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24 September 2006, 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
BSC Headquarters, Port Rowan, ON

22 September 2006

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INTERNATIONAL

A Sensational Discovery in Northeast India



Photo: Ramana Athreya

12 September 2006, BirdLife International – A professional astronomer has made the most sensational ornithological discovery in India for more than half a century. Birdwatching at Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh, in January 1995, Ramana Athreya glimpsed two liocichlas (a kind of Asian babbler) which did not fit any field guide descriptions. Ten years passed before he saw the birds again. A colleague identified them from Athreya's field sketch as Emei Shan Liocichla (*Liocichla omeiensis*). But Emei Shan Liocichla is endemic to mountains in southwest China. The nearest record was over 1000 kilometres from Eaglenest. With Forest Department permits, Athreya mist-netted one bird in May 2006. After detailed notes and photographs — and feathers which had worked loose in the net — he released it. Similarities suggested it was closely related to Emei Shan Liocichla, but many differences in plumage and calls, especially song, indicated a new species. Hence, Athreya has proposed the name Bugun Liocichla (*Liocichla bugunorum*). For more on this story, [click here](#).

Roseate Tern Habitat Lost...Then Found

31 August 2006 – After four hurricanes left a tiny island off the coast of Key West submerged under a foot of water in 2005, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) biologists studying the Roseate Tern hatched a plan. Ricardo Zambrano and Sharyn Hood decided to try "social attraction" techniques by using decoys and recorded bird calls to attract the returning Roseate Terns to another possible habitat – the Dry Tortugas National Park.

With the cooperation of the National Park Service, Zambrano and Hood planted 40 plastic Roseate Tern decoys at the Park in April. They installed a solar-powered compact disc player, amplifier, and water-resistant speakers that continually played a recording of Roseate Tern calls. In July, 33 Roseate Tern nests were discovered at the site. On July 27, 42 adults and 16 chicks were sighted. FWC and the National Park Service will continue using social attraction equipment until the terns permanently establish the site as a nesting area. "Good news is important when it comes to imperiled species, and it is great when we get to share a success story," said FWC Executive Director Ken Haddad.

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New Internet Sign Up for BSC members

22 September 2006 – Members can now use a new page to sign up or renew their membership online. With the new page, available in both English and French, new members can now specify their various membership options, such as requesting Project FeederWatch and Canadian Lakes Loon Survey participant kits. As always, the payment information is entered on a secure website for your protection, and you can also choose to print and send us your payment by fax or mail. Options are also available for members who want to enroll in our monthly or annual payment plans. To find out more, or to join BSC today, please [click here](#).

Nouvelle page Internet permettant aux membres de s'inscrire à ÉOC

Une page nouvellement créée permet dorénavant aux membres d'ÉOC de s'inscrire ou de renouveler en ligne. Avec cette nouvelle page, offerte en français et en anglais, les nouveaux membres peuvent maintenant indiquer les options de leur choix, tel que demander de recevoir le matériel pour participer au Project FeederWatch ou à l'Inventaire canadien des Plongeurs huard. Comme toujours, les renseignements concernant le paiement sont inscrits sur un site sécurisé pour votre protection, mais vous pouvez aussi choisir d'imprimer un reçu et de nous envoyer votre paiement par télécopieur ou courrier. À partir de la page, vous pouvez aussi vous inscrire à l'un de nos plans de paiement mensuel ou annuel. Pour en savoir plus, ou pour vous joindre à ÉOC dès aujourd'hui, visitez notre site <http://www.bsc-eoc.org/shopping/membership.jsp?lang=fr>.

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Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas Maps Have Arrived

22 September 2006 – Breeding evidence and summary statistics maps for both the first and current Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas are now available online [here](#). You will find individual species maps as well as maps depicting species richness per square, number of hours, and much more. For this first year of the Maritimes Atlas, volunteers have already submitted 756 breeding evidence cards and reported a total of 4852 atlas hours. These impressive results are only the tip of the iceberg and as more data are received from the first field season, maps will be updated. Special thanks to all volunteers for their hard work and dedication. Anyone wishing to participate in the Atlas or seeking more information, please visit the [Atlas website](#) or contact us at 1-866-5atlas5 or atlasmaritimes@gmail.com.

Pine Siskins on the Move

22 September 2006 – A second-year Pine Siskin (band number 2430-58981) banded at the Thunder Cape Bird Observatory on May 28, 2005, near Thunder Bay, Ontario, was recovered near Smithers, British Columbia, on January 18, 2006. This is an incredible recovery spanning over 3000 kilometres as the Siskin flies. We have learned from this and other Canadian banding recoveries that Pine Siskins regularly exhibit an interesting east to west movement and vice versa. Other Pine Siskins banded in Ontario have been recovered as far west as California and three Pine Siskins recovered in B.C. were originally banded in Tennessee, Virginia, and Maine. This is another great example of how a few simple band recoveries can shed light on bird movement patterns and the geographic scale of their journeys.

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Monarchs over Long Point



Photo: Ron Ridout

20 September 2006 – For an hour every day during fall migration, volunteers have been conducting special afternoon counts of all the Monarch Butterflies that leisurely float by Long Point Bird Observatory's (LPBO's) two remote field stations on Long Point, sometimes by the dizzying thousands, en route to Mexico. These daily counts now span a period of 15 years, and represent the longest time series of standardized count data on the continent.

BSC's Ontario Program Manager, Jon McCracken, who developed the program in 1991 as a supplement to LPBO's core bird migration monitoring work, is pleased to report that BSC science staff will be conducting a variety of analyses on this one-of-a-kind database in the coming months, including population trend analyses that are "corrected" for daily weather variables. The analysis project is being funded by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, with support from Environment Canada.

Due to interest that has been recently sparked in LPBO's butterfly monitoring program, BSC has also been invited to help form an international Monarch Butterfly monitoring "task force." Tara Crewe, who will be performing the analyses at BSC headquarters and is familiar with the important conceptual role that the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network plays in terms of broad-scale population monitoring for birds, will be joining this group at its upcoming inaugural meeting in Washington, DC in October.

Long Point is one of three sites in Canada that are presently identified by the federal government as "International Monarch Butterfly Reserves." The other two are located at Prince Edward Point National Wildlife Area (Lake Ontario) and Point Pelee National Park. It is no coincidence that key Monarch Butterfly migration "hotspots" in coastal areas correspond well with sites that concentrate bird migration traffic.

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Marsh Walk at Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary

14 September 2006 – Bird Studies Canada and the St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences will be hosting a guided marsh walk in support of Eastern Ontario Marsh Monitoring Program activities. All current, former, and prospective MMP participants are invited to attend this event to be held on Sunday, October 15th from 9:30 to 11:30 am at the Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Morrisburg, Ontario. Dr. Brian Hickey, biologist and long-time MMP volunteer, will lead this marsh walk, providing interested individuals with an excellent opportunity to develop wetland flora and fauna identification skills and learn more about the MMP. Anyone interested in attending should contact Jordan Ann Kevan, 613-938-5001 ext. 224, or jkevan@riverinstitute.ca.

Marsh Monitoring Program Volunteer Ambassadors Needed

14 September 2006 – Bird Studies Canada and the St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences are recruiting volunteer Ambassadors to help promote the Marsh Monitoring Program (MMP) in the Ottawa and St. Lawrence River watersheds. MMP Ambassadors help recruit local participants, assist in route selection, and provide mentoring, training, and support. To view the Ambassador position description, [click here](#) and to download an application, [click here](#). For more information contact Jordan Ann Kevan, 613-938-5001 ext. 224, jkevan@riverinstitute.ca, or Ryan Archer, 888-448-2473 ext. 235, rarcher@bsc-eoc.org.

BSC Staff Sharing Science in Alaska

12 September 2006 - Dr. Scott Petrie, Research Director of the long Point Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Fund recently attended the Wildlife Society Conference in Anchorage, Alaska. Scott made two presentations: *Contaminant burdens in Lesser and Greater Scaup staging on the lower Great Lakes* and *Satellite tracking Lesser and Greater Scaup from the lower Great Lakes*. Both of these papers were co-authored with Dr. Shannon Badzinski, LPWWRF Scientist. To learn more about LPWWRF, or to follow the movements of our satellite tracked scaup, [click here](#).

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