



BIRD STUDIES
ÉTUDES D'OISEAUX CANADA

Latest News

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Attend Our Annual Members' Meeting

Saturday, September 6, 2008 at 2 p.m.
BSC Headquarters, Port Rowan, ON

8 August 2008

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INTERNATIONAL

It's Time for the Annual "Swift Night Out"

8 August 2008 – For the eighth year, Driftwood Wildlife Association is inviting people across North America to participate in a continent-wide effort to raise awareness of, and interest in, swifts. As summer draws to a close, and before their fall migration begins, swifts congregate in communal roosts that can range in size from just a few birds up to the hundreds or even thousands of swifts. Interested volunteers are encouraged to watch the skies at dusk and locate the roosts of Chimney Swifts (central to eastern North America) or Vaux's Swifts (Pacific coast) in structures such as chimneys or tall shafts.

Hold your "Swift Night Out" on one night over the weekend of August 8-10 and/or September 12-14 by observing the roost starting about 30 minutes before dusk and estimating the number of swifts that enter. Record the time, date, location, site description, and the number of swifts counted, and email your results to dwa@austin.rr.com. For more information and to view results from previous years, visit the "[Swift Night Out](#)" website.

See the Regional section of this newsletter, below, for news about swift monitoring in the province of Ontario.

21-Year-Old Ontario Bald Eagle Recovered in New York State

31 July 2008 – A banded adult Bald Eagle was recovered in western New York State on June 20, 2008. Amazingly, this bird was one of several Bald Eagle chicks that were brought down from the Lake-of-the-Woods region of northwestern Ontario and 'hacked' during the mid-1980s on Long Point, Lake Erie. Hacking involves the transplanting of young birds that are then tended and released some time after fledging. This chick was relocated to Long Point through an initiative by the Canadian Wildlife Service and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to help re-establish the dwindling Bald Eagle population within the lower Great Lakes.

This individual was banded (band number 629-07526), given a white wing tag, measured, and released when it was old enough to fly on July 31, 1987 – making it 21 years old! The eagle was injured this summer by unknown causes and is currently in the care of veterinarians in New York. To find out more about the ongoing monitoring efforts of Bald Eagles in southern Ontario, please [visit our website](#).

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NATIONAL

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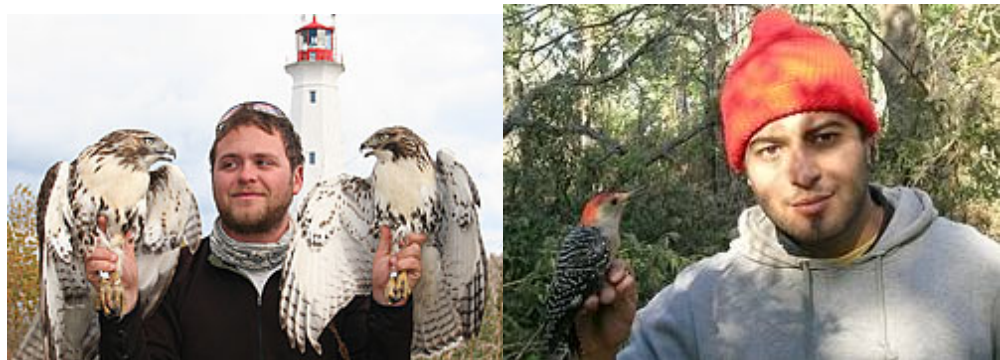
Canada Loses Acclaimed Bird Artist

26 July 2008 – James Fenwick Lansdowne, one of the finest bird painters in the world, has died at age 71 in Victoria, BC. His watercolour paintings, known for their exquisite detail, exceptional lifelike qualities, and artistic design, have delighted bird enthusiasts and inspired artists for decades. His five-volume series of books on Canada's birds was a bestseller. Mr. Lansdowne was a recipient of the Order of Canada and the Order of British Columbia, and a member of the Royal Canadian Academy. He was also Honorary President of Rocky Point Bird Observatory in Victoria, one of the member stations of the [Canadian Migration Monitoring Network - Réseau canadien de surveillance des migrations](#). For more information about Mr. Lansdowne, visit the [CBC website](#).

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REGIONAL

Staffing Changes at BSC's Long Point Bird Observatory



Stu Mackenzie (left) and Yousif Attia (right)

8 August 2008 – Stu Mackenzie (Long Point Bird Observatory's Landbird Program Coordinator for the past several years) has been accepted into a Masters of Science program at University of Western Ontario in September. Lucky for us, Stu won't be traveling far, since he'll be conducting his research on landbird migration at LPBO, under the co-supervision of Dr. Phil Taylor (on sabbatical from Acadia University as BSC's Chief Scientist) and Dr. Chris Guglielmo (University of Western Ontario). Stu will be using radar ornithology and sophisticated telemetry to study how landbirds 'decide' what they do at major stopover sites like Long Point. It's noteworthy that Stu first arrived at Long Point as a teenage participant in LPBO's [Young Ornithologists' Workshop \(YOW\)](#). Many of our teenage YOW grads have gone on to get degrees in biology, and several (like Stu) have pursued advanced degrees in ornithology.

Meanwhile, Yousif Attia (formerly LPBO's Assistant Coordinator) is stepping into Stu's shoes as the new Landbird Program Coordinator. Yousif has a tremendous amount of ornithological field experience under his belt, both at Long Point and elsewhere, and will be a terrific asset to LPBO programs. Backing Yousif, Ross Wood has been hired as the Assistant Coordinator for the fall. Ross has been a long-term Volunteer Field Biologist for the Observatory's migration monitoring program for a number of seasons and has worked on several species at risk projects for BSC in recent years.

BSC Seeks Chimney Swift Monitors in Ontario

6 August 2008 – Chimney Swifts are listed as Threatened in Canada, but more information is needed to determine why they have declined here by almost 50% over the last 20 years. BSC has begun an exciting partnership with the McIlwraith Naturalist Club in London, Ontario to monitor numbers, behaviour, and movements of that city's seasonal Chimney Swift population. A main objective of this project is to develop a standardized monitoring protocol that can be shared with other communities.

We are seeking volunteers in London to observe selected chimneys for about one hour per week, from mid-August to early October. Although this project targets London, we are also interested in documenting nest and roost sites from across Ontario, so please contact us if you know of these locations, or would like to monitor in other communities. To participate, email BSC Species at Risk Biologist Elisabeth van Stam at evanstam@birdscanada.org or call 1-888-448-2473 ext. 173.

BSC Bids Farewell to Catherine Poussart



31 July 2008 – Québec Projects Coordinator Catherine Poussart has resigned from BSC to accept a position at the Québec Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife (MNRW). Catherine has been a valuable asset to BSC for nearly seven years. Her Masters research through Laval University focused on the breeding biology of Snow Geese in the Canadian Arctic. Catherine joined BSC in 2002 as the Project NestWatch Coordinator, and since then coordination of the Québec Marsh Monitoring Program has been a major part of her work. This year she helped to launch the first season of the Québec Nocturnal Owl Survey.

As the biologist in charge of bird-related projects for the Québec Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife, Catherine's work will include implementing the small game and Wild Turkey management plans. She will also represent the MNRW on multiple committees (such as the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture and the Atlantic Flyway Council, technical committee). Catherine will be fondly missed by her BSC colleagues, and we wish her continued success in her new position.

ÉOC dit au revoir à Catherine Poussart

31 juillet 2008 – Catherine Poussart, coordonnatrice des projets pour le Québec, a récemment démissionné d'ÉOC afin d'accepter un emploi au Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune du Québec (MRNF). Catherine a été une personne de grande importance pour ÉOC pendant près de sept ans. Ses travaux de recherche de maîtrise, entrepris à l'Université Laval, ont trait à l'écologie de nidification de la Grande oie des neiges dans le haut arctique canadien. Catherine a rejoint ÉOC en 2002 à titre de coordonnatrice canadienne du programme de suivi des oiseaux nicheurs. Depuis, elle a coordonné le Programme de surveillance des marais du Québec et elle a participé à lancer la première saison de l'Inventaire des hiboux nocturnes du Québec.

À titre de biologiste responsable de l'avifaune au Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune du Québec, Catherine mettra en œuvre les plans de gestion du petit gibier et du dindon sauvage. Elle sera aussi la représentante ministérielle du MRNF sur plusieurs comités (tels le Plan conjoint de l'habitat de l'Est et la Voie migratoire de l'Atlantique, comité technique). Catherine sera regrettée de ses collègues d'ÉOC, et nous lui souhaitons le meilleur des succès dans ses nouvelles tâches.

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