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21 November 2008

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INTERNATIONAL

Colombia Hosts Cerulean and Golden-winged Warbler Summit



Photos: Christian Artuso

21 November 2008 – Christian Artuso, Bird Studies Canada's Golden-winged Warbler Project Coordinator, recently participated in the Third Cerulean Warbler Summit and Second Golden-winged Warbler Summit in Colombia. The events were held October 21-25 in Bogotá D.C. and San Vicente de Chucurí. Over 80 participants attended, including representatives from Belize, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, the United States, and Venezuela. The talks and poster presentations covered themes such as migratory connectivity, comprehensive conservation plans in both hemispheres, distributional mapping of winter ranges, standardizing protocols, and environmental education and community involvement.

Christian's poster presentation on the Golden-winged Warbler in Manitoba was well received and generated a great deal of interest. A small working group was formed with the goal of determining standardized protocols for measuring Golden-winged Warbler habitat, and ultimately working toward habitat management for the Golden-winged Warbler (to the exclusion of the Blue-winged Warbler). Another highlight of the summit was a street parade in San Vicente, organized by ProAves, which featured several hundred children, many in Cerulean Warbler or Golden-winged Warbler costumes, or carrying banners depicting migratory birds such as the Golden-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Canada Warbler, and Olive-sided Flycatcher.

TDWG's Biodiversity Information Standards Conference

20 November 2008 – BSC's Senior Scientist Denis Lepage attended the Biodiversity Information Standards (TDWG) Annual Conference in late October, and presented his recent work related to the Avian Knowledge Network. BSC is an active partner of the Avian Knowledge Network, whose primary goal is to share biodiversity data using common standards, including those promoted by TDWG. [Select this link](#) for more information about the conference and TDWG.

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NATIONAL

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BSC Launches 2008 Annual Campaign



21 November 2008 – At Bird Studies Canada, we rely on donations to support essential research and monitoring programs, and the maintenance of our country’s national bird population database. [Select this link](#) to read about our recent activities and accomplishments. If you want to help us secure the future of North America’s birds, please [donate online](#), or call Rosie Kirton at 1-888-448-2473, ext. 141. You will receive a tax receipt for the full amount of your donation.

Boreal News

20 November 2008 – Québec premier Jean Charest has pledged, if elected, to protect at least 50% of the province’s northern region from mining, hydroelectric, and forestry exploitation. He has also announced the creation of five new provincial parks, and his government plans to create new carbon sinks by planting 100 million trees covering 100,000 hectares. Visit the [Montreal Gazette website](#) to learn more.

It was also announced this week that an International Boreal Conservation Science Panel has been formed to serve as an advisory body for the Pew Environment Group’s campaign to protect Canada’s Boreal Forest. The panel consists of 14 top environmental scientists, and the membership is balanced between Canadian and international experts. Details are available on the [International Boreal Conservation Campaign website](#).

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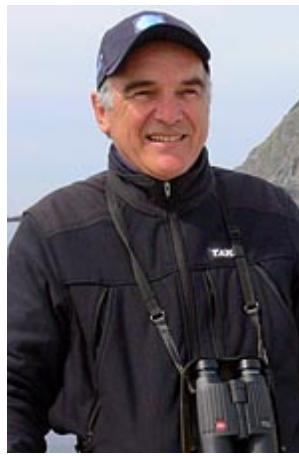
REGIONAL

Long Point Waterfowl: Two M.Sc. Students Graduate

18 November 2008 – Long Point Waterfowl (LPW) is pleased to announce that Ted Barney and Lindsay Ware have successfully completed their M.Sc. degrees. Both students were supervised by Dr. Scott Petrie, and received the majority of their project funding from organizations such as the Delta Waterfowl Foundation, Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, and Long Point Waterfowl, and through generous donations from conservation-minded hunters.

Ted’s thesis, “Change in Availability and Nutritional Quality of Post-Harvest Waste Corn on Waterfowl Staging Areas Near Long Point, Ontario,” identified substantial declines in waste grain availability for waterfowl and other wildlife, and determined that many fields contained insufficient amounts of food for wildlife during spring. Ted concluded that any further decrease in waste corn could potentially limit fat acquisition by staging waterfowl. Lindsay’s thesis, entitled “Selenium uptake and effects in Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) wintering on western Lake Ontario,” investigated the effect of selenium on Greater Scaup wintering in Hamilton Harbour, Lake Ontario. Although Lindsay did not find any relationship between selenium burdens and overall body condition, she did find elevated liver selenium concentrations in 99% of the Greater Scaup sampled. To request a copy of either thesis in PDF format, email tbarney@birdscanada.org.

Explorers Club Welcomes Dr. Rob Butler



14 November 2008 – This month Rob Butler, **British Columbia Breeding Bird Atlas** Coordinator and Scientist for Bird Studies Canada, became an International Fellow of The Explorers Club. This multi-disciplinary not-for-profit professional society is dedicated to the advancement of field research and scientific exploration, and members hail from all corners of the globe. Visit the website of the [Canadian Chapter](#) for news about Rob and other Canadian explorers.

There is still time to come with us to Ecuador.



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