



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

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

BIRD STUDIES CANADA 

2018
ANNUAL
REPORT



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



STEVEN PRICE
President, Bird Studies Canada

A message from our president. Responsibility is an important concept. As Canada's only national, science-based conservation organization for birds, Bird Studies Canada holds a tremendous responsibility to focus on the most important opportunities for conservation. This report dips into a deep well of conservation progress and success for birds.

The endangered Piping Plover presents a great example. (Think of it as a smaller and paler version of the more common Killdeer.) Once more abundant along shorelines from the Prairies to Atlantic Canada, the few remaining Piping Plovers nest on beaches that are increasingly busy with human visitors and off-leash pets.

But thoughtful bird lovers – usually volunteers motivated solely by goodwill – are helping to save the Piping Plover. They politely encourage beach strollers to leash their pets and walk on the wet sand, away from the higher, drier nesting areas. They also put up signs and fencing to draw attention to the birds' presence, and wire cages to protect eggs and young from predation. And they monitor the birds throughout the nesting season. As a result, plovers are retaining their toehold on life and pushing back against extinction.

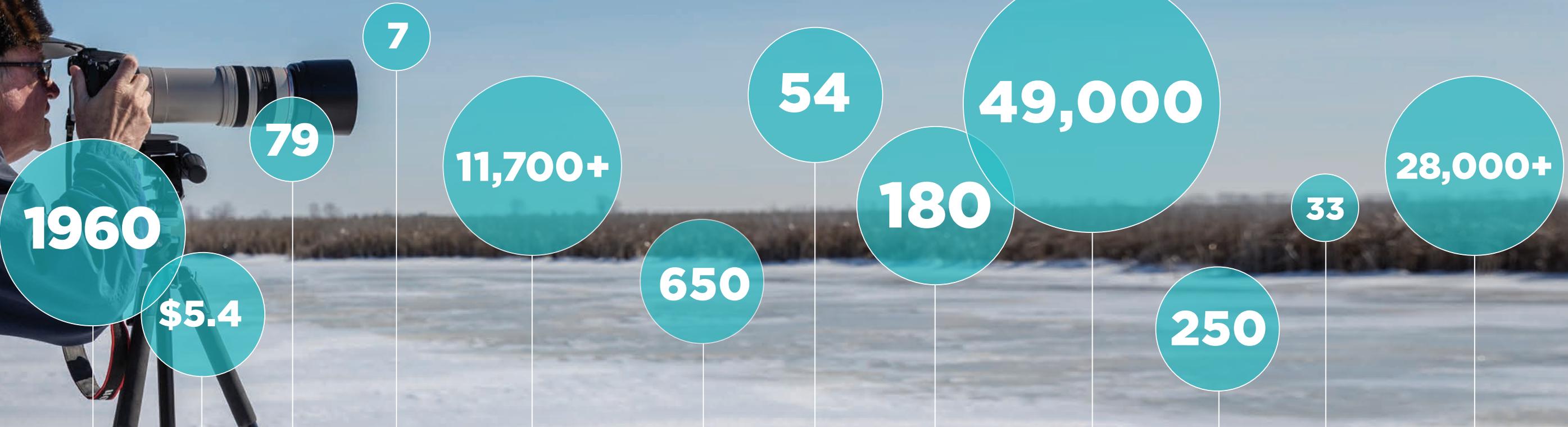
These dedicated people are among our 49,000 volunteers looking out for birds across Canada. This force of champions provides valuable stewardship for birds and their habitats. It also freely gathers bird sightings to track the health of bird populations that no one agency – government, private, or academic – could ever hope to gather alone.

Our deepest thanks to partners, funders, and volunteers for helping us better understand, appreciate, and conserve Canada's birds.

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Piping Plovers
Photo: Missy Mandel





Bird Studies Canada
By the Numbers

Great Backyard Bird Count Participant in Leamington, Ontario.
Photo: Paula Brown



Innovating

Conservation Solutions

New and effective strategies are needed to counter evolving threats to bird populations. Bird Studies Canada is fine tuning conservation action to maximize positive change for birds. We're growing our connections with partners and communities and drawing on data from our targeted research projects.

Shorebirds are a group warranting particular conservation concern. This year, Bird Studies Canada began working with partners to aid the recovery of Piping Plovers in Ontario. Echoing our work with plovers in other parts of the country, we led volunteers in monitoring and protecting these endangered birds at their shorefront nesting sites.

2018 also marked the third year for the Space to Roost project in Nova Scotia's Minas Basin. Working closely with partners and recreational beach users, we developed new tools for reducing disturbance to shorebirds resting during their long-distance migrations. Signs and handouts asking beach users to avoid the resting areas at certain times of day successfully reduced disturbance and increased awareness of the importance of the area to shorebirds.

Protecting wetland habitat is another priority. Bird Studies Canada's Long Point Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Program is an international leader in applied science for conservation planning. Thanks to generous long-term support from SC Johnson, the program has now completed over 130 research projects and trained over 40 young professional wildlife biologists. Our achievements include the first-ever mapping of areas throughout southern Ontario and along the entire Great Lakes shoreline where wetland bird conservation is most urgently needed. This resource will be put into immediate action by conservation partners.

Left photo: Minas Basin, Nova Scotia.
Photo: Jerry Lockett

Right photo: Semipalmated Sandpiper
Photo: Jerry Lockett



“BIRD STUDIES CANADA IS FINE TUNING CONSERVATION ACTION TO MAXIMIZE POSITIVE CHANGE FOR BIRDS”

Pied-billed Grebe
Photo: Tim Arthur



Pei lay sheesh kow Important Bird and Biodiversity Area.
Photo: Mike Burrell



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.

Habitats in half of Canada's IBAs are now being monitored and stewarded by 6000 Citizen Scientists, representing significant progress towards our goals for strengthening protection of these important places for birds. Promoting Bird Studies Canada's Citizen Science programming within IBAs is helping us maintain or exceed our targets, with eBird Canada playing an increasingly important role.

We're pleased to report that two new IBAs were recently established in Ontario. The Frontenac Forests IBA encompasses critical habitat for approximately 50% of the Cerulean Warbler's population in Canada, and the Pei lay sheesh kow IBA is an extensive area in southwestern James Bay that is extremely important for populations of shorebirds and waterfowl.

A new grants program we designed and implemented - in collaboration with Nature Canada and with funding from the Gosling Foundation -

has so far supported 12 conservation projects at IBAs. This includes work to protect seabird colonies from invasive species in Laskeek Bay IBA (BC) and to preserve Common Eiders breeding in Île aux Basques et les Razades IBA (QC).

Strong collaborations are key to conservation success. Thanks to a significant grant from a major donor, we're joining with partners to identify, and support protection of, valuable bird habitat within the boreal forest. Bird Studies Canada is thrilled to be contributing our decades of scientific data on the boreal forest and engaging our community of bird lovers for this effort. Together, we will guide and promote conservation decisions that will benefit this precious breeding bird "nursery."

Left photo: Blackpoll Warbler
Photo: Christian Artuso

Right photo: Blackpoll Warbler nest
Photo: Christian Artuso



Engaging

Champions for Birds

Dedicated volunteers are filling in the big picture on the health of bird populations. In 2017, more than 49,000 Citizen Scientists volunteered over 872,000 hours to help birds through Bird Studies Canada's programs. We also published the first installment of Manitoba's Breeding Bird Atlas, thanks to a massive Citizen Science effort.

We are encouraging this flock of bird champions to grow by sparking enthusiasm for birds and conservation in Canada's biggest urban centres. This year, thousands of people took part in the second Toronto Bird Celebration coordinated by Bird Studies Canada. We also joined partners in bringing the first-ever Vancouver International Bird Festival to life.

An expanding network of students and educators is exploring the world of birds through our education programs. The Christmas Bird Count for Kids and Schoolyard Bird Blitz are becoming traditions from coast to coast! Now, a new program featuring the Motus Wildlife Tracking System is bringing migration research into the

classroom. To date, four schools in Canada host Motus receiver stations, allowing students to track birds through real-world science.

Bird Studies Canada and Long Point Bird Observatory are also empowering the next generation of researchers and conservationists through the Young Ornithologists' Workshop. Since 1975, more than 150 teenagers have benefitted from this unique training opportunity. Many have gone on to post-secondary studies in biology, with several earning advanced graduate degrees. Alumni are pursuing careers in research, conservation, environmental consulting, and more.

Left photo: Great Backyard Bird Count in Port Moody, British Columbia.
Photo: John Saremba

Right photo: Motus in the classroom.
Photo: Liza Barney



“ WE ARE ENCOURAGING THIS FLOCK OF BIRD CHAMPIONS TO GROW ”

Young Ornithologists' Workshop
Photo: Liza Barney



“Bird Studies Canada holds a tremendous responsibility to focus on the most important opportunities for conservation”

STEVEN PRICE
President, Bird Studies Canada

Researchers in Bahía Lomas, Chile.
Photo: Antonio Larrea

Tracking

Priority Species

We have surpassed our goal of tracking 50 species of conservation concern by 2020! Fifty-four of these species are already being tracked, and at least 12 are being traced over their entire life cycles. Most of this work is being done with the Motus Wildlife Tracking System, but some studies are using other tracking methods, including satellite tags and geolocators. This research will inform targeted improvements to conservation in Canada and abroad.

For example, research using Motus is revealing a detailed picture of the 30,000-km migratory route that an endangered subspecies of Red Knot travels each year – from the Arctic to Chile and back again. Researchers are discovering how these shorebirds are using sites across the hemisphere, and the importance of specific sites, such as Delaware Bay in the U.S. and Bahía Lomas in Chile, for sustaining Red Knot populations.

The Motus Wildlife Tracking System is continuing to grow. Projects are being initiated in Europe and Australia for the first time, adding to new and ongoing projects across the Western Hemisphere. A second opportunity to work with CANARIE will begin enabling Motus to combine and manage information gathered using multiple tracking technologies. This strategic investment is

positioning Bird Studies Canada as a major centre for wildlife tracking research into the future.

Motus is a program of Bird Studies Canada, in partnership with Acadia University and collaborating researchers and organizations, undertaken with the financial support of Lotek Wireless Inc. and the federal governments of Canada and the U.S.

Kirtland's Warbler
Photo: Ron Ridout





Wood Duck
Photo: Catherine Jardine

2017 - 2018

Legacy & Memorial Gifts

LEGACY DONATIONS

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

Bird Studies Canada gratefully acknowledges legacy gifts in 2017-18 from the estates of:

Evelyn Ashford (Atikokan, ON)

Stefan Golebiowski (Vineland, ON)

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In 2017-18, Bird Studies Canada received memorial donations honouring the following individuals.

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1 April 2017 - 31 March 2018

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

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1 April 2017 - 31 March 2018

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- Employment & Social Development Canada
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Natural Resources Canada
- Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council of Canada
- Parks Canada

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Virginia Tech

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Wild Birds Unlimited

York Region District School Board

York University

2017 - 2018

Financial Report

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Year ending March 31

	2018	2017
ASSETS		
Current Assets	1,621,891	1,579,501
Investments	5,077,664	5,068,910
Capital Assets	1,136,265	1,240,488
Total Assets	7,835,820	7,888,899
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	392,777	336,005
Deferred Revenue	551,035	646,884
Fund Balances:		
Operating	561,812	438,038
Endowment	5,038,183	5,064,987
Capital	1,172,463	1,277,271
Other	119,550	125,714
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	7,835,820	7,888,899

Barred Owl
Photo: Shirley Donald

Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco
Photo: Pierre Cenerelli

SOURCE OF FUNDS



- 11% Earned Income
- 38% Government
- 4% Corporate
- 28% Foundations/Non-Profit
- 19% Individuals

USE OF FUNDS



- 78% Research & Conservation
- 2% Amortization of Capital Assets
- 20% Program Management, Administration & Fundraising

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND FUND BALANCES

Year ending March 31

	2018	2017
REVENUE		
Fees	246,975	251,765
Donations	378,644	353,929
Research and Conservation Grants	3,798,555	3,571,874
Fundraising	382,190	361,217
Investment Income	167,186	170,906
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Investments	389,965	162,379
Other	40,510	8,351
	5,404,025	4,880,421
EXPENSES		
Management and Administration		
Administration	431,154	388,187
Fundraising and Membership Development	272,026	226,461
Membership Services	324,402	282,517
Amortization of Capital Assets	118,465	145,002
Research and Conservation		
International Collaborations	387,819	305,187
National Programs	1,039,197	1,083,160
Regional Programs	2,449,112	2,444,999
Grants	23,305	14,146
Other	1,000	160,204
	5,046,480	5,049,863
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	357,545	(169,442)
Change in unrealized gain on investments	(371,547)	178,811
Fund Balances, beginning	6,906,010	6,896,641
Fund Balances, ending	6,892,008	6,906,010

Our audited financial statements are available online at: [http://www.birdscanada.org/download/2017-18 audit.pdf](http://www.birdscanada.org/download/2017-18%20audit.pdf)

“OUR DEEPEST THANKS TO PARTNERS, FUNDERS, AND VOLUNTEERS FOR HELPING US BETTER UNDERSTAND, APPRECIATE, AND CONSERVE CANADA’S BIRDS.”

STEVEN PRICE
President, Bird Studies Canada

2017 - 2018

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Sora
 Photo: Tim Arthur

