



BIRD STUDIES
ÉTUDES D'OISEAUX **CANADA**

Latest News



understand appreciate conserve

Canadian co-partner of
un partenaire canadien de



BSC's Online Store Special!

Warblers of the Great Lakes Region & Eastern North America by Chris G. Earley

Hardcover - \$20 (while supplies last)

Check it out at

www.bsc-eoc.org/shopping/shop.jsp

3 November 2006

[Download a Printable PDF Version](#)

INTERNATIONAL

Bauxite Mining Threatens Unique Jamaican Habitat



Black-billed Amazon Photo: B. Coleman
BirdLife International



Bauxite mine Photo: Susan Koenig
Cockpit Country Stakeholders

23 October 2006, BirdLife International – Jamaica's Cockpit Country, around 450 square kilometres of uninhabited moist tropical limestone forest, and home to 27 of Jamaica's 28 endemic bird species, is at risk from bauxite mining. "Unfortunately for the birds, landscape, and many communities, Jamaica is pushing hard to extract every bit of bauxite from her soils to export for aluminium production, and we recently learned that this threat is close to reality for Cockpit Country," said Susan Koenig of the Cockpit Country Stakeholders Group, a coalition of concerned environmentalists, tourism industry representatives, and schools.

Jamaica is recognized internationally for its high levels of endemism and is part of the Caribbean Biodiversity Hotspot. Jamaica's other endemics include 828 flowering plants, 505 land snails, 21 amphibians, 34 reptiles, 5 bats, and 20 butterflies. It is likely that the sole viable population of the endemic, globally endangered Jamaican Giant Swallowtail is confined to Cockpit Country. Up to 95 percent of the world's Black-billed Amazon *Amazona agilis* – one of two threatened endemic Jamaican parrots – live in Cockpit Country, which is also home to the endangered Jamaican Blackbird *Nesopsar nigerrimus*.

"The ecological damage wrought by the industry is astounding for a medium-sized island of 11,000 square kilometres. If you were to overlay a map of our bauxite reserves on a map of other major producers, such as Australia, Brazil, and China, they cover a few pixel points but for Jamaica, it's approximately 25 percent of the island," said Koenig. The Cockpit Country Stakeholders also point out that even discounting the value of ecosystem services, damaging one of the world's most important and spectacular landscapes for bauxite makes no long-term economic sense. Tourism now generates 45 percent of Jamaica's foreign earnings, and directly or indirectly, provides jobs for around a quarter of the working population. Mining employs far fewer people and is not sustainable.

[Return to Top of Page](#)

This Week's Highlights

International News

[Bauxite Mining Threatens Unique Jamaican Habitat](#)

National News

[BSC Launches eBird Canada](#)

[Recent Funding Helps Bicknell's Thrush](#)

[Online Data Entry a Multiple Hit for the BC Coastal Waterbird Survey](#)

[Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario, 2001-2005 – Special Early-bird Offer](#)

Regional News

[Bayou Club Fundraiser for Waterfowl Research](#)

Archives

[Bird Studies Canada Main Page](#)

BSC Launches eBird Canada

3 November 2006 – Bird Studies Canada has launched eBird Canada at the web site ebird.ca. This is a Canadian version of the popular Cornell Lab of Ornithology program begun in 2002 and upgraded in 2005. The eBird site is a free on-line bird sightings database where bird sightings may be entered through custom checklists, and viewed along with other eBirders' entries through maps, graphs, and tables. The geographical extent of the database now covers Canada, the United States, Mexico, and parts of the Caribbean. Future plans include all of Latin America.

More than 6 million records are submitted annually to eBird with the Canadian portion alone accounting for over 400,000 records, and this number is climbing rapidly since a bulk upload tool was developed. The tool allows anyone to upload records from bird sightings databases in almost any format, including AviSys, BirdBase, Excel, and Access. The eBird database also includes records from club projects such as the Northwest Territories and Nunavut Checklist Project, the Squamish Estuary Conservation Society's monthly counts, regular censuses at Maplewood Flats in North Vancouver, and migration monitoring totals at the Vaseux Lake Bird Observatory in the Okanagan Valley. For more information, visit eBird Canada or contact eBird Coordinator Dick Cannings at dickcannings@shaw.ca.

[Return to Top of Page](#)

REGIONAL

Recent Funding Helps Bicknell's Thrush

3 November 2006 – Most Maritimers are unaware that their foggy forests are home to about 15 percent of the global population of one of North America's rarest songbirds – the Bicknell's Thrush. This will soon change, thanks to recent funding from Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program, Shell Environmental Fund, and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation. Bird Studies Canada's Atlantic Region has recently received funding from these sources to produce a public education and outreach brochure on Bicknell's Thrush in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Bicknell's Thrush is designated as a *Species of Special Concern* under Canada's Species at Risk Act and as *Vulnerable* under Nova Scotia's Endangered Species Act, because of its sparse and fragmented population and habitat threats such as climate change, acid rain, development, and forestry operations. Even in its preferred habitat, Bicknell's Thrush is rarely seen though its ethereal flute-like song often serenades the high, stunted spruce woods at dawn or dusk.

The brochure will be developed through BSC Atlantic Region's High Elevation Landbird Program (HELP), which is designed to monitor bird species like Bicknell's Thrush that typically breed at high elevations and remote locations – areas seldom covered by other volunteer bird monitoring programs. The brochure will describe how to identify Bicknell's Thrush by sight and song, where it is found, and how citizens can HELP monitor its population status. BSC will distribute the brochure to local Maritime communities near Bicknell's Thrush breeding areas through schools, parks, tourist information centres, and naturalist groups. It is hoped that tourists and residents of the Maritimes will become more knowledgeable about this secretive and little known species and the importance of remote Maritime forests to its survival.

Online Data Entry a Multiple Hit for the BC Coastal Waterbird Survey

3 November 2006 – Since September, the BC Coastal Waterbird Survey has received a major boost from volunteer surveyors now entering their data online. Data for approximately 40 percent of sites surveyed are now being entered online, compared to less than 10 percent previously, and numbers are increasing by the week. The online data-entry facility provides volunteer surveyors with a means to access and view their data online and print out their survey forms. Online data entry is making a big difference to the overall efficiency of managing the dataset. Each surveyor entering all their data online this winter will receive one of a range of gifts, many of which have been generously donated by Wild Birds Unlimited. For more information, contact Peter Davidson, pdavidson@bsc-eoc.org.

Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario, 2001-2005 – Special Early-bird Offer

3 November 2006 – Now is your chance to order at special low prices the upcoming *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Ontario, 2001-2005*, which is on schedule for its fall 2007 publication date. The Atlas is the result of the efforts of over 2000 volunteers who logged 150,000 hours in the field to complete this monumental survey of the breeding distribution and abundance of birds across Ontario. The Atlas will be an invaluable reference for birders and nature lovers not just in Ontario, but across the country, the United States, and beyond. It will be an essential conservation and wildlife management resource for professionals in numerous fields. Atlas results will show changes in bird

distributions since the first Atlas (1981-1985), highlighting both good and bad news stories for many species. The 700-page book will be beautifully designed, bound in hard cover, with full-colour, state-of-the-art maps and photographs accompanying the more than 300 species accounts, each written by experts in the field.

To order advance copies at special pre-publication prices or to learn more about the project and book [visit the atlas website](#) or call 1-866-900-7100. The advance price (which includes shipping & taxes) for atlas participants is \$67.00 or \$79.00 for general purchase. The deadline for pre-sale orders is 28 February 2007

Bayou Club Fundraiser for Waterfowl Research

3 November 2006 – It is well known that the hunting community is very generous when it comes to supporting wildlife conservation, research, and management. This is particularly evident at Long Point, where some of Canada's most important waterfowl staging habitat is found. In fact, Long Point Inner Bay, and its associated wetlands, is critically important to hundreds of thousands of waterfowl as they migrate between wintering and breeding areas each year.

Because of their appreciation of Long Point's wetlands and the history of waterfowling in this region, Fred Mannix and Bill Turnbull purchased the Bayou Club near Port Rowan three years ago. Fred and Bill have a long history of contributing to wildlife conservation; Fred recently received the Order of Canada, as well as the Bert McKee Conservation Award, and Bill is a former President of Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC). Since purchasing the Bayou Club, Fred and Bill have generously supported several education, conservation, and research initiatives throughout the Long Point area.

On October 18th, Fred and Bill hosted a Gentlemen's Fundraising Dinner in support of the Long Point Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Fund (LPWWRF). Twenty individuals attended the dinner, including five former DUC Presidents and Bird Studies Canada's President, Dr. George Finney. Through auctions and donations, the group raised an impressive \$80,000 in one evening. LPWWRF will use these funds to help support various research programs, including scaup satellite tracking and research pertaining to the use of Mallard henhouses. We would like to thank Fred and Bill, and all the other attendees for their generosity. We would also like to thank Rob and Doreen Bennell, whose efforts made the evening a resounding success.

[Return to Top of Page](#)

This email was sent by BirdStudiesCanada@bsc-eoc.org. If you receive duplicates of this email, or if you do not wish to receive it, please contact us.

Ce courriel a été envoyé depuis l'adresse BirdStudiesCanada@bsc-eoc.org. Si vous recevez plus d'une copie de ce message, ou si vous voulez que l'on retire votre nom de la liste d'envoi, veuillez communiquer avec nous. Nous nous excusons du fait que ce message ne soit pas disponible en français.