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24 August 2007

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INTERNATIONAL

Red Knot Declines Continue



Photo: Ron Ridout

14 August 2007 – The 2007 Red Knot Assessment Report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service contains dire news about the welfare of the subspecies *Calidris canutus rufa*, which is listed as Endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). Population numbers at its South American wintering grounds fell from 51,300 in 2000 to about 30,000 in 2004, to only 17,200 in 2006. The report predicts possible extinction for the *rufa* subspecies with ten years if declines continue at current rates.

A significant contributing factor to the population crash has been the low availability of horseshoe crab eggs in Delaware Bay, U.S. (a key Red Knot stopover site), due to elevated harvesting of adult crabs by conch and eel fishing industries. There were also mass deaths this April at sites in Uruguay, a possible result of harmful algal blooms. The extreme declines highlight the need for further research into threats to the *rufa* population. Visit the [BirdLife International website](#) for more information.

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Help Birds Avoid Window Collisions

13 August 2007 – Some fall migrants are already on the move, and will be passing through urban and rural areas in increasing numbers in the weeks to come. There are many ways to make windows at your home or business more visible to birds, which will help to reduce bird fatalities from hitting windows. Collisions with windows kill up to a billion birds each year in North America. Visit the [Fatal Light Awareness Program website](#) to read about their top 10 recommendations for making glass less of a hazard for birds.

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REGIONAL

Record Year for BC Burrowing Owl Reintroductions



Photo: Burrowing Owl Conservation Society of BC

22 August 2007 – Burrowing Owls were declared Extirpated in British Columbia in 1980, and since then attempts have been made to bring this fascinating species back to the dry grasslands. After years of hard work, the Burrowing Owl reintroduction program carried out by the Burrowing Owl Conservation Society of British Columbia is starting to show impressive results. This spring a record high of 120 captive-bred Burrowing Owls were released in the Thompson Nicola grasslands of south-central BC, joining another record high 18 birds that had returned from the wintering grounds. These birds produced an all-time high of 199 wild-born young at 38 nests. You can read more about the Society's work by [following this link](#).

Young Ornithologists Complete 2007 Workshop



Photos: Ron Ridout

22 August 2007 – Every year, Long Point Bird Observatory (LPBO) opens its doors to six of Canada's most promising young ornithologists, and together we explore the wilds of the Long Point region. The program had its start in the 1970s, and has operated continuously since 1994 as the Doug Tarry Young Ornithologists' Workshop (YOW), thanks to the generosity and foresight of the late Doug Tarry. This year's YOWs were Lucas Berrigan (NS), Christopher Coxson (BC), Ian Cruickshank (BC), Daniel Giesbrecht (SK), Kier Gigeroff (NS), and Jake Gillis (ON). They arrived at Long Point on July 3 for a comprehensive and hands-on 10-day introduction to the study of ornithology. LPBO staff led a variety of excursions, presentations, and ornithological, scientific, and natural history activities related to bird banding and migration monitoring, population monitoring, ageing and sexing techniques, bird taxonomy, breeding bird surveys,

and preparing museum specimens.

As always, the workshop is supported by BSC's Doug Tarry Natural History Fund. **Visit our website** for more information on **the YOW** and other **Long Point Bird Observatory programs** or contact the Landbird Programs Coordinator at lpbo@bsc-eoc.org or (519) 586-3531 ext. 231.

LPWWRP Opens Research & Teaching Centre

18 August 2007 – The Long Point Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Fund (LPWWRF) has entered into a long-term agreement with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to take over a local Junior Ranger Camp. The facility, which will be renamed the LPWWRF Research and Teaching Centre, is situated on 40 acres just 10 minutes away from BSC headquarters. Amenities include full kitchen and dining areas, a conference/meeting room, office space, a staff house, two bunkhouses, and several storage sheds.

The Centre will enable LPWWRF to expand its research, education, and professional training programs, and will provide a home for LPWWRF graduate students, technicians, part-time employees, volunteers, and participants in undergraduate courses and youth education workshops. The facility will also be available to other conservation- and education-based groups for activities, training, and associated accommodation within southern Ontario. To inquire about using the Centre, call Scott Petrie at (519) 586-3531 ext. 208 or email spetrie@bsc-eoc.org.

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