



**BIRD STUDIES CANADA**   
2019 ANNUAL REPORT

10



# empowering champions

- 3 A Message from Our President
- 4 Innovating Conservation Solutions
- 6 Conserving Important Places for Birds
- 8 Empowering Champions for Birds
- 11 Tracking Priority Species
- 15 Legacy and Memorial Gifts
- 16 Individual Donors
- 18 Sponsors and Partners
- 20 Financial Report
- 22 Board of Directors

COVER PHOTO: Enrico Casati, Christmas Bird Count for Kids event in Sudbury, ON.  
Find a Christmas Bird Count location near you at [birdscanada.org](http://birdscanada.org).

INSIDE FRONT COVER PHOTO: Christmas Bird Count for Kids, Stanley Park, Vancouver, BC.  
Photo: Jen Beechey.

# a message

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

“THE KEYS TO CONSERVATION SUCCESS HAVE BEEN AND ALWAYS WILL BE IN THE HANDS OF CHAMPIONS”



**STEVEN PRICE**  
President, Bird Studies  
Canada

This year, Bird Studies Canada helped prepare and release a milestone report: *The State of Canada's Birds 2019*. The bird observations you may have contributed as a Citizen Scientist confirmed some worrying trends: long-term declines continue for shorebirds, grassland birds, and “aerial insectivores” – the swallows, swifts, nighthawks, whippoorwills, and flycatchers. On the brighter side, most ducks, geese, swans, hawks, eagles, and falcons continue to increase over 1970 levels.

Conservation of wetlands was a huge step forward for waterfowl, just as bans on persistent chemicals like DDT were for birds of prey. Champions of their cause have worked hard and seen success. Now the bird groups in decline need champions, too – you!

The keys to conservation success have been and always will be in the hands of champions: concerned individuals like you, who invest your time and donations, encourage your family and friends, and volunteer in surveys and field projects.

As you will read in this report, we have made great progress in all of our major goals for bird conservation, thanks in large part to our dedicated staff and the tremendous support we receive from partners and supporters, like you.

If you are new to birds and conservation, we welcome you. You can become a champion too! We can help you learn more and connect you to others who share your new interest. If you are a veteran birder or bird enthusiast, we need you to help guide others, champion conservation and recovery, and tell your stories to help inspire others to action.

Thank you for your outstanding support to date, and join us as we drive forward for more results. We can and must turn around bird declines, conserving nature for all wildlife, and for people, too.

**Be a champion. Be a voice for birds today.**



## OUR MAJOR GOALS FOR BIRD CONSERVATION

# innovating conservation solutions



Chimney Swift  
Photo: Bruce  
Di Labio



Our approach to conservation involves forging innovative partnerships with landowners, land managers, and stewardship volunteers. Much of this work focuses on reducing habitat loss and degradation – among the most pressing threats to birds. Some examples include:

- Contributing to 36 multi-agency working groups collaborating to conserve species and habitats. Examples include: the Americas Grasslands Working Group, Partners in Flight, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, the Green Budget Coalition, the Haida Gwaii Biosecurity Coalition, and the Long Point Biosphere Causeway Management Group. We're proud to recognize the strength that comes from collaboration.
- Working with other member organizations of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) to design and implement programs to monitor species and gather and analyze essential data. The NABCI *State of Canada's Birds 2019* report reveals major declines in shorebirds, grassland birds, and aerial insectivores and provides actions to be taken.
- Helping 40 high-conservation-priority species through habitat projects. SwiftWatch is one example. We coordinate volunteer monitoring and stewardship efforts to protect 55+ roosting and nesting sites in Ontario and the Maritimes, which together host thousands of swifts per night during migration.
- Working with 62 landowners on more than 16,000 hectares of native prairie in Manitoba, helping to maintain some of the last populations of prairie endemic birds, like Chestnut-collared Longspur and Sprague's Pipit. This involves encouraging low-intensity "conservation grazing" of community pastures outside of protected areas.

# 40

40 HIGH-CONSERVATION  
PRIORITY BIRD SPECIES  
BENEFIT FROM  
BIRD STUDIES CANADA  
HABITAT PROJECTS.

Long-billed Curlew, Prince George, BC.  
Photo: Alyssa Hollyoake



Long-billed Curlew demonstration  
in Prince George, BC. (A)  
Photo: David Bradley

The State of Canada's Birds 2019 report can  
be found at [stateofcanadasbirds.org](http://stateofcanadasbirds.org) (B)

Leach's Storm-Petrel chick (C)  
Photo: Laura McFarlane Tranquilla



# conserving important places for birds



The Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA) program is an international conservation initiative of Birdlife International, co-led in Canada by Bird Studies Canada. More than 6200 people volunteer their time as Citizen Scientists to monitor and steward IBAs in Canada.

Our actions at IBAs include promoting nature appreciation through birding tourism (Niagara River, ON), reducing disturbance to migrating shorebirds (the Bay of Fundy), supporting bird monitoring “blitzes” and engagement of Indigenous communities (Manitoba), conservation planning (Prince Edward County, ON), invasive species removal at sites across Canada, and partnering to preserve BC’s threatened Fraser Delta IBA.

▶ Canada has nearly 600 IBAs. The red arrow indicates Ellice-Archie and Spy Hill Community Pastures. Canada’s newest IBA.





◀ Fraser Estuary IBA volunteers,  
Photo: David Bradley

Black-throated Green Warbler.  
Photo: Gregor G. Beck ▶

◀ Western Sandpipers, Roberts Banks, BC.  
Photo: James Casey

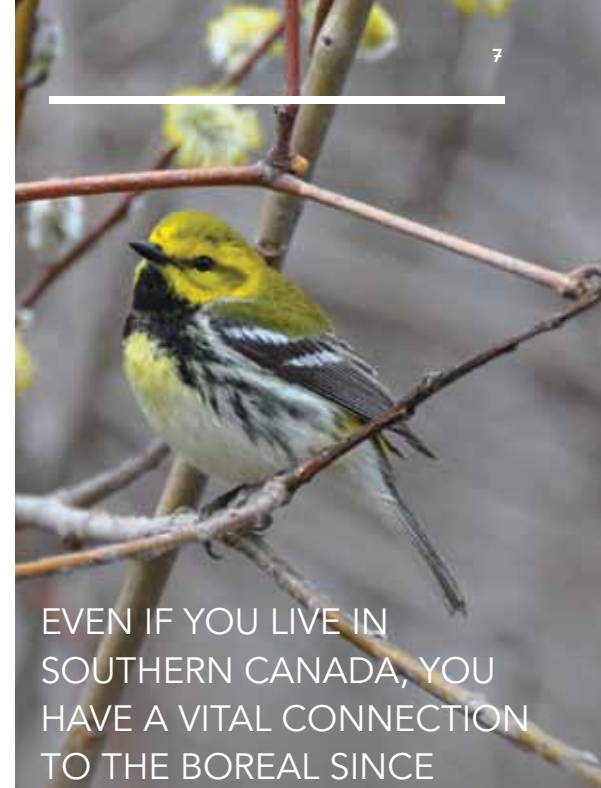
The Fraser Delta is Canada's single most important piece of bird habitat along the Pacific Flyway. It also supports one of the largest salmon runs in the world. Bird Studies Canada is working with partners Nature Canada and BC Nature to advocate on behalf of this critical ecosystem. Our actions include:

- Set-up and management of [fraserdeltaiba.ca](http://fraserdeltaiba.ca) to provide an online information portal as well as an online petition to garner signatures of support for a Fraser Estuary Restoration and Management Plan.
- Promotion of the need for increased protection of shorebird habitats in particular, and for stronger environmental governance to preserve the integrity of the entire ecosystem.
- Work with Nature Vancouver, Wild Research, and Delta Naturalists Society to submit concerns and advocate for local politicians to take action to prevent the

loss of bird habitat at the Iona Island Wastewater Treatment Plant in the Sturgeon Bank section of the Fraser IBA.

Canada's newest IBA, the Ellice-Archie and Spy Hill Community Pastures IBA, was recently designated at the border of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. There, Bird Studies Canada is partnering with cattle ranchers to steward bird Species at Risk, like Sprague's Pipit and Chestnut-collared Longspur, and the rich associated prairie biodiversity.

Bird Studies Canada is greatly increasing its efforts to protect habitat for birds in Canada's vast Boreal region. Working with key strategic partners, we are promoting the establishment of new protected areas and helping support the creation of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas. We are also engaging the public in efforts to conserve Boreal birds in southern Canada, where many of the Boreal's 300-plus bird species can be found in winter or during migration.



EVEN IF YOU LIVE IN SOUTHERN CANADA, YOU HAVE A VITAL CONNECTION TO THE BOREAL SINCE 'BIRDS BRING THE BOREAL SOUTH' WHEN THEY MIGRATE!

300

THE BOREAL REGION'S 300-PLUS BIRD SPECIES CAN BE FOUND IN WINTER OR DURING MIGRATION



# empowering champions for birds

In 2018, more than 57,000 people across Canada volunteered for one or more of our 30+ Citizen Science programs and volunteer stewardship activities. Support from volunteers for monitoring and conservation efforts is an outstanding example of champions empowered to take action for birds.

## **OF NOTE:**

It's the 25th year for the Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Program and the Canadian Lakes Loon Survey is nearing its 40th anniversary. Tens of thousands of surveys completed by many dedicated Citizen Scientists in these long-term monitoring programs are now being put to use by a brilliant team of young graduate students with support from our Long Point Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Program to solve timely conservation issues faced by loons, ducks, and rails.

◀ A bird walk at the Toronto Bird Celebration.  
*Photo: Justin Peter*



# 25

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the  
Nocturnal Owl Survey in  
Ontario

# 10

**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of  
Ontario's SwiftWatch  
program

# 20

**20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the  
BC Coastal Waterbird  
Survey





▶ Thanks to the support of Acart and Pattison Outdoor we reached over a million transit riders with an innovative ad campaign for the Toronto Bird Celebration.



Bird Studies Canada was proud to co-host the **27th International Ornithological Congress** and be a community partner for the first-ever Vancouver **International Bird Festival**. *Photo: Ellen Jakubowski*

“...I LOVED IT BECAUSE I SAW MY FIRST INDIGO BUNTING! THEN I FOUND OUT ABOUT CANOE BIRDING, AND I HAD TO TRY IT, I LOVE CANOEING. I THINK BIRDWATCHING IS SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU THINK, IT JUST... MAKES YOU HAPPY. I AM GLAD I SAW THAT AD ON THE SUBWAY.”

– **Nicole L.**, after attending the Toronto Bird Celebration for the first time

# 1500

1500 INTERNATIONAL  
ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS  
DELEGATES FROM 74 COUNTRIES  
(30 PRESENTATIONS LED OR  
CO-LED BY BIRD STUDIES CANADA)

# 30,000

30,000 VANCOUVER  
INTERNATIONAL BIRD FESTIVAL  
PARTICIPANTS

# 3200

MORE THAN 3200  
CHILDREN ACROSS  
CANADA PARTICIPATED  
IN BIRD STUDIES CANADA  
EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

Schoolyard Bird Blitz,  
Salem Elementary School, Sackville, NB.  
*Photo: Liza Barney*

## EDUCATION

Our education program brings the work of Bird Studies Canada into classrooms and communities across Canada, helping to connect youth with nature. We're working with teachers and parents to engage students through birds and science in their schoolyard and neighbourhood. This year more than 3200 children participated in Bird Studies Canada youth programs like

Schoolyard Bird Blitz and Christmas Bird Count for Kids. Teachers also used Bird Studies Canada's education resources to have their classes take part in Project FeederWatch and Project NestWatch. The user-friendly bird identification tools created for our education program are proving to be wonderful additions to the classroom, festivals, and elsewhere.





# tracking priority species

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▲  
Motus station in Punta Espora, Chile.  
*Photo: Stuart Mackenzie*

One in eight bird species is at risk of extinction globally. In Canada, we are losing long-distance migrants, like shorebirds and many songbirds, faster than any other bird group. Bird Studies Canada is at the hub of a coalition of university, technology, and conservation partners pioneering a groundbreaking new approach to understand and reverse population losses. We are able to simultaneously track hundreds of migratory species, identify barriers to their survival, and drive better returns on conservation investments.

Our Motus Wildlife Tracking System combines traditional radio-tracking technology, automated across the Western Hemisphere with the newest and tiniest radio-tags safely fitted onto birds, bats, and large insects like the Monarch Butterfly. Motus is revolutionizing our understanding of small animal migration, telling new stories in extraordinary detail about what individual birds are doing, where, and when.

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The Motus network has now grown from its Canadian origins to 28 countries worldwide, including 14 in the Americas, with >870 receivers tracking over 20,000 individual animals of almost 200 species. Two hundred and eighty Motus projects have either been completed or are underway, from which 74 scientific papers have been published to date.

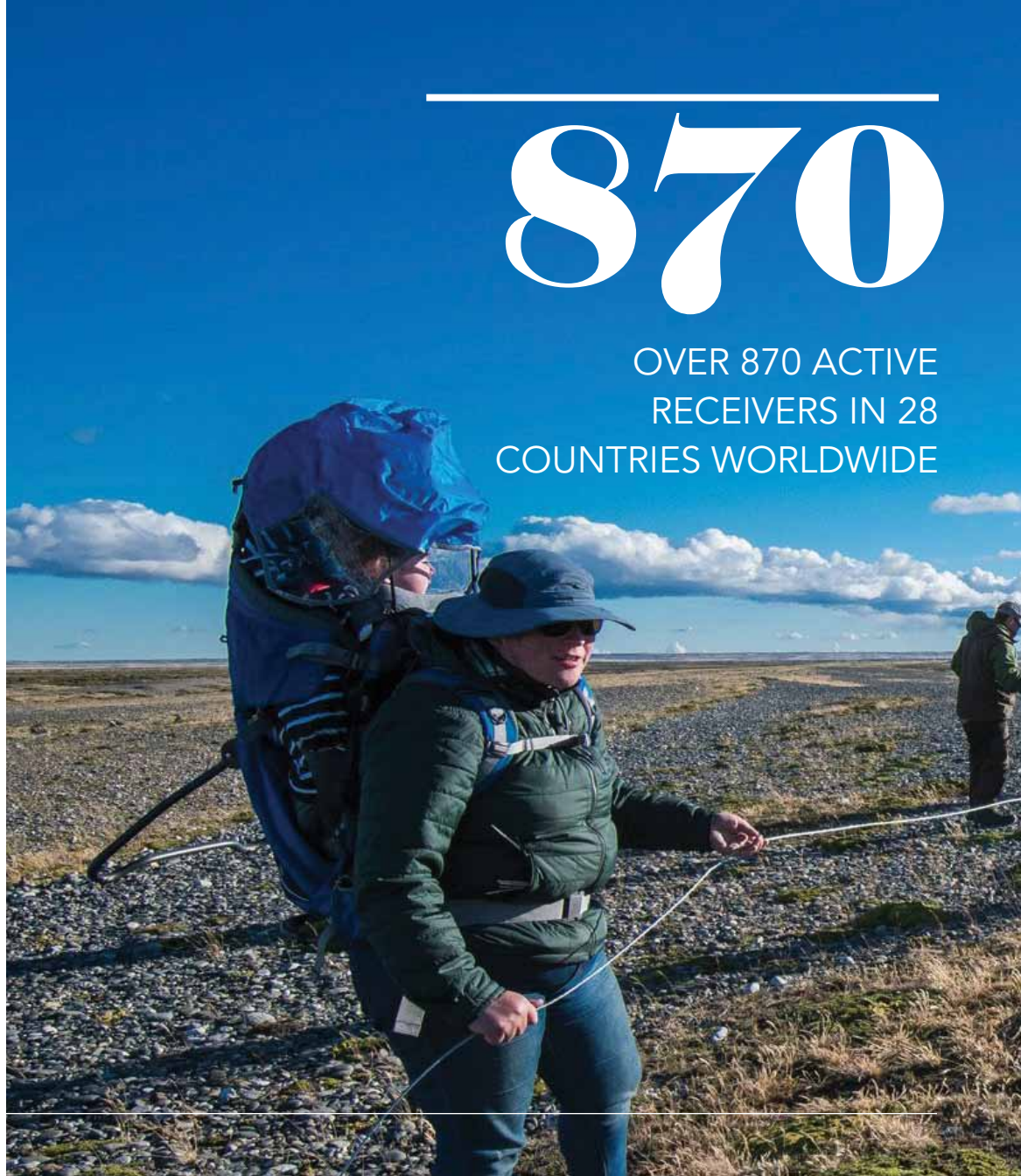
Motus brings the ability to determine where conservation interventions are most effective. Motus has finally confirmed that an iconic, rapidly declining shorebird, the Red Knot, gets the fuel it needs to more quickly reach the Arctic, breed successfully, and return to southern South America, from horseshoe crab eggs in Delaware Bay, New Jersey. This information is helping to reduce harvest levels of the crabs at this critical migratory bottleneck.

The world's southern-most Motus station  
being installed on Terra del Fuego, Chile.  
*Photo: Antonio Larrea*

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# 870

OVER 870 ACTIVE  
RECEIVERS IN 28  
COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE







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# 74

74 SCIENTIFIC PAPERS  
USING MOTUS HAVE BEEN  
PUBLISHED





thank you

Prairie Pothole wetland - Matador Community Pasture, SK.  
*Photo: Peta Davidson.*

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# 2018 - 2019 legacy & memorial gifts

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## LEGACY DONATIONS

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**We also thank the thousands  
 of donors who gave less  
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1 APRIL 2018 – 31 MARCH 2019

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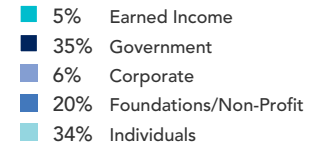
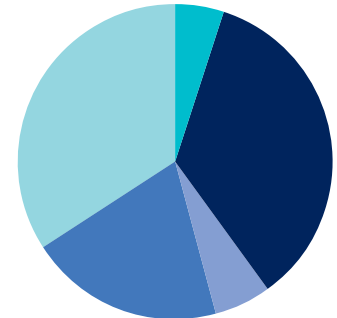
# 2018 - 2019 financial report

## CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

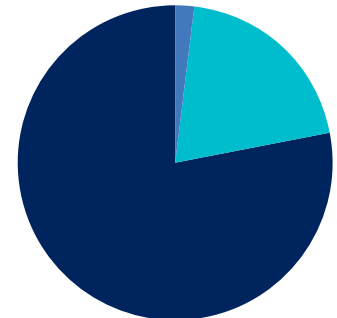
Year ending March 31

	2019			2018
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Current Assets	2,258,970			1,529,173
Investments	6,322,693			5,077,664
Capital Assets	1,126,599			1,136,265
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>9,708,262</b>			<b>7,743,102</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>				
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	301,383			300,059
Deferred Revenue	1,379,271			551,035
Fund Balances:				
Operating	596,252		561,812	
Endowment	6,200,507		5,038,183	
Capital	1,149,395		1,172,463	
Other	81,454	8,027,608	119,550	6,892,008
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</b>	<b>9,708,262</b>			<b>7,743,102</b>

## SOURCE OF FUNDS



## USE OF FUNDS





## CONDENSED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND FUND BALANCES

Year ending March 31

	2019	2018
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Fees	186,603	246,975
Donations	1,650,264	378,644
Research and Conservation grants	4,184,882	3,798,555
Fundraising	223,957	382,190
Investment income	177,815	167,186
Gain (Loss) on sale of investments	135,852	389,965
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on investments	116,883	(371,547)
Other	45,974	40,510
	<u>6,722,230</u>	<u>5,032,478</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Management and Administration		
Administration	442,419	405,902
Fundraising and membership development	266,146	272,026
Membership services	387,530	324,402
Amortization of capital assets	110,307	118,465
Investment Expenses	27,882	25,252
Research and Conservation		
International Collaborations	453,223	387,819
National Programs	1,498,049	1,039,197
Regional programs	2,384,574	2,449,112
Grants	15,500	23,305
Other	1,000	1,000
	<u>5,586,630</u>	<u>5,046,480</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	1,135,600	(14,002)
Fund Balances, beginning	6,892,008	6,906,010
Fund Balances, ending	<u>8,027,608</u>	<u>6,892,008</u>

“THANK YOU FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT TO DATE, AND JOIN US AS WE DRIVE FORWARD FOR MORE RESULTS.”

**STEVEN PRICE**

*President, Bird Studies Canada*

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\*Until September 2018

\*\*From September 2018

Dr. Sonya Richmond, former Bird Studies Canada employee, is walking The Great Trail across Canada with partner Sean Morton connecting individuals, families, and youth to nature through birding.

*Photo: Sean Morton*



BIRD STUDIES  
ÉTUDES D'OISEAUX **CANADA**

# our mission

To conserve wild birds of Canada through sound science, on-the-ground actions, innovative partnerships, public engagement, and science-based advocacy.

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