



November 20, 2009

Dear members and friends,

Another beautiful Canadian summer has passed too quickly. Have you been watching the waves of fall migrants winging their way south?

As the cool winds of autumn usher in grey, rainy weather here, the joys of the season are bittersweet. Happily, winter brings with it the pleasure of Project FeederWatch season, and the excitement of the Christmas Bird Count.

Some of our energies are already focused on next spring! For example, there are plans and proposals to be developed for our 2010 fieldwork, and preparations to be made for our upcoming celebrations in May...

It has now been a decade since the members of Long Point Bird Observatory voted overwhelmingly in favour of founding Bird Studies Canada (BSC). We have made remarkable strides in that time. In 1998, BSC had 18 full-time employees who were based at an office within the St. Williams Forest Station, not far from Port Rowan. Today BSC has 45 employees on monthly payroll, and offices in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Québec, and Atlantic Canada. The reach of BSC's programs and partnerships has grown tremendously.

Collaboration with partners on breeding bird atlas projects has been a critical part of our work over the last decade. BSC played a major role in the recently-published Ontario atlas, and we continue to do so in the Maritimes and British Columbia (where in 2009 we completed our fourth and second field seasons, respectively). We are also participating in new atlas projects in Manitoba and Québec, both of which will launch in 2010. Results from all of these atlases will be vital to conservation decision-making for years to come.

Meanwhile, we have continued to build on BSC's outstanding suite of regional programs. In 1998, a three-year pilot phase was completed for the Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Program, and pilot surveys of nocturnal owls were conducted in central and northern Ontario. Today the MMP has expanded into Québec and the Prairies. Nocturnal owl surveys are conducted annually in most regions of Canada, with those in British Columbia, Ontario, Québec, and the Maritimes administered by BSC coordinators.

And we have implemented a host of additional programs, including the Nova Scotia Piping Plover Conservation Program; the Atlantic Canada High Elevation Landbird Program; Beached Bird Surveys in Atlantic Canada, Québec, and BC; the Golden-winged Warbler Survey in Manitoba and Saskatchewan; and the BC Coastal Waterbird Survey. All of these excellent programs contribute in crucial ways to our knowledge about the state of North American birds.

The Canadian Migration Monitoring Network – which in 1998 held its first formal meeting and consisted of six full member stations – is now a cooperative venture involving about 25 stations, Bird Studies Canada, and the Canadian Wildlife Service. A technical report analyzing the first 10 years of CMMN data was published in late 2008, providing the network’s first account of bird population changes for many migratory species.

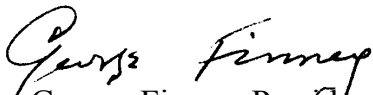
Let’s not forget that the formation of the CMMN, and the founding of Bird Studies Canada, would not have happened without the decades of internationally significant work that preceded us at Long Point Bird Observatory. Fifty years on, LPBO’s research, monitoring, and educational activities are thriving. LPBO is an indispensable part of our past, our present, and our future. We’re celebrating the proud history of BSC and LPBO with a gathering in the Long Point area on the weekend of May 14-16, 2010; you can find the details at www.birdscanada.org/longpoint. It would be wonderful to see you here!

All of BSC’s accomplishments in its first decade (and LPBO’s successes over its first 50 years!) were made possible by the support of dedicated members and friends like you.

We need your help. Please renew your commitment to Bird Studies Canada by supporting our work with a one-time donation of whatever you can afford. Click here to donate online, or call Rosie Kirton at 1-888-448-2473, ext. 141.

Your contribution will go directly to our science and conservation programs. We strive to make each dollar count by keeping our administrative costs below 20% of all expenditures.

Thank you for sustaining essential research on bird populations across Canada. We’ve come a long way, and we could not have done so without your help. But there is still a great deal of important work to be done! With your support, we will continue to build upon our successes to make a real difference for Canada’s birds.



Dr. George Finney, President
Bird Studies Canada
www.birdscanada.org

