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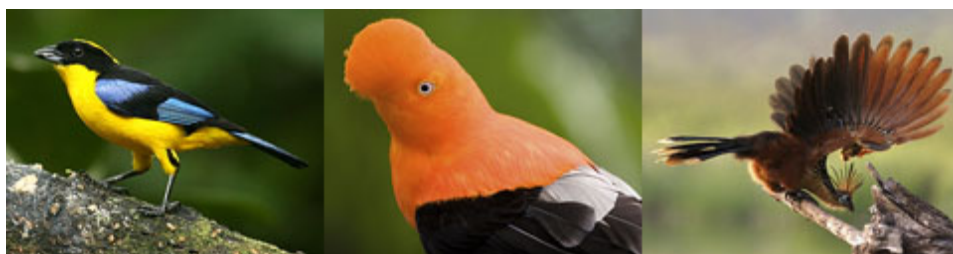
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10 October 2008

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INTERNATIONAL

Ecuador Birding Tour Offered for BSC Members



Photos: Eagle-Eye Tours

10 October 2008 – Together with Eagle-Eye Tours, Bird Studies Canada is pleased to offer an exclusive members' tour to Ecuador. This small country contains an incredible diversity of habitats, which support a wonderful array of exotic plants, stunning butterflies, exciting mammals, and over 1500 species of birds. Together with an excellent network of national parks and naturalist lodges, this amazing variety ensures a never-to-be-forgotten experience. Our tour is planned around the following key locations: Sacha Lodge in Western Amazonia on the Rio Napo, Yanacocha on the slopes of the Pinchina Volcano, Sachatamia Lodge and the Nono-Mindo area on the west slopes of the Andes, Papallacta Pass and the paramo grasslands, and the Eastern slope of the Andes at Guango, San Isidro, and the Loreto Road.

Target bird species include Andean Cock-of-the-Rock, Sword-billed Hummingbird, Amazonian Umbrellabird, Toucan Barbet, Plate-billed Mountain Toucan, Cocha Antshrike, and Paradise Tanager. The tour extends from February 18 to March 4, 2009, and will be led by Richard Knapton. The fee is \$4375 CDN from Quito. For more information contact Eagle-Eye Tours at 1-800-373-5678, email travel@eagle-eye.com, or visit the [Eagle-Eye Tours website](#).

BirdLife International Holds Global Conference

8 October 2008 – Over 500 delegates from 110 countries recently attended BirdLife International's World Conservation Conference and Global Partnership Meeting. At the week-long event at the end of September, hosted by Aves Argentinas in Buenos Aires, BirdLife's progress was reviewed and plans for the next four years were approved. Canada was represented by Bird Studies Canada's President George Finney, along with delegates from our BirdLife co-partner, Nature Canada. As Presidents of the Rare Bird Club, Graeme Gibson and Margaret Atwood attended the full session, and reported they were very impressed with the energy and professionalism of the group.

BirdLife has expanded its capacity and influence greatly over the past decade. In many countries, the NGO country partners are now the strongest arms for bird conservation in their respective countries. For Canadian partners, this is a very welcome development, for it means there are now competent groups to cooperate with in countries where 'Canadian' birds spend much of their annual cycle. BirdLife is developing a Supporting Partners program in the Americas with the aim of finding additional resources to help our Caribbean and Central and South American partners meet the many challenges facing both migratory and endemic species. We are also developing a Flyway program with a view to better linking initiatives in the north and south. Bird Studies Canada will become increasingly involved at the international level, while ensuring that our principal focus remains on our important domestic priorities.

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International Bicknell's Thrush Conservation Group to Meet in New Brunswick and Massachusetts

6 October 2008 – On October 29-30, the International Bicknell's Thrush Conservation Group (IBTCG) will hold its annual meeting. Because one of the goals of the IBTCG is to promote policies to reduce carbon emissions and impacts of climate change (which is predicted to have a serious impact on Bicknell's Thrush and other high elevation habitat specialists), the 2008 meeting will be a low carbon meeting with videoconferencing between Americans gathering in Hadley, MA, and Canadians gathering in Fredericton, NB.

The mission of the IBTCG is to develop a broad-based, scientifically sound approach to conserve Bicknell's Thrush, incorporating research, monitoring, and on-the-ground management actions. One of the goals of the 2008 meeting is to review and build upon a draft Conservation Action Plan which aims to prioritize efforts for long-term conservation of Bicknell's Thrush. For more information, please visit the [IBTCG website](#) or contact Becky Whittam, co-chair of the IBTCG and Bird Studies Canada's Atlantic Canada Program Manager, at bwhittam@birdscanada.org.

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NATIONAL

BSC Welcomes Québec Program Manager Andrew Coughlan

10 October 2008 – On October 1, BSC welcomed Andrew Coughlan back to our Québec City office as regional program manager. He replaces Catherine Poussart, who left earlier this year to accept a position with the Québec Ministry of Natural Resources and Wildlife. Andrew is no stranger to BSC; in 2006-07 he served as the acting Québec coordinator while Catherine was on maternity leave. Andrew is responsible for the delivery of BSC's programs in Québec, including the [Marsh Monitoring Program](#) and the new [Nocturnal Owl Survey](#), for which he helped obtain the initial financial support from Bird Protection Quebec.

Andrew has a master's degree in forest biology from Laval University and has diverse experience working with birds. After leaving BSC in May 2007 and before returning to Laval University as a research officer, he spent three months in Nunavut working on a long-term Common Eiders research program run by Environment Canada. Previous to that, he worked for The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and The Zoological Society of London in England. He is also a member of the Observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac's scientific committee and ensures the translation of the bi-monthly *Chronique des migrations*. Andrew Coughlan's coordinates are: 1141, route de l'Église, P.O. Box 10 100, Québec (Québec) G1V 4H5, Tel.: 418-649-6062 (Toll Free: 1-866-518-0212), acoughlan@birdscanada.org.

ÉOC souhaite la bienvenue à Andrew Coughlan, Gestionnaire de programmes - Québec

10 octobre 2008 – Depuis le 1^{er} octobre dernier, Andrew Coughlan est de retour comme coordonnateur du bureau régional de Québec. Il remplace ainsi Catherine Poussart qui a récemment accepté un emploi au ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune du Québec. Andrew connaît bien ÉOC pour avoir remplacé Catherine durant un congé de maternité en 2006-07. Entre autres, Andrew sera responsable pour le Québec du [Programme de surveillance des marais](#) et de l'[Inventaire des hiboux nocturnes](#) pour lequel il a joué un rôle-clé dans l'obtention du financement initial de la part de la société Protection des oiseaux du Québec.

Andrew a une maîtrise en biologie forestière de l'Université Laval, et possède une expérience de travail diversifié reliée aux oiseaux. Après avoir quitté le bureau québécois d'ÉOC en mai 2007, et avant de retourner à l'Université Laval comme professionnel de recherche, il a passé trois mois au Nunavut où il a participé à un projet de recherche d'Environnement Canada sur l'Eider à duvet. Précédemment, il a travaillé au sein du Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust et le Zoological Society of London (Angleterre). Andrew est présentement membre du comité scientifique de l'Observatoire d'oiseaux de Tadoussac (Québec) pour lequel il assure aussi la traduction de la version anglaise de leur *Chronique des migrations*, laquelle paraît deux fois par mois pendant la migration automnale. Les coordonnées pour joindre Andrew Coughlan sont : 1141, route de l'Église, C.P. 10 100 (Québec) Québec, G1V 4H5, Tél. : 418-649-6062 (sans frais : 1-866-518-0212), acoughlan@oiseauxcanada.org.

Fred Bodsworth Celebrates 90 Years... and Counting!



10 October 2008 – Warm birthday wishes are extended to Fred Bodsworth, who is celebrating his 90th birthday tomorrow (October 11) at one of his favourite birding areas in Ontario. An Honorary Director of Bird Studies Canada, Fred is still very much an avid birder and naturalist. He is one of Canada's most famous authors – widely acclaimed for his best-selling fictional novel *Last of the Curlews*, which touched the hearts and minds of young people and adults alike. Fred's compassionate story traces the demise of the Eskimo Curlew. First published in 1954, and preceding Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* by nearly a decade, the book's strong conservation message resonated widely. It was even made into an Emmy award-winning animated film by Hanna-Barbera Productions. The most recent edition of the book was issued in 1995. It is still a must read for people of all ages – from 9 to 90! Happy Birthday Fred!

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REGIONAL

All Buffleheads Day

9 October 2008 – It's official: All Buffleheads Day falls on October 14, 2008, on the first day of the Full Moon of Weselaneu (Leaves Shaking Moon) on the Salish Sea. In a climate of change, the punctual Bufflehead is a comforting constant. Two papers in press in the *Canadian Field-Naturalist* by Kerry Finley document the remarkable precision with which the Bufflehead returns on the 288th day of the year to Shoal Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary, southeastern Vancouver Island, British Columbia. The timing of their autumn migrations does not appear to have changed in the last half of the twentieth century, consistent with evidence that freeze-up has not advanced. What's more, the Buffleheads' daily routines are equally precise. They depart their coastal feeding areas for the offshore roosting grounds in the Salish Sea and Gulf Islands very punctually after the onset of Civil Twilight Time (CTT), a phenomenon that may have evolved in response to predation pressure from Peregrine Falcons.

The dual habitat requirements of Buffleheads in Shoal Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary (the oldest on the west coast, established in 1931) and Sidney Channel Important Bird Area are to be included within the proposed Gulf Islands National Marine Conservation Area. Kerry Finley has conducted Coastal Waterbird Surveys in the area since the project began in 1999. These publications are just one example of the uses to which he has put these data. And just in case you're wondering what day this month's [Coastal Waterbird Survey](#) date falls on, but of course, it is All Buffleheads Day. How many other survey sites will witness the same phenomenon?

Nova Scotia Volunteer Submits Over 3000 Nest Record Cards in 33 Years

9 October 2008 – Bernard Forsythe of Wolfville, Nova Scotia, made his first contribution to the Maritimes Nest Record Scheme (MNRS) in 1975. By 1981 he had submitted over 1000 cards, and in 1991 he hit the 2000 mark. In 2008, Mr. Forsythe made a special effort to collect enough cards to reach the 3000 mark. Julie Paquet, MNRS coordinator with the Canadian Wildlife Service, received his 2008 cards this week. "This is a phenomenal effort from a single volunteer," said Paquet. "Mr. Forsythe is the first MNRS volunteer to submit over 3000 cards." MNRS nest record cards are stored at the Canadian Wildlife Service office in Sackville, NB, and are shared with BSC's [Project NestWatch](#) database, as well as the [Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas](#) database.

Bluebills and Cranes Winging their Way South

7 October 2008 – Lesser Scaup and Greater Scaup implanted with satellite transmitters by Long Point Waterfowl on the lower Great Lakes have begun to depart from the north and are in the early stages of their autumn migration. Many scaup that spent the summer in western North America are now congregating in the Prairie provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, whereas scaup that spent the summer in eastern North America have yet to depart that region. Three Sandhill Cranes fitted with satellite transmitters have also recently departed from breeding and fall staging areas in north-central Ontario. Two cranes are currently at a traditional stopover site, Jasper-Pulaski State Fish and Wildlife Area, in Indiana; one bird is farther north in central Michigan. Be sure to check Scaup Tracker and Crane Tracker on the Long Point Waterfowl website often over the next few months to follow the birds to their wintering areas.

Another Rare, Endangered Bird Found at Vaseux Lake!



Photo: Dick Cannings

3 October 2008 – Not satisfied with their recent encounter with a Prothonotary Warbler outlined in the last issue of *Latest News*, birders at the Vaseux Lake Bird Observatory banded a Black-capped Vireo there on September 27. This species is listed as Endangered in the United States, where it breeds in a small area of Texas and Oklahoma, as well as in similar oak woodlands in adjacent Mexico. It winters on the west slope of the Sierra Madre Occidental in Mexico. This is, not surprisingly, the first record for British Columbia, but not the first for Canada. That honour goes to the Breakwater station of the Long Point Bird Observatory, where one was banded on April 27, 1991.

Vaseux Lake Bird Observatory is a member of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network.

Bill Ansley: The End of an Era



Photo: Erica Dunn

3 October 2008 – Bird Studies Canada is sad to report the passing of Bill Ansley, who died at age 79 on October 1, 2008. Bill was the head lighthouse keeper at Long Point, Lake Erie from 1955 until 1984. During his long service, he helped immensely with Long Point Bird Observatory's operations at the Tip field station right from its earliest days. Bill not only contributed interesting bird records, but he was always quick to offer hospitality, share stories, assist with logistics, and provide friendly assistance and guidance in numerous ways – especially when it came to anything mechanical or nautical. Bill's friendship, wry sense of humour, practical wisdom, and hot cups of coffee on blustery days will be sorely missed. Our sincere condolences are extended to his family.

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