

## **BACKGROUND: BIRD STUDIES CANADA**

Bird Studies Canada is recognized nation-wide as a leading and respected, not-for-profit, conservation organization dedicated to the study and understanding of wild birds and their habitats. Each year, nearly 20,000 volunteers from across Canada actively participate in BSC research and education activities.

BSC's scientists have been tremendously successful in their efforts to develop a suite of conservation and monitoring programs that involve volunteers and generate good science for conservation action. Our researchers have been focused on developing scientifically valid programs, recruiting participants, and generating scientific papers and reports. Participation in the organization is at a record level!

BSC currently coordinates a variety of volunteer-based conservation and monitoring projects with individuals being engaged in activities ranging from community-based Christmas Bird Counts to surveys of the vast Great Lakes marshes. Success in developing these networks of committed volunteers depends crucially upon providing feedback that allows the volunteers to see how their individual contributions of field data combine with others to reveal a much larger picture of trends at a provincial, national, or continental scale.

BSC has made tremendous technological advances with Internet and database technology. Volunteers can now enter their observations into the web site and then explore how the data collected from their backyard relates to their community, to their municipality, to their province and to the rest of the country. A series of analysis and summary programs have been developed to aid in their exploration and a wide variety of analyses can be presented efficiently and inexpensively.

Visit BSC's web site, [www.bsc-eoc.org](http://www.bsc-eoc.org), for more information on Canadian Birds at Risk, Canadian Lakes Loon Survey, Canadian Migration Monitoring Network, Christmas Bird Counts, Important Bird Areas, and Project FeederWatch. Regional program information is also available through the site.

BSC's headquarters and National Research Centre is located in Port Rowan, Ontario.

September 2002