robart  
 Bruce Rodger  
 Demi M. Rogers  
 Gay M. Rogers  
 Susan and Keith Rogers  
 David P. Ross  
 Betty Runnings  
 George Secor  
 Kevin and Linda Shackleton  
 Robert A. Sharp

Ted Sharp  
 Brandy Shaw  
 Margaret Skeel and  
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 David P. Smith  
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 The Honourable Chief Justice  
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 Ray Woods  
 Tod Wright

**\$500 - \$999**

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 Arthur Watson  
 Peter Webb  
 Y.L. Renita Wong  
 Brian Zawadski

**We also thank the 8500+ donors who gave less than \$500.**

# Government, Foundation & Corporate Sponsors and Partners

\$50,000+

## Government of Canada

- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
  - Canadian Wildlife Service
  - Wildlife Conservation Branch
- Natural Resources Canada
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada
- Parks Canada

Canadian T-GEAR Charitable Trust

Norfolk Land Stewardship Council

Ontario Trillium Foundation

## Province of New Brunswick

- Department of Natural Resources
- Wildlife Trust Fund

## Province of Ontario

- Conservation Ontario
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Ontario Parks

S.C. Johnson & Son, Limited

Saskatchewan Water Security Agency

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

Tides Canada Foundation - A&R Metal Fund

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

The W. Garfield Weston Foundation

Wildlife Habitat Canada

**BETWEEN \$10,000 AND \$49,999**

Acadia University  
 Armstrong Milling Co. Ltd.  
 Crabtree Foundation  
 Home Hardware Stores Ltd.  
 LGL Limited  
 Manitoba Hydro  
 Kenneth M. Molson Foundation  
 Nature Conservancy of Canada  
 Province of British Columbia
 

- Ministry of the Environment

 Province of Nova Scotia
 

- Economic Development and Tourism
- Habitat Conservation Fund

 The Schad Foundation  
 Toronto Park People  
 Waterfowl Research Foundation, Inc.  
 Western University

**BETWEEN \$1000 AND \$9999**

BirdLife International  
 Canadian Waterfowl Supplies  
 Canadian Wildlife Federation  
 Canadian Wind Energy Association  
 Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation  
 The Creemore Coffee Company  
 Coast Forest Products Association  
 Ducks Unlimited Canada  
 Eagle Optics.ca (Grant & Wyatt Enterprises Inc.)  
 Eagle-Eye Tours Inc.  
 Hamilton Community Foundation  
 Holcim Canada  
 Husky Group of Companies  
 Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation  
 Lotek Wireless  
 Lugb Pheasants Forever  
 Muskegon Conservation District

Nexen Energy ULC, Employee Matching Gift  
 The Norfolk Community Foundation  
 Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters  
 Ontario Power Generation Inc.  
 Pamela and Zygmunt Kafarowski Foundation at Aqueduct Foundation  
 Province of Prince Edward Island
 

- Department of Communities, Land and Environment
- Wildlife Conservation Fund

 The RaeLipskie Partnership  
 Sage Holdings Limited  
 Shiplake Management Company Limited  
 Stantec Consulting Ltd.  
 Thunder Bay Field Naturalists  
 Vancouver Parks Board  
 Vortex Canada  
 Wild Birds Unlimited  
 Wildlife Preservation Canada  
 The Winthrop Foundation of Athens, GA

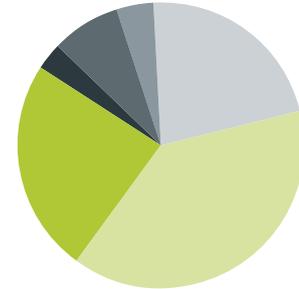
# 2015-16 Financial Report

## CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Year ending March 31

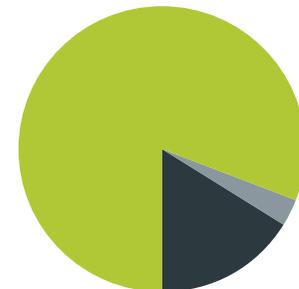
	2016	2015
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets	1,523,820	1,691,914
Investments	4,804,383	4,745,174
Capital assets	1,510,790	1,562,906
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>7,838,993</b>	<b>7,999,994</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	386,675	434,448
Deferred Revenue	555,677	658,015
Fund balances:		
Operating	430,650	384,999
Endowment	4,800,371	4,746,179
Capital	1,548,363	1,667,674
Other	117,257	108,679
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>	<b>7,838,993</b>	<b>7,999,994</b>

## SOURCE OF FUNDS



- 24% Individuals
- 3% International
- 8% Investment Income
- 4% Corporate
- 22% Foundations/Non-Profit
- 39% Government

## USE OF FUNDS



- 81% Research & Conservation
- 3% Amortization of Capital Assets
- 16% Management, Administration & Fundraising



## CONDENSED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND FUND BALANCES

Year ending March 31




	2016	2015
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Fees	238,246	234,356
Donations	511,493	419,869
Research and Conservation grants	4,070,307	4,186,101
Fundraising	361,837	318,740
Investment income	181,542	164,394
Gain (Loss) on sale of investments	221,469	(58,849)
Other	50,954	85,285
	5,635,848	5,349,896
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Management and Administration		
Administration	325,750	386,069
Fundraising and membership development	211,752	192,522
Membership services	260,387	239,521
Amortization of capital assets	167,254	154,537
Research and Conservation		
International Collaborations	324,819	316,360
National Programs	851,696	785,254
Regional programs	3,010,524	3,258,599
Grants	18,925	21,300
Other	1,002	1,002
	5,172,109	5,355,164
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	463,739	(5,268)
Change in unrealized gain on investments	(474,629)	272,761
Fund Balances, beginning	6,907,531	6,640,038
Fund Balances, ending	6,896,641	6,907,531

# 2015-16 Board of Directors

## EXECUTIVE

Karen Brown, ON	Chair
Brian Finnigan, ON	Vice Chair
David Love, ON	Past Chair
Karen McDonald, ON	Treasurer
Anne Murray, BC	Secretary



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## DIRECTORS

Dr. Kathleen Blanchard, NL	Diane Salter, ON
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Evan Engell, ON*	Alan Smith, SK**
Dr. Susan Hannon, BC	Dr. Rodger Titman, QC**
Jean-Pierre Martel, ON	Dr. Steve Wendt, ON
Dr. Art Martell, BC	

\*Until September 2015

\*\*From September 2015





BIRD STUDIES  
ÉTUDES D'OISEAUX CANADA

## OUR MISSION

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



### BIRD STUDIES CANADA

P.O. Box 160, 115 Front Street, Port Rowan, ON N0E 1M0  
Tel. 1-888-448-2473

[birdscanada.org](http://birdscanada.org)

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Canadian co-partner of



Bird Studies Canada's charitable registration number is 11902-4313-RR0001